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It's almost Mother's day, and among gardeners that means only one thing:

Gardening Season is officially in full swing!!

If you haven't already begun, you are behind the curve. Get your share of good old fashioned exercise on the next sunny day while getting a handle on that weeding and clean-up that's been begging for your attention, or mow down some of those dandelions and make your neighbors smile again! Or better yet, how about getting rid of some of that pesky high maintenance lawn?

If that idea overwhelms you and you just cannot get it all done, fear not! I have some great referrals of gardeners that can help you to:

- Spread compost, mulch or gravel
- Ornamental pruning of trees or shrubs
- Make a raised garden bed
- Do a spring clean-up and whip those beds into shape with some crisp edges
- Build a fence or a beautiful patio for summer entertaining

Get in touch with me for names and contact info! Need a plan? You know who to call. 503-239-0105

Portland has been going **WILD about the Urban Farm.**

Classes about Chickens, Beekeeping and Raising Vegetables seem to be popping up everywhere! Here are some tidbits I picked up at a recent panel on chicken coops at Livingscape Nursery that you might find useful if you're thinking about raising chickens in the city. Don't forget to frequent your local Farmer's Market for the freshest produce next to growing your own. Contact me if you need help laying out your urban farm!

- No more than 3 chickens (pygmy goats, rabbits, ducks or pot-bellied pigs) in the city without a permit. No roosters are allowed!
- Locate chickens no closer than 15' from a neighbor's house or accessory living structure. More info on regulations on animals in Multnomah County can be found at: <http://www.mchealth.org/vector/nuisance.htm>
- Locate chicken runs where drainage is good. Gravel or wood chips can help keep the surface dry and give the chickens something to kick around.
- Protect from sun and wind - the coop can do a good job of that if it is enclosed.
- Prepare for predators: Use heavy gauge wire for the chicken run and cover the top so dogs, raccoons and other predators cannot jump in.

- Prepare for invaders: Other predators (and birds or rodents) can dig under the run to get your chickens (or their food). Be sure to bury heavy gauge hardware cloth or aluminum flashing 12" below the soil line along the edge of the run, or place wire mesh 6" under the surface of the soil in the run itself so as to not harm the tender feet of the chickens.
- Chicken Poop is smelly (really?) - Clean your coop often. Chickens poop most when they are on their roost. Create a droppings pit below the roost that is easy to remove and clean (use an old drawer). Use wood shavings, prunings or straw that can be composted with the chicken manure for use in the garden.
- Flies can be a problem - be sure to hang some fly paper.
- Create air vents in the chicken coop and a little door for the chickens to enter and exit
- Put a light in the hen house so you can see when you are collecting eggs or cleaning the coop. It also can help to add a little heat in the winter.
- Put in a little door so you can access the eggs from the outside, but be able to walk in for easy cleaning
- Chickens and lots of info are available locally at: [Livingscape Nursery](#), [Urban Farm Store](#), [Pistils Nursery](#) Check them out for upcoming urban farm classes!
- If you're thinking about building a chicken coop of your own, check out [Growing Gardens](#) 6th annual [Tour de Coops](#) on Sat., July 25th from 11-3

Weekly Watering Number

If you have an irrigation system but are somewhat mystified about how much water to apply to your garden as the season progresses, listen up! We are all trying to conserve water and yet irrigation systems can be one of the worst water offenders around if not monitored regularly. We are getting close to irrigation season, and the [Regional Water Providers Consortium](#) has developed a scientific method to apply the EXACT amount of water each week to your landscape, based upon the rate of Evapo-Transpiration (a technical word for the amount of water lost to evaporation from the surface of the soil combined with the amount of water lost to transpiration from the leaves of your plants). Sign up to receive the [Weekly Watering Number](#) and get a preview of upcoming weather conditions along with information to set your irrigation controller accordingly. While you're at their site, be sure to check out some of their other great resources such as their brochure on Water Efficient Plants of the Willamette Valley.

If you are thinking about installing a simple surface irrigation system to make your life a little easier, check out www.dripworks.com, a website that provides a list of parts needed and a free layout plan for installation of a drip system off of your hose bib. They'll ship everything you need directly to your door, including timers and rain gauges. If you purchase the system through me I can offer you a landscapers price for the system!

ANLD Behind-the-Scenes Garden Tour Discount Tickets Available

Save the Date! **Saturday, June 27** is the day of the garden tour everyone is talking about. The [Association of Northwest Landscape Designers](#) (ANLD) once again is presenting an outstanding tour (despite the fact that none of your gardens will be included this year). This year the tour will feature gardens in East

Moreland and NE Portland designed and sometimes installed by ANLD members. The tickets are regularly \$20 a piece and benefit 4 scholarships awarded to landscape design students in both PCC and CCC. If you contact me before May 30th, I can purchase tickets for you at the early bird member price of \$8 a piece! (Tickets are available online to the public for the early bird price of \$15 until May 30th.) I have purchased tickets for many of you in previous years and am happy to do so again. Come get some great ideas from local designers that you can use in your own gardens. For a peek at last years gardens, or to purchase tickets after May 30th check out <http://anld.com/gardentour.asp>

Upcoming Classes and Events

- [Audubon Native Plant Sale](#) - May 16 & 17. Come by on Sat. May 16th at 1 PM when I will be giving a 1 hour presentation on **Rain Gardens**. At 2 PM, Kathryn Leech of [The Garden Design Studio](#) will be giving a 1 hour presentation on **Landscaping Sustainably**. See you there!
- The Eco-logical Garden: **Practical Permaculture** with Toby Hemenway, author of Gaia's Garden. Saturday, May 30 10 am- 4 pm at the [Berry Botanic Garden](#). Registration required. \$55. I took this class last year and it was fantastic!
- Did you know there is something new in Peonies? Adelman's **Peony Fields** are open through June 15th from 9AM-6PM daily and see all the new varieties that don't flop or have new colors and textures of foliage. Find out more at www.peonyparadise.com
- Find the largest selection of Hardy Fuchsias at [Monnier's Country Gardens](#) in Woodburn. You won't believe the variety! They have great photos on their website too! Hummingbirds love Fuchsias!

Garden Coaching

I have always tried to offer the best value for the services I provide. Whether you need some "new eyes" to give you ideas about what is possible in your garden, a walk-through to help determine best organic maintenance practices or what/when/how to prune existing plants, where to locate a vegetable garden or chicken run, or whether a rain garden is appropriate at your house, Call Plan-it Earth Design for a consultation today.

Design-on-the-Fly is a popular service for the budget conscious homeowner interested in integrating your garden with your home. A 4-hour design intensive consolidates the design process into one fun, collaborative, interactive event geared toward creating a plan of action that can be implemented immediately by you or a recommended landscape contractor. Functional circulation is the first consideration, followed by privacy plants or main structural elements - the "bones" of the garden. Smaller plants are added as time allows. The result? A useable scale drawing of your property to begin garden building or suitable for getting bids right away. This popular service gets booked up fast, so call for more information and schedule an appointment today.

If what you need is a Master Plan for implementation now or over time, Plan-it Earth Design will work closely with you to provide a personalized, earth-friendly garden to fit your home, property, lifestyle and budget. Many homeowners have spent more time and money purchasing plants that get too big or don't thrive, or moving plants from place to place and still don't have a garden that is cohesive or even useful. Stop being overwhelmed. Let Plan-it Earth Design guide you from concept through completion and provide you with the garden retreat you deserve. Now is the time to stay home, feather your nest and create a vacation spot in your own backyard. Call today and let's talk about what is possible.

Develop your Vision - Improve your View

Happy Gardening!

If you do not want to receive emails like this in the future, please reply to this email and I will take you off my list.

Please feel free to share this email with all who may be interested.
If you would like to be included on future emails and are not on my current list, please reply and I will be sure to add your contact info.

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