November 2026 Newsletter

Fall can feel like a new beginning. After a spring of dream casting and a summer of possibilities, fall is the final flourish of the year before the world seeks rest. It is the character of fall to beckon us back home. We are grounded in the joy of harvest and of all we've pursued. Fall is a season that holds us, making a feeling of warm and cozy seem natural.

The opposite is also true. Fall is a season that we love to hold. We hit the road in search of the best leaf-peeping spots, we make the same recipes passed down from aunts and grandmothers, and we look for any excuse to catch the day's last light in hope of drinking up every drop of the golden hour.

And as is true with all beauty, its effects grow when shared. Go out and spend time sharing with people you love and cherish …

NOVEMBER GARDEN CLUB MEETING:

Date: **NOVEMBER 18, 2026 (Note this is the third Wednesday instead of our usual second Wednesday to accommodate the Veterans Day Celebration on November 11 at the Issaquah Blue Star Marker)**
Time: 9:30 AM - Set-up
10:00 AM - Meeting
10:45AM - Social Time and Snacks
11:00AM - Speaker
12:30 - Clean-up
Program: Backyard Bird Feeding for Gardeners - a presentation by Diane Drisch
Location: Our Savior Lutheran Church
745 Front Street South
Issaquah, WA

The focus for the year is getting to know each other better … make this happen by sitting at a different table than your usual spot.

Snack Crew:
Hostess: Deb M.
Crew: Lois H.
Maura E.
Dianne T.
Nancy G.

NOTE: Mark your calendars that the November meeting will be **on the third Wednesday - November 18.** This change has been made to accommodate the Veteran's Day Celebration at the Blue Star Marker on November 11. Time to be determined …

LETS SAVE ON KITCHEN SUPPLIES:
Please remember to bring your own plate, napkin and silverware so we don't deplete the club's supplies and reduces our garbage footprint! And, attention coffee and tea drinkers - remember to bring your own cup (THANKS)

SALES TABLE:

It will be back the year as it's a good money maker:
** Since our gardens are beginning to go to sleep for fall/winter it's a good time to dig volunteer plants and bring them to be sold
** Clean out that closet you've been wanting to get to and bring the treasures you find
** Put a price on all items you bring
** Remember … what isn't sold you will need to take home

YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED:

ABOUT THE ISSAQUAH GARDEN CLUB …

Incorrect email in yearbook:

Please correct Helen's email to read: hjscott43@gmail.com

TREASURERS REPORT:
** We have $1858.75 in checking and $3054.62 in savings. We're holding steady as we have had no large expenses this month.
** In November we will raffle the tickets for Garden d'Light at Bellevue Botanical Gardens
** Donation basket for 'Plant A Tree' was passed

GARDEN THERAPY (JOAN H.):
** The next Garden Therapy session will be immediately after the November 18 meeting when we will make Fall/Thanksgiving arrangements. All are invited to stay and help!
** Remember to bring clippers as well as greens from your garden.
** Gale will purchase the flowers.

BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN (GALE):
** Check the BBG website for all kinds of classes and activities that are happening at the garden!

POST OFFICE (GEORGANN):

** A work day is scheduled on November 1 from 10:00AM - Noon. All are welcome. Everything looks good except the cypress is getting a bit large. We will replace the cypress and add plants as space allows.
** Kids from Issaquah High School have been coming on some Fridays (weather permitting) to weed the area around the trough.

BLUE STAR MARKER (DIANNE):
** The next gathering requiring a floral arrangement will be Veteran's Day on November 11. Dianne will schedule a work day so that we're sure the gardens look their best for the celebration.

NEW BUSINESS:

** Visitors were introduced (Tiffany and Candace)
** Marie also shared that there is a piece of card stock that has been added to the back of everyone's name badge. It was suggested that we add birth month, emergency contact name and number, blood type (if known), any known allergies etc. This way we will have basic information in case of an emergency …

** Future General Membership Meetings and IGC responsibilities:
* February 22 - Raffle Item
* May 24 - Table Decorations

** For anyone that hasn't signed up to help with snacks the list is available

SAVE THE DATES:

** November 11, 2026 - Veteran's Day Ceremony at Blue Star Marker - Issaquah Community Center
** February 22, 2027 - Winter General Membership Meeting
** May 24, 2027 - Spring General Membership Meeting
** June 7 - 10 - WSFGC Convention/Annual Meeting, Suquamish Resort, Suquamish, WA

EDUCATIONAL CORNER:

Don’t Prune These 7 Plants in Fall—or You Could Lose Next Year’s Blooms

Don’t sabotage your chance at beautiful spring blooms by cutting back these plants too early.

When temperatures finally drop, working in the garden is so much more pleasant. Fall is the perfect time to deadhead annuals to get a few more blooms, plant cool-season flowers and herbs like pansies and sage, or add leaves to your compost pile. But there is one gardening chore that shouldn’t always be done in the fall—pruning.

Pruning for most trees and shrubs is best done in mid-winter when the plants are dormant. This reduces the chances of new growth being damaged by freezing temperatures. And, for spring and summer blooming plants, pruning in the fall removes the buds that will be next year’s flowers. Here are seven plants you should never prune in the fall.

Forsythia

One of the first signs that spring is here is the bright yellow flowers on a forsythia shrub. Prune it in the fall, and you'll have no blooms next spring since the flowers appear on old wood. To keep the fast-growing shrub and its sometimes wild growth under control, prune the shrub back right after the blooms fade.

Azaleas and Rhododendrons

Whether your garden looks like the Master's golf course filled with azaleas or you treasure the blooms of cooler weather-loving rhododendrons, if you want flowers, don't prune them in the fall. The plants belong to the same genus (*Rhododendron*), and bloom on old wood that grows over the summer. The best time to prune them is in the spring or early summer, within three weeks after they bloom. Pruning in the fall, especially in warmer USDA hardiness zones, encourages new, tender growth that can be damaged by winter weather.

Fruit Trees

Whether you have apple, peach, pear, plum, or cherry trees in your garden, fall is not the time to prune them. Pruning in autumn will remove bloom buds and reduce

fruit production. The best time to prune fruit trees is in late winter when the trees are fully dormant. Fall pruning can cause damage that invites pests or diseases to invade and possibly kill young trees.

Hydrangeas

Hydrangeas are beloved, but knowing when to prune them can be confusing. Old wood blooming varieties—oakleaf, bigleaf, mountain, and climbing hydrangeas—have already set buds that will be next year's blooms. So, pruning them in the fall will leave them flowerless next summer. They should receive minimal pruning (no more than one-third of the height) to control the shape of the plant right after the flowers fade. Any pruning should be finished before the end of August.

Panicle and smooth hydrangeas grow on new wood that emerges in the spring. While they can be pruned in the fall, it's better to wait until cold weather arrives and the plant goes into dormancy.

Butterfly Bush

The pollinator-attracting blooms of a butterfly bush (*Buddleia sp.*) appear in summer on stems of new

wood. Once the blooms fade and leaves begin to drop, it can be tempting to get rid of the twiggy shrub in the garden. Pruning in the fall, however, can lead to tender growth that will be killed by freezing temperatures. It's much better to wait until late winter to use loppers to cut back the plant by no more than one-half. Depending on your climate, you'll see new growth appear in late February or mid-March.

Loropetalum

Commonly called Chinese fringe flower, this popular shrub is another old wood bloomer. Pruning in the fall will remove the buds that have set for next spring's show of pink, fuchsia, or white flowers. Wait until next spring or early summer to get rid of unruly limbs or control the size of the shrub.

Viburnum

There are dozens of viburnum cultivars that produce a showy display of white or light pink flowers in the summer. The flowers can range from snowball-sized blooms that resemble a hydrangea to small, delicate blossoms. Once the flowers fade, you can still enjoy vibrant red and orange leaves. Another old wood

bloomer, viburnums don’t typically need much pruning. However, if you need to control the size of the shrub, wait until after it blooms to cut back about one-third of the height or width. Fall pruning will reduce the number of blooms and can cause winter damage in warmer areas.