



Arbor Day Plants

SUBMITTED BY BONNIE ORR

The Greater Wenatchee Arbor Day Committee announces that the distribution for donation will take place on Saturday, April 22, at the following locations:

Hall: 271 NE 9 St. from 9 - noon.
Entiat City Hall: 14070 Kinzel St. from 9 - noon.
Cashmere at Martin's Marketplace from 9 - noon.
Wenatchee - Pybus Market from 10 - 2 p.m.
 Suggested donation is \$3.

Please bring your own bags. For questions contact Bonnie Orr at bonnieevelyn@nwi.net.

Available plants:

Mallow *Ninebark*, *Physocarpus malvaceus*, is a small, native shrub with rounded clusters of fragrant, white flowers and peeling bark. It can reach 6 feet tall and 5 feet wide at maturity and can form dense thickets. The thick growth also makes it a possibility for the outer rows of multiple row windbreaks. This drought tolerant shrub has brownish-red leaves in fall color. It grows fast in part shade and provides food and cover for wildlife. It is a fire-resistant shrub.

Serviceberry, *Alnifolia* is native shrub also called *Juneberry*, *Shadblow*, *Sarvisberry*, *Saskatoon Serviceberry* and *Amelanchier*. *Serviceberry* is a deciduous shrub or small tree, growing moderately to about 20'. In early spring, it has drooping white or pinkish flowers that fade rapidly. It produces purple, edible fruits. The new foliage is purple and the fall color is red. Plants are extremely cold-hardy and drought resistant once established and ideal for exterior rows of multiple row windbreaks. The plant provides cover and food for wildlife including pollinators.

Common Purple Lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*, has a moderate growth rate and reaches 10-15' in height and 12 feet in width if not pruned. Its dense growth and adaptability to a wide range of environments make it an excellent choice for outer rows of windbreaks. It produces large, fragrant blossoms in spring. Lilacs do well on alkaline or acidic soils, are highly resistant to drought and cold and are very long lived. Important for habitat and pollinators.

Rocky Mountain Juniper, *Juniperus scopulorum*, a native tree attains heights of 20 to 30 feet and up to 15 feet wide with a medium to rapid growth rate. Although highly drought tolerant, rocky mountain juniper grows on a wide range of soils and will tolerate a high-water table. It forms a very dense, symmetrical crown and is a superior small tree for windbreaks in this region. In winter, it changes color from shades of gray to purple, gray. It provides fruit and shelter for wildlife.

GREEN LIVING: Protecting Your Items – and the Earth – When Moving

(StatePoint) Moving is a big job – and it can be a wasteful one, too, considering all of the packing material required. Make moving more sustainable with these eco-friendly tips:

Space Saving: Using thinner sustainable wrapping to secure your breakables avoids the need for excess storage and boxes. Flourish Brand Honeycomb Cushion Wrap, made with 40% recycled content, offers a customizable way to pack boxes efficiently. The die-cut honeycomb stretches easily with interlocking paper

that attaches to itself, so no tape is needed. Once you unpack, the paper can be directly recycled, or stored to be reused.

Folding In: Instead of using tape, fold your box tops in an interlocked, neat manner. They'll stack up easily inside your vehicle, maximizing packing space, plus you won't need to use any additional materials. Unpack your items without tearing or ripping your box, then recycle or fold it flat to store for future use.

Stacking Up: Ensure your plates and serving ware stay scratch-free by using a

protective layer between each item. Made of recycled content, Flourish Brand 100% Recycled Kraft Paper provides lasting security for traveling to your new home.

Blanketed: Oversized or uniquely shaped home décor can be exceptionally fragile and isn't always easy to squeeze into standard storage containers. When packing your vehicle, incorporate padding by wrapping these items in spare blankets, comforters, or oversized towels. You'll minimize the risk of damage to the items and have zero waste.

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Practice Being a "Master Backyarder" this Earth Day



PHOTO COURTESY TURFMUTT FOUNDATION

President and CEO Kris Kiser's dog Mulligan

Alexandria, Va. – The TurfMutt Foundation, which advocates for the care and use of our backyards, community parks, and other green spaces, says Earth Day (April 22) is the perfect time to practice being a master backyarder. "Backyarding" is the act of taking activities that we normally do inside, out to our yards and parks. Master backyarders elevate backyarding, using their personal and community green space for everything from working and exercising to entertaining and relaxing.

"Master backyarders also understand the benefits of our yards and other community green spaces to the environment," explains Kris Kiser, president, and CEO of the TurfMutt Foundation. "Every day is Earth Day for master backyarders. They plant for pollinators, know to put the right plant in the right place, and recognize their backyard as an important part of the connected ecosystem."

This year, the TurfMutt Foundation encourages everyone to use Earth Day as

an opportunity to practice being a master backyarder. Here are a few ways to do just that:

- Remember the "Golden Rule" of Backyarding: Right plant, right place. Putting the right plant in the right place is the key to successful master backyarding. It goes beyond identifying plants that will do better in sun versus shade. Master backyarders select plants that will thrive in their climate zone and work to create a backyard that supports their family's lifestyle. To learn more about selecting the right plants for your yard, refer to the USDA's Plant Hardiness Zone Map.
- Plant with pollinators in mind. Master backyarders understand that our yards and community parks are an important part of the connected ecosystem, providing food and shelter for pollinators. They plant with birds, bees, butterflies, bats, and other creatures in mind.
- Water wisely. After getting their new plants started, master backyarders only water when necessary. They install watering solutions – like smart controllers on irrigation systems – to help use water efficiently while maintaining a living landscape. They remember that over-watered grass gets lazy, growing roots in a horizontal pattern. But with less water, grass sends its roots deeper – vertically – seeking water. By working harder, grass does a better job performing its environmental superpowers like sequestering carbon and releasing oxygen.
- Bone up on backyard benefits. Master backyarders are tuned into the many benefits of spending time in backyards and community parks, and

they use the outdoors for all sorts of activities like dining, entertaining, working and even vacationing. For humans, backyarding benefits include lower stress, increased happiness, and improved memory. For the health of the planet, green space captures carbon, produces oxygen, and prevents runoff.

• Watch Lucky Dog on CBS for inspiration. Master backyarders aren't too proud to take their backyarding cues from their furry friends. After all, no one loves and appreciates yards and green spaces more than dogs. On Earth Day, the TurfMutt Foundation will be featured on the CBS show Lucky Dog. This episode highlights the Mulligan's Mutt Madness pet adoption event at Equip Exposition, which helps rescue dogs find forever homes. Watch Lucky Dog on Earth Day to get inspired to create the yard of your – and your dog's – dreams.

For more information, sign up for Mutt Mail, a monthly e-newsletter with backyarding tips and all the news from the TurfMutt Foundation here. To learn more about creating the yard of your dreams, visit TurfMutt.com. Look for Mulligan the TurfMutt on Lucky Dog. Download the International Backyarding Fact Book from <https://www.turfmutt.com/information/>, to learn why spending time in our yards and community parks is good for us and the planet.

About the TurfMutt Foundation: TurfMutt was created by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute's (OPEI) TurfMutt Foundation and has reached more than 70 million children, educators and families since 2009. Championed by Foundation spokesdog, Mulligan the TurfMutt, and through education partners such as *Weekly Reader*, *Discovery Education* and *Scholastic*, TurfMutt has taught students and teachers how to "save the planet, one yard at a time." Today, TurfMutt is an official USGBC® Education Partner and part of their global LEARNING LAB. TurfMutt has been an education resource at the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Green Apple, the Center for Green Schools, the Outdoors Alliance for Kids, the National Energy Education Development (NEED) project, *Climate Change Live*, *Petfinder* and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2017, the TurfMutt animated video series won the coveted *Cynopsis Kids Imagination Award for Best Interstitial Series*. TurfMutt's personal, home habitat was featured in the 2017-2020 Wildlife Habitat Council calendars. More information at TurfMutt.com.

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Now is the Time to Prep Your Lawn and Garden for Warm Weather

(StatePoint) It may feel like warm weather is still a ways off, but you should already be getting your lawn and garden spring-ready, according to experts. “One thing I don’t think people realize is that to get your grass, shrubs and other plants looking good in the spring...all that preparation starts right now,” says Major League Fishing bass pro, Brian Latimer, or “Blat” as he is known by fans. To help homeowners prep for spring, Latimer has partnered with lawn care equipment

manufacturer, Exmark, to offer his four, go-to tips:

1. Pull Those Weeds. According to Latimer, the most important step in prepping your lawn and garden for spring is weeding. “I have a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to weeds,” he says. “Watch those sneaky weeds growing in your shrubs and ground covers, because those are going to be the first ones that show their heads in the spring.”

While weeding isn’t the most fun you can have in your yard, it’s worth the effort.

Latimer also recommends putting a pre-emergent out now while cool-season weeds germinate. This is especially important if you have warm-season grass. While you can use pre-emergent on your planting beds as well, he recommends hand-pulling them if you can.

2. Tidy up with Selective Pruning. Pruning will make your shrubs look nice and tidy; however, Latimer recommends being careful in your efforts, avoiding plants that are budding. Pruning buds will keep

your flowers from being as prolific in the springtime. You can check for buds by combing your hands through the foliage.

3. Get Rid of Pests. Certain spring pests should be treated for in the colder months. Latimer is especially wary of fire ants, as they’re one of the most active lawn pests in spring. Treating them early will minimize their activity and mitigate potential problems they cause when the weather warms up. “I can promise you they are

going to be everywhere in warm weather, so treat them now,” he says.

4. Get Those Leaves up. Latimer knows that leaf blowing or raking is time-consuming, but he says that getting fallen leaves off the ground is essential. Not only are leaves on your lawn an eyesore, but they can also keep a lot of excess moisture from winter rain, snow and ice stuck in your soil. This creates the potential for root rot, active pests, and germinating weeds. Latimer offers more insights in “4

Tips to Prep Your Backyard for Spring,” a recent video from Exmark. To watch the video, visit Backyard Life, which is part of a unique multimedia destination with a focus on helping homeowners make the most of outdoor spaces. There you can also download additional tips and view other Exmark videos.

There’s no time like the present to plan for the future. With these great tips in mind, it’s time to brave the brisk weather and get your lawn and garden prepped for spring.

Spring Cleaning: Don’t Toss That ‘Junk,’ It May Be Valuable!

(StatePoint) It’s time to hit the garage, basement, attic, and closets for that age-old task of spring cleaning! Before hauling unwanted possessions to the curb, you may be surprised to learn they might be valuable -- especially if you have sports cards and memorabilia gathering dust.

With prices of sports cards rising in recent years, take time to determine if yours are valuable and how to best sell them.

“Older sports cards and memorabilia aren’t just highly collectible; they can be worth lots of money. Recent sales of scarce vintage cards have topped anywhere from thousands of dollars to tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands. “And really rare cards can go higher,” says Al Crisafulli, Auction Director at Love of the Game Auctions, an internet sports auction house

that helps families identify and sell valuable items. Crisafulli has assisted people in selling such keepsakes as a grandparent’s autograph collection and an uncle’s childhood baseball cards, for tens of thousands of dollars. In one life-changing event, he helped a family determine that a baseball bat that spent decades protecting their home was used by Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig -- and Love of the Game Auctions sold it for almost half a million dollars. Today, that bat could bring more than a million dollars.

The key is understanding what makes old sports collectibles valuable. To help, Crisafulli is sharing some tips:

Older is Usually Pricier

Cards from the 1960s and earlier are collectible, and those from before the 1940s

can be worth a lot of money, especially those depicting stars. Do you have cards of Hall of Famers, such as Mickey Mantle, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner or Ty Cobb? Even non-stars from the early days of a sport can be worth big bucks, especially if the cards have no creases and retain sharp corners and original gloss. If you have very old cards from the 1880s through the 1930s, look for tobacco, gum, and candy brands, such as Old Judge, Piedmont, Sweet Caporal, Goudey or American Caramel. If you want to sell sports items for the most money, consider a specialty auction, such as Love of the Game, which has the expertise to properly research sports ephemera and maintains bidder lists of collectors specializing in sports. More information is available at loveofthegameauctions.com.



PHOTO: (C) LIQUIDLIBRARY / GETTY IMAGES PLUS

Postcards and Photographs

We all have keepsakes of vacation destinations, but most aren’t valuable. However, photographs and postcards depicting sports stars and ballparks can be significant. Look for early “real photo” postcards from the 1900s through the 1940s, which are photographs printed on postcard backs.

As with sports cards, star

power matters, so preserve those Babe Ruths as opposed to images of your great grandma’s baby cousin once removed. And when it comes to photos, look for old markings on the back, such as photographer, publication, and date stamps.

Memorabilia

Set aside old advertising posters depicting sports stars and food, tobacco, or sporting goods brands. Ads from

magazines aren’t valuable, but those used as store displays and for other marketing purposes can be pricey. Tin signs from the 1960s and earlier can be highly prized, but reproductions aren’t.

Your family’s sporting goods, such as balls, gloves, and bats, can be valuable. Pre-1950s uniforms and catcher’s masks, helmets and other equipment are highly collected, especially when endorsed by star players. Top condition brings the highest prices, but even used equipment can be valuable.

“The golden rule is the older the sports card or item, the more valuable it usually is. Pre-1975 pieces start to get interesting and are worth researching,” says Crisafulli.

Don’t just clean out your “junk” this spring, examine it closely to potentially maximize its value.



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4 Misconceptions Homeowners Have About Floods

(StatePoint) Many people look forward to spring when the weather warms up and flowers start to bloom, but it also marks the start of the peak time of year for flash flooding in the United States. According to NOAA, 75% of flash floods happen between late April and mid-September. And while you may not want to think about it, when water backs up and overflows, it generally goes where it doesn't belong and can cause serious damage to your home.

Unfortunately, many homeowners have misconceptions about floods, leaving them unprepared. Here are four of the biggest myths:

1. Homeowners insurance policies cover flood damage. A typical homeowners policy covers water damage from a sink or bathtub overflowing but won't help with flood damage caused by storms – something many homeowners only discover after it's too late. However, some insurance companies

offer coverage to help fill the gaps, so you don't have to pay out of pocket for repairs and replacements. For example, Erie Insurance now offers Extended Water coverage, which covers damage caused not only by natural disasters, but also by sewer and drain backups.

2. Only people who live in flood plains need flood insurance. A national survey commissioned by Erie Insurance found that 53% of homeowners think only people who live in high-risk flood zones should buy flood insurance. However, 25% of flood claims are filed by people who live outside those areas. Additionally, FEMA says floodwater only needs to get a mere 3 inches high to make it likely that you'd need to replace drywall and baseboards.

3. There's nothing you can do to prevent flood damage. Nothing is foolproof, but there are ways to protect your home from water



PHOTO BY (C) DESIGNER491 / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS.

damage. Install a sump pump along with a battery backup and regularly test it. Improve drainage around your home by clearing leaves and debris from gutters, storm drains and downspouts. You can also install water sensors to alert you of water or leaks within your home. If a storm is on the way, plan ahead by placing valuables and sentimental items into plastic storage bins, moving items off the floor (especially if they are stored in basements and lower levels of a home) and by making a home inventory. A list of all your personal possessions, along with their estimated values, will help if you need to file an insurance claim.

4. Insurance can only help you after an incident. Many homeowners don't realize they may be able to get reimbursed for taking steps to protect their homes when flooding is imminent. As one example, under certain circumstances Erie Insurance

will reimburse homeowners up to \$10,000 for materials such as sandbags and the sand to fill them, fill for temporary levees, pumps or plastic sheeting and lumber used with these items, as well as labor.

"We encourage homeowners to not underestimate the risk of flooding, and to be aware of the significant amount of damage that even a small amount of water can cause," said Michelle Tennant, vice president of product management, Erie Insurance. "Talk to your independent insurance agent about your home and your neighborhood to make sure you have the coverage that's right for you."

To learn more about protecting your home from floods, visit erieinsurance.com/extended-water.

Life is unpredictable. So is weather. But one thing is certain: if it can rain (or snow), it can flood. Make sure you're protected with the right type of insurance.

Research Shows New Car Safety Features Can Help with Crash Reduction

(StatePoint) At a time when highway fatalities are on the rise, new research shows that the widespread adoption of the latest vehicle safety features could mean fewer crashes and safer roads. However, it could be a while before we see the full benefits of these advancements.

"With drivers holding onto their vehicles for 10 years or more, it could take many years before the fleet fully turns over," says Rini Sherony, senior principal engineer, Toyota Collaborative Safety Research Center. But what if every vehicle on the road was fully equipped with crash-prevention features? And how do engineers identify which new vehicle safety features to prioritize next? To find out, Toyota Collaborative Safety Research Center and Virginia

Tech teamed up to research the potential benefits that different safety systems have in various crash scenarios.

The team took real-world crashes and reconstructed the data, performing multiple crash simulations. They started modeling with more traditional "passive" safety features, like the latest vehicle structures, and extended their work to include such technologies as automatic emergency braking, lane-keeping assistance, blind-spot warning, etc. Assuming full deployment and optimal activation of safety features, such as those that were modeled, their research showed that over half of all U.S. crashes could be avoided and nearly 60% of moderate to serious injuries could be mitigated. At the same time, the research also identified what types of crashes are likely

to still occur even if these safety features were deployed. The research center has made the study's data, found at toyota.com/CSRC, publicly available so that automakers, policymakers, technology research universities and tech companies can work together to continue to make safety gains and fill the crash prevention gap.

"While drivers can't avoid every danger on the road, our research shows that safety systems have the potential to be very effective in reducing the risk and severity of crashes," says Sherony. "It's

important to know that most automakers offer features like lane departure warning, automatic emergency braking, audio warnings and steering assist (often with additional functionality). When you search for your next car, consider these features, even possibly opting for those that do not come standard-equipped. We hope that as drivers continue to adopt and use such technologies, we will be able to realize more of the accident mitigation and prevention benefits that they can offer, resulting in safer roads for everybody."

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