



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club Newsletter—October 2007
Michele Peltonen, Editor

Autumn is upon us. There is a chill in the air and the leaves are falling. As we start our fall garden work, I thought I would follow up on some of the ideas and questions raised during the program given by Roy Oehler at our September meeting. Members seemed to enjoy his presentation as well as his contrarian approach.
- Michele

CHIPPERS/SHREDDERS

Roy strongly advocated the benefits of chopping yard debris into small bits to produce great compost quickly. While most leaves and other soft yard clippings can be chopped up with a mower, what about waxy leaves or woody debris? Gas powered chipper/shredders that will handle branches up to 3" in diameter can be rented locally for about \$120 a day from United Rentals or R&R Rentals. Both Lowes and Home Depot carry 2" and 3" gas powered chipper/shredders priced well under \$1000. For more money you can get more horsepower in a BearCat brand available through Issaquah Honda Kubota or Goodsell in Bellevue. If you only have smaller trimmings you might make do with an electric model. Lowes carries one and I quickly found two more online by searching for electric shredder - all under \$300. I can make no recommendations on any of these products except to say my husband and I own an 8hp 3" BearCat that has served us well for years. The best thing is to do your homework. A place to start is the Horticulture Magazine website.
www.hortmag.com/ope/charts/chippershredder.asp

PEAT MOSS

One of our members asked about peat moss. Peat moss (or more specifically sphagnum moss) has traditionally been used as a soil amendment to lighten the soil and increase water retention. As it quite acidic (pH 3.0 to

4.5) it has also been used to lower the pH of alkaline soils (not usually a problem in the northwest). However, it has almost no nutritive value. All in all peat moss would seem a poor alternative to compost as a top-dressing for lawns. Further, it is a non-renewable resource - at least on a human time-scale. Coir fiber (made from coconut hulls) is an environmentally friendly alternative to lighten soil and increase water retention in potting mixes (but it is pH neutral so won't help acidify the soil).

ORGANIC FERTILIZER

Roy's only brand name recommendation was for Hendrikus Organics, a truly local Issaquah company that has earned international recognition. If you didn't get a brochure from Roy, you can learn more about Hendrikus Organics products (including where to buy them) and their philosophies at their website.
www.hendrikusorganics.com

GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

October 5th - ELWD Blue Star Marker dedication, 1 pm at the Indian John Hill I-90 Eastbound Rest Stop. (photo below)



GARDEN CLUB EVENTS cont'd

October 10th – At our next meeting Ann Kronenwetter will share her ideas about creating backyard sanctuaries for our feathered friends. A life member of the National, Pacific Region and Washington State gardens clubs and a member of the National Audubon Society, Ann combines her love of gardening with her love of wildlife.

The luncheon crew for October 10th is:

1. Sandy Young (lead)
2. Georgina Eason
3. Sherran Whatley
4. DeeAnn Maher
5. Jeanette Mahoney
6. Joanne Dinken
7. Jessica Liepins

October 21st - WSFGC Oktoberfest, 3 to 7 pm at Headquarters House. German food and drink will be served.

October 27th - ELWD "Give Kids a Hand" Auction, 1 to 4 pm at St. Andrews Church.

November 14th – IGC Auction! Please put aside quality items to contribute.

NOXIOUS WEED UPDATE

Lamium galeobdolon (lamium or yellow archangel) has been elevated from a Weed of Concern to a Non-Designated Class C Noxious Weed in King County. As such, control is now recommended though still not required. Learn more about noxious weeds at the King County Noxious Weed Control Program website. http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/weeds/prog_info.htm

GARDEN MEMORY

As a kid, we grew concord, muscat and seedless grapes. Of course, everything was organic then. Anyway, my sis and I would pick the little unripe grapes and use them as ammunition when we played cops and robbers or (politically incorrect) cowboys and Indians. Boy, did we get our butts beat when we were caught doing that!"

Janet Figgins

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plant Sale: October 7th, Arboretum Foundation, Graham Visitors Center; for more information about this and other arboretum events visit their website. www.arboretumfoundation.org

Plant Sale: October 20th, Washington Native Plant Society, Magnuson Park; for information visit their website. www.wnps.org

Resource Conservation Office Update:

Oct. 6th and 7th - Issaquah Salmon Days

Oct. 13th - Salmon Viewing Event, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Pickering Barn

Oct. 18th - Fall Natural Yard Care Event, 7 to 9 pm at City Hall Council Chambers

Oct. 27th - Tremendous Tubers Dahlia Digging Class, 10 to 11 am at Pickering Barn, call Pandora at 425-837-3442 to reserve

Nov. 10th, Mountains to Sound / Sammamish Stewardship Day tree planting event, 9 am to 3 pm at the Pickering Hub

For more detailed information visit the Issaquah RCO website: www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/rco

