

# The Garden News

## Chocolate Plants

Do you love chocolate – the smell, the taste, even the color of it? Then plant some chocolate in your garden! There are many plants available that smell like chocolate, taste like chocolate, or are the color of chocolate. Here are a few suggestions to get you started on your own “chocolate” garden.

### *Chocolate-scented Plants*

**Chocolate Cosmos (Cosmos atrosanguineus), AKA Cosmos ‘Hot Chocolate,’ Black Cosmos**  
Perennial

Zones 8A to 10A

Size: 18” to 30” tall

Exposure: full sun to partial shade

Water: consistently moist soil, do not let it dry out between waterings but do not over water

Bloom colors: brown, dark red

Bloom time: May to October

Foliage color: green

Comments: scent is strongest at the end of a hot summer day; excellent cut flower; not edible



**Chocolate Flower (Berlandiera lyrata), AKA Green-eyes, Chocolate Daisy**  
Perennial

Zones 4 to 11

Size: 5” to 24” tall, 6” to 8” wide

Exposure: full sun to light shade

Water: well-drained soil, very drought tolerant, do not over water

Bloom color: yellow



## Calendar:

*Wednesdays* 9 a.m.  
78th St. Greenhouse  
[nancysgarden@comcast.net](mailto:nancysgarden@comcast.net)

*Thursdays* 9-12  
Fort Vancouver Garden

*Tues., June 1st, 7:00p.m.*  
Master Gardener  
Foundation of Clark County  
Meeting at CASEE Center,  
11104 NE 149th St Bldg. B  
Brush Prairie, WA

**It is better to be a young  
June-bug than an old bird  
of paradise~ Mark Twain**

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.

Bloom time: mid-spring to mid-summer

Foliage color: green

Comments: native wildflower; adapts to most soil types; attracts butterflies, bees, and birds; scent is strongest in the morning and in sunny weather; self-sows freely

### *Chocolate-flavored Plants*

#### **Chocolate Mint (*Mentha piperata*)**

Perennial

Zones 3 to 9

Size: 12" to 24" tall, up to 36" wide

Exposure: full sun to partial shade

Water: moist soil, moderate water

Bloom color: pink/lavender

Bloom time: late spring to mid-summer

Foliage color: greenish-bronze

Comments: plant in a container to prevent it from becoming invasive; flavor will be best if planted in full sun and given plenty of water and fertilizer; for maximum flavor, cut when plant is in full bloom; cut plant back in summer and fall to keep it neat; can be used fresh or dried; attracts bees, butterflies and/or birds



#### **Chocolate Tree (*Theobroma cacao*)**

Tropical/tender Perennial

Zone 11

Size: 4' to 25' tall

Exposure: light shade

Water: water regularly, do not over water

Bloom color: white/cream/tan

Bloom time: all year

Foliage color: green

Comments: pods grow from limbs and trunk of the tree; seeds have a white outer coating that tastes sweet when sucked on; chocolate is made from the roasted seeds.



J.S. Peterson @ USDA-NRCS  
PLANTS Database

#### **Himalayan Honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*), AKA Chocolate Berry, Burnt-caramel Berry**

Perennial

Zones 7 to 11

Size: 3' to 8' tall, up to 6' wide

Exposure: sun to partial shade

Water: average water, water regularly; do not over water

Bloom colors: maroon/purple/brown, white

Bloom time: mid-summer



Foliage color: green

Comments: can be invasive; berries have a chocolate-caramel flavor

**Ajuga reptans 'Valfredda' ('Chocolate Chip')**

Perennial

Zones 4 to 9

Size: 3" tall, space 6" to 9" apart

Exposure: sun to partial shade

Water: needs good drainage, water regularly but do not over water, drought tolerant once established

Bloom color: light blue

Bloom time: mid- to late spring through early summer

Foliage color: new foliage is milk chocolate, tinged purplish-bronze, then turns green

Comments: tiny leaves, good for crevices, dwarf plant; all parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested



**'Chocolate Soldier' Columbine (Aquilegia viridiflora)**

Perennial

Zones 3 to 9

Size: 6" to 12" tall, 8" to 12" wide

Exposure: full sun to partial shade

Water: average moisture, well-drained soil

Bloom color: chocolate-purple petals and green sepals

Bloom time: late spring/early summer

Foliage color: bluish-green

Comments: remove flowering stems after bloom to encourage rebloom; cut back foliage to the ground in mid-summer when it starts to decline; fragrant flowers



**Geranium 'Chocolate Candy', AKA Cranesbill**

Perennial

Zones 4 to 7

Size: 3" to 6" tall, 6" to 12" wide

Exposure: full sun to partial shade

Water: average water, well-drained but moist soil

Bloom color: pink

Bloom time: late spring to early summer, may rebloom throughout the summer

Foliage color: dark chocolate brown

Comments: easy to grow; cut back after flowering to encourage rebloom and retain shape; remove side stems to control spread; good groundcover



**Heuchera 'Chocolate Ruffles' (Heuchera micrantha)**

Perennial

Zones 4 to 9

Size: 12" to 24" tall, 12" to 18" wide

Exposure: sun to partial shade

Water: average water needs, water regularly but do not over water

Bloom color: purplish to pale pink

Bloom time: late spring to early summer

Foliage color: chocolate brown on the top, burgundy on the bottom



**Heucherella 'Chocolate Lace'**

Perennial

Zones 4 to 9

Size: 12" to 18" tall, 12" wide

Exposure: sun to full shade

Water: average water needs, water regularly but do not over water, needs consistently moist soil, do not let dry out between waterings

Bloom color: pink

Bloom time: late spring to mid-summer

Foliage color: bronze-green to chocolate

Comments: attracts bees, butterflies and/or birds; resistant to deer



**Heuchera 'Chocolate Veil' (Heuchera americana)**

Perennial

Zones 4 to 9

Size: 6" to 24" tall, 12" to 18" wide

Exposure: sun to partial shade Water: average water needs, water regularly but do not over water

Bloom color: white

Bloom time: late spring to early summer

Foliage color: chocolate-black with purple highlights

Comments: remove faded flowers to encourage rebloom



**Aeonium 'Schwartzkopf' (Aeonium manriqueorum)**

Perennial

Zones 9 to 10

Size: 2' to 6' tall, 1' to 2' wide

Exposure: full sun

Water: drought tolerant, water during dry periods



Bloom color: pale yellow  
Bloom time: late spring/early summer  
Foliage color: chocolate brown/purplish  
Comments: ideal container plant; succulent

**Chocolate Lily (*Fritillaria lanceolata* or *Fritillaria biflora*) AKA Checker Lily, Missionbells**  
Perennial

Zones 5 to 10  
Size: 1' to 4' tall  
Exposure: full sun  
Water: average water needs  
Bloom color: brownish-purple  
Bloom time: February to June  
Foliage color: green  
Comments: native west of the Cascades



**Chocolate Vine (*Akebia quinata*)**  
Perennial

Zones 4 to 8  
Size: 4' to 40' tall, 6' to 9' wide  
Exposure: full sun to partial shade, shade tolerant  
Water: average moisture, somewhat drought tolerant  
Bloom color: chocolate-purple  
Bloom time: late March to early April  
Foliage color: emerges purplish-green, then becomes blue-green  
Comments: odd-looking purple pods; fragrant flowers; can be invasive in warm climates; can grow to 40 feet in one growing season and suffocate other vegetation if not kept in check



**'Chocolate' Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium rugosum*) AKA White Snakeroot**  
Perennial

Zones 4 to 8  
Size: 2' to 6' tall, 3' to 4' wide  
Exposure: sun to partial shade, prefers light shade  
Water: average water needs, well-drained soil  
Bloom color: white  
Bloom time: mid-summer to early fall  
Foliage color: chocolate tinted  
Comments: easy to grow; excellent cut flower; all parts of plant are poisonous if ingested; attracts bees, butterflies and/or birds; deadhead to avoid unwanted self-seeding (will not come true from seed); often sold as *Ageratina altissima* 'Chocolate'



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**'Chocolate' New Zealand Flax (Phormium tenax)**

Perennial

Zones 9 to 11, may survive in zones 7 and 8 if protected

Size: 1' to 6' tall, to 4' wide

Exposure: full sun to partial shade

Water: needs consistently moist soil, do not let dry out between waterings

Bloom color: red

Bloom time: late spring/early summer, rarely flowers

Foliage color: warm chocolate brown with red undertones

Comments: will tolerate a wide range of soils



If these varieties don't satisfy your chocolate craving, try growing some of the many other plants that are chocolate scented, flavored, or colored, such as daylilies, iris, coleus, hibiscus, and morning glory. And if you like peanut butter with your chocolate, plant peanut butter shrub (Clerodendrum trichotomum). Its leaves smell just like peanut butter!

References

Kemper Center for Home Gardening. PlantFinder. Accessed October 16, 2003. Available at <http://ridgwaydb.mobot.org/kemperweb/plantfinder/>.

The Plants Database. Accessed February 7, 2010. Available at <http://plantsdatabase.com/>.

USDA-NRCS. 2003. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov/plants>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Accessed February 7, 2010.

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**News Release**

Looking ahead to future meetings:

June 1, Gardens and agriculture in Nicaragua by Master Gardener Kit Stowell

July 6, FOOD, picnic and fun

August, no meeting

[September 7, Pending, Scottish heathers](#)

October 5, Annual Business meeting and Yolanda Vanveen, Vanveen Bulbs

November 2, Historic Apples by Master Gardener Karen Palmer

December 7, The personal side of Christmas Tree Farming by several experienced Master Gardeners...value added green items will be available.

## MG COORDINATOR CAROLYN'S CORNER

June 2010

I can't believe this is the end of May and it's only 56 degrees outside.

Rain, hail, lightning, pouring rain – then sunshine. We had it all today.

That didn't stop the intrepid on- the- road tour team from heading out on their tour of the Oregon Garden. I promised them the rain would stop when they got there – I sure hope it did!

Luckily, the weather was lovely for the Mother's Day Plant Sale at the 78<sup>th</sup> Street Heritage Farm. I spent some time there on Saturday and found quite a few things I didn't need, but couldn't live without. What I also found (although I always knew it) was what an amazing group of volunteers we are! I walked around and listened as customers asked questions about the plants. If one MG didn't know the answer, they knew exactly who to ask and made sure the customer got an answer. Yes, this is a fundraiser, but it didn't seem to be about the money nearly as much as educating the public about the plants. And making sure that when they got them home, they'd know how to care for them. I even overheard one MG tell someone what their favorite tomato was – even though we weren't selling that one.

Thank you to the 100 or so volunteers that made the plant sale a success once again!

## Organic Remedies



*Tip of the Month:*

### Coffee Grounds & Orange Peels

Use: To keep cats from using your flower beds as a litter box.

How to apply: Scatter used coffee grounds and orange peels around the base of your flowers will keep even the most persistent pests away.

We have two big events coming up: The July 10 Earth Friendly Garden tour and the Aug 6-15 Clark County Fair. Please consider giving a few hours of time to each event. They won't be a success without you! I'm promising sunny skies.☺

Carolyn

## Baked Squash with Parmesan

### Ingredients

1 med. spaghetti squash  
8 tblsp. butter  
3 tblsp. mixed herbs, such as parsley, chives, basil & oregano  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
1 shallot, chopped  
1 tsp lemon juice  
1/2 c freshly grated Parmesan cheese  
salt and pepper to taste



### Directions

Preheat oven to 350. Cut squash in half lengthwise. Place halves, cut side down, in a roasting pan. Pour a little water around them, and bake for 40 mins. until tender. Do not burn. Cover with parchment or foil if necessary.

Meanwhile, put butter, herbs, garlic, shallot and lemon in food processor. Process until thoroughly blended. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

When squash is tender, scrape out any seed and cut a thin slice from the bottom to level. Place squash on warm plates.

With a fork pull out a few spaghetti strands in the center to make room for filling. Add a dollop of herb butter and sprinkle with a little parmesan cheese. Serve the remaining herb butter and Parmesan separately, adding them as you pull out more strands.

## june to-do-list

### VEGETABLES

Fertilize vegetable garden a month after planting. Plant second crop of greens - lettuce, chard, spinach.

### FLOWERS

Replant container. Fill in bare spots with annuals. Remove spent blooms from spring flowers.

### BERRIES AND GRAPES

Lightly prune tips of blackberries and pinch flowers off young grapevines to form and train growth of new canes

### TREES AND SHRUBS

Cut back and thin out diseased or spindly branches of spring-flowering shrubs. Thin out small green fruits on apple, peach and plum trees to one every 6 inches on the branch.

### FERTILIZING

Fertilize and prune azaleas, lilacs, spirea and rhododendrons after they bloom.

### LAWN

Train your lawn to grow deep roots, mow often at a high setting.

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Clark County MG Endowment

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We're on the Web!

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.

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## Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County

### FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

**78<sup>th</sup> Street Property.**

**PLANT SALE!!**

**We did good--\$23,500+ for Mother's Day weekend!**

If you add in pre-sales and sales since, we're at approximately **\$27,000!**

**Many Thanks** go to everyone involved from those who donated plants to those who dug them to those who potted them to those who hauled the soil to those who seeded them to those who transplanted the seedlings to those who watered them to those who fertilized them to those who pruned them to those who arranged them to those who set them up to those who sold them to those I forgot! And, a **BIG THANK YOU to our leaders—NANCY AND JULIE!! You are truly awesome!!**

For those who wonder about such things, our 2010 goal is \$30,000. So, with the fall sale during Harvest Days celebration yet to come, we're looking darn good!

In addition, we were able to donate some plants to other non-profits like Second Chance Housing, Evergreen Schools Skill Center and the 4-H Restorative Community Service Program—all to help our fellow Clark County Citizens.

Now, we switch gears a bit and start tending our organic garden for the food banks. For those of you that do not know, we assumed management of the organic garden acreage at 78<sup>th</sup> street this year (we've been doing it unofficially for a couple of years.) The produce raised is contributed to local food banks. Come join us every Wednesday from 0900 to 1200 and learn how to grow vegetables for a great cause!!

Whenever an opportunity presents itself, I encourage you to become involved and promote the Master Gardener Foundation's continued use of the 78<sup>th</sup> street property. Our ability to use the property enabled us to raise over \$30,000 last year! That money was used to support the Master Gardener Program and other worthwhile community projects.

**Without our continued use of the 78<sup>th</sup> street property, none of this would be possible. Thank you for your past and future involvement!!**

**2010 Master Gardener Conference**—we’re nearing 300 registered participants! Some classes are full and there are only 20 room nights left at the Red Lion! Click on the link below to reserve your spot

[https://www.regonline.com/wsu\\_master\\_gardener\\_advanced\\_education\\_conference](https://www.regonline.com/wsu_master_gardener_advanced_education_conference)

The sponsorship committee recently added Outback Fireplaces as a sponsor. They are donating an outdoor fireplace, valued at \$2800, for our silent auction! Black Gold has also just been added as a bronze sponsor.

Our sponsors to date:

**Gold (\$4000)**—Sunlight Supply, Inc. (National Garden Wholesale)

**Silver (\$2000)**—Portland Nursery

**Silver (\$2000)**—Proven Winners

**Bronze (\$1000)**—Edward Jones

**Bronze (\$1000+merchandise)**—Shorty’s Nursery

**Bronze (\$1000)**—Columbia Sportswear

**Bronze (\$1000)**—Ameriprise Financial

**Bronze (\$1000+)**—Outback Fireplaces

**Bronze (\$1000)** -- Black Gold

And, other businesses and individuals have stepped forward with some nice things for the silent auction. If you know of a business or individual that might be willing to contribute and/or if you have a contact within that business, please let Dean Sutera know. Dean’s e-mail is [dsutera45@msn.com](mailto:dsutera45@msn.com)

Plus, it is looking like all 25 tables in the “MG Marketplace” will be laden with goodies for you to purchase. There will be everything from plants to conference logoed merchandise to our very own cookbook to purchase!

As in any project, there is a lot of essential work going on behind the scenes. Much of that work is being done by the Coordinators—Dean Sutera, Karen Palmer and Fran Hammond—and scores of volunteers. If you’d like to help, contact Dean, Karen or Fran—they’ll integrate you quickly!

**“From Trowel to Table”**—that’s the title of our new cookbook that just went to press! Al Pavelko and his “crew” are currently working with the publisher doing final edits. We’re still on track to receive the cookbooks from the publisher in July. The cookbook will be loose-leaf, lays flat or stands up on the supplied easel and will be priced at only \$14.95. You can order one on line at [MGFClark@gmail.com](mailto:MGFClark@gmail.com) or come to the 2010 Conference and buy one in our store!

**I-5 Washington Welcome Sign Planting**—our “planting date” is June 05 and many trowels make for light work! Elena Kokta has volunteered to lead this effort. If you would like to help, Elena’s e-mail is: [ekokta@hotmail.com](mailto:ekokta@hotmail.com) and she’d love to hear from you! ☺

We transplanted 1008 supertunia plugs last Tuesday and they have already grown an inch! They'll be looking good by June 05.

**June 01 Member Meeting**—the speaker will be Kit Stowell, a fellow Master Gardener on his trip down south learning how to garden in the tropics! Look for details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Heather Lund and Loran Mate are your program coordinators for the evening meetings of members. Loran and Heather welcome, and want, your suggestions and feedback. It is your meeting and they want to please you!

**YOUR BOARD**—Your Board member names and contact information are elsewhere in this Newsletter and I urge you contact any one of us with any suggestions, concerns or “Thank Yous” you would like to convey. We're here to serve you and we can best do that when we know what you want!

Thank you,  
Wayne Chandler  
MGF Board President



## All Star Awards

The 2010 All Star award winners were recognized at the April 6 Master Gardener Foundation meeting. This award program was implemented by the Master Gardener Foundation to recognize two types of Master Gardener “All Stars” – those who have been active Master Gardeners for at least 10 years and those who have recorded at least 1,000 hours.

Our 1,000-hour All Stars for this year were Celeste Lindsay, Judy Sutera, and Wanda Wilson. Everyone can appreciate the amount of energy and effort that goes into volunteering a thousand plus hours!

Our 10-year All Stars are Jan Bennett, Donna Peterson, Ray Peterson, and Sue Sutton.

Please give them all a round of applause!



Pictured from left to right: Wanda Wilson, Sue Sutton, Celeste Lindsay, Jan Bennett, Ray Peterson

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