

SPRING
2020

Native Plant Spotlight:



Photo By/More info: www.nwplants.com

Pacific Dogwood

(*Cornus Nuttallii*)

Flowers appear April-June, and occasionally again in August or September

A great plant for pollinators!

Native Plant

Gardening/Wildlife Habitat:

The Pacific Dogwood can be difficult to grow successfully in the garden, but the reward is great. Careful attention should be paid to ensure the soil is rich, deep, and well-drained. When in bloom, the Pacific Dogwood is a truly stunning site, and their love of shady locations makes them perfect for brightening a dark area of the garden!

The tree serves as a host to butterfly caterpillars and also attracts beavers, deer, and birds for its fruit and foliage.

Bright red drupes (fruit) are about a half inch in length and appear in autumn.

The Columbia SWCD Presents:

THE DIRT

EARTH DAY—APRIL 22, 2020

During the 1970s the economy was on the move, but it was costing the environment in a big way. Americans were driving large cars that ran on leaded gasoline. Factories, chemical plants, and oil industries were booming but so was the production of air pollution and environmental waste.

Small groups of individuals were, however, aware of the deterioration of the world around them and began to take steps to inform the public.

THE FIRST EARTH DAY

On April 22, 1970, the United States celebrated the first Earth Day. More than 20 million people around the U.S. — 10% of the U.S. population at the time — gathered together holding rallies, demonstrations and participating in activities to promote a clean and safe living environment. Children, adults, students young and old marched on government institutions pushing for new legislation to protect the Earth on local, state and national levels.

Earth Day 1970 saw unprecedented unity among Republicans, Democrats, and individuals of all social and economic backgrounds. Thanks to the efforts of the first Earth Day the United States Environmental Protection Agency was founded. Besides, the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act were all introduced and passed. It was the beginning of radical changes to better the environment.

EARTH DAY 2020 THEME: CLIMATE ACTION

The enormous challenges — but also the vast opportunities — of acting on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary. Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable.

HOW TO HELP

There's so much you can do to help protect and restore our planet, from joining a cleanup, to taking part in the world's largest citizen science initiative, or hosting your own event!

Join us at the Scappoose Earth Day Festival on April 18, 12—3 pm in Heritage park to learn how to be more earth-friendly all year long!

Learn more and find local earth day events here: www.earthday.org/earth-day-2020/



GET INVOLVED

Local Board Meetings:

Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District:

3rd Wed. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at their office in Saint Helens

Scappoose Bay Watershed Council:

1st Tue. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at their office in Scappoose

Lower Columbia River Watershed Council:

2nd Tue. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Clatskanie PUD office

Upper Nehalem Watershed Council:

4th Thur. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Vernonia High School

CSWCD STAFF

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UPCOMING EVENTS

03/15/20 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Raising Blue Orchard Mason Bees; Joy Creek Nursery

Come and learn more about the super-efficient blue orchard mason bees and how they can benefit your garden with local gardener Michelle Berg. Blue Orchard Mason Bees are gentle, will not sting, and are easy to raise. Bees and supplies will be ready to sell at this class which is free and open to the public.

More information: www.joycreek.com/education.htm

04/04/20 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Friends of Nob Hill Work Party; Nob Hill Nature Park, St. Helens

Help keep Nob Hill beautiful by volunteering a few hours of your time to pull weeds and maintain trails at one of St. Helens' few nature parks. Meet at the front entrance of the park. Parking available at 451 Plymouth Street. Dress appropriately; bring gloves and water. More Information: Call (503) 349-8586

04/11/20 9:00 am - 12:00 pm SBWC Native Plant Sale; Behind Scappoose High School

Scappoose Bay Watershed Council is holding its Spring native plant sale. Offering a large and diverse selection of native plants, there is something for every type of property. More information: www.scappoosebay-wc.org

04/18/20 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Scappoose Earth Day Festival; Heritage Park, Scappoose

The Friends of Scappoose Parks will be co-hosting this festival with the city of Scappoose to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth day! Offering food, music, activities for kids, and more. Local organizations will also be present to provide information how to be earth friendly all year long!

05/02/20 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: OSU Extension Master Gardener's Spring Fair

The Columbia County Master Gardener's will be having their spring fair and tomato plant sale at the St. Helens High School. Local vendors and general garden information provided.

Connect with us to see what we're up to by following us on Facebook and Instagram!

@Columbiaswcd



Did you receive our 2020 Calendar? If not, it isn't too late to pick one up! Come by our office during regular business hours to get yours before they're gone!

What in the Weeds?!

Many noxious weeds get their start right in our own backyards. We invite them in because they provide quick groundcover or make pretty flowers. English ivy is a classic example of a once favored landscape plant that is now one of the most pervasive and destructive forest invaders. Here are a couple other invasive groundcover species to be aware of:

Yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*): This plant spreads by seeds, stolons, and stem fragments. It is popular in flower arrangements and has recently taken root in natural areas through yard dumping and by escaping compost piles.



Yellow archangel



Periwinkle

Periwinkle (*Vinca* spp.): This species is not currently a state listed species. However, it's observed ability to spread into natural areas and displace native species is very worrisome.

There are many native species that provide lovely and functional groundcover. The Scappoose Bay Watershed Council sells a wide variety of these plants and are happy to make recommendations. If you have questions about a good groundcover for your yard, call them at (503) 369-8589 or attend their native plant sale on Saturday, April 11 and check out their selection. For questions or help identifying species on your property, contact the Columbia SWCD.

Garden Gab

Gardening tip from the SWCD: "Potato Preservation": My favorite time of year for potatoes is fall and winter when I can put them in soups and casseroles. However, without a root cellar, my homegrown potatoes wouldn't last long in my house. So, last year I decided to experiment. I left some unharvested potatoes in the ground and covered my raised beds with rolls of visqueen in the fall. I hoped that cool, stable temperatures and dry soil would preserve my potatoes a little longer. I was pleasantly surprised to find that I was still picking potatoes from my garden in April and was able to start new plants from spuds leftover from the year before!

-Crystalyn Bush, Riparian Specialist

Feel like sharing? Post photos of your garden greatness on our Facebook page and share tips with other growers!

Seed Outdoors

March: Arugula*, Asian greens**, Asparagus* (crown), Chard*, Fava Beans, Garlic (cloves), Kale, Mustard greens*, Peas*, Scallions**, Spinach**

April: Beets*, Broccoli*, Cabbage (early types)*, Carrots*, Cauliflower*, Celeriac*, Celery*, Chard*, Choi*, Cilantro*, Dill, Endive*, Fennel (bulbing), Jerusalem Artichoke* (tuber), Kohlrabi*, Lettuce*, Radicchio, Radish, Sorrel, Turnips*

May: Basil, Beans*, Bruss. sprouts*, Cabbage, Collards*, Dill, Fennel (bulbing), Leeks (over wintering), Parsnips*, Potatoes* (tubers), Pumpkin, Radicchio, Radish, Rutabaga, Salad greens, Squash

Seed Indoor

March: Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Celery, Eggplant*, Leeks, Lettuce, Peppers*, Scallions, Tomatoes*, Tomatillos*

April: LATE APRIL- Basil, Cucumber, Melon, Pumpkin, Squash

May: Basil, Cucumber, Melon

* Indicates best times and methods of planting

** Indicates plant may be seeded outdoors during any of the three months listed.

(Information obtained from Portland Nursery's veggie calendar at <http://portlandnursery.com>. Check it out for more detailed information about best planting times and methods.)

The Columbia SWCD is always looking for volunteers to help with programs and events offered throughout the year. Volunteering is a great way to help your local community, get work experience, learn about conserving natural resources and meet other volunteers from the community.

Areas of participation can include plantings and weed removal, carpentry, event planning, outreach and marketing support and more!

If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering, please email us at: information@columbiaswcd.com

