

Happy March ...

March is a “transitional” month for gardeners, so for 31 days you can’t count on anything. It will be too cold, too wet, too blustery, and too stormy to do much except turn the compost, cut a few daffodils, and buy annuals that an unexpected frost will kill the next day. We have no choice but to soldier on - which is appropriate since March is named for Mars, the Roman god of war. Be strong! Spring is coming ...

### ***BRIEF RECAP OF FEBRUARY MEETING:***

Three members of the Avant group each gave a presentation/demonstration of their flower arranging skills. Gloria showed three different arrangements done with a combination of purchased flowers and greenery from her yard. She did three different sizes and gave many good tips and tricks for using a variety of containers from vases to a miniature teapot. Linda demonstrated fun ideas using all things from her yard to create very attractive and creative arrangements while Mitch demonstrated using metal frameworks that he enhanced with a mossy branch and dried hydrangeas (spray painted red) from his yard.

### ***ATTENTION: MARCH 22 MEETING (CHANGE IN DATE FOR MARCH!)***

Due to a number of conflicts at the church on our usual meeting day the meeting for March has been moved to Wednesday, March 22:

DAY:           Wednesday, March 22  
TIME:           12:30PM - time for set-up if needed  
                    1:00PM - Welcome & Introductions  
                    1:30PM - Program followed by social time and business meeting

LOCATION: Our Savior Lutheran Church  
              745 Front Street South  
              Issaquah

PROGRAM: Jim Olson, a Master Gardener since 2013 and current president of MGFKC will present on WEEDS: A whimsical look at how to identify, prevent and control these pests. Jims other interest include growing melons, orchids and anything else that is edible!

**REMINDERS:**

MARCH Snack Committee:

Hostess: Deb Matson  
Crew: Joan Harris  
Gloria Woo  
Gale Baullinger  
Pam Rittenhouse

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**GMM SUMMARY:**

The GMM was held on Monday, February 27 ...

Despite the crazy cold weather there was a great turnout of about 50 attendees. The morning speaker was Aranca Ehrenwald who shared pictures she creates from recycling everything from plastic bottles to wrapping paper to seedpods and feathers from her yard. Her pictures looked like works of art and demonstrated an amazing amount of vision and creativity. Check-out her website to see pictures of this amazing art!

Following was the business meeting where the slate of officers for the District were elected for 2023 - 2024.

Following lunch a number of attendees shared information about their crafts/hobbies. There was quite a variety of crafts from old time radio broadcasting to watercolor art, crochet, doll making and even beekeeping. It was interesting to hear how some of the folks got started in their hobbies. They did everything from classes to YouTube!

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## ***SAVE THE DATES:***

March 3 & 4, 2023 - Whidbey Gardening is sponsoring a seminar entitled "Gardening with Purpose - Beauty, Bounty & Benefit". Early registration opens January 15 - 20, and the website is now open - [WhidbeyGardening.org](http://WhidbeyGardening.org)

April 17 - 20, 2023 - Pacific Region Convention 2023 "Going Green - Together. It will be held at the Embassy Suites in Lynnwood. You can attend for a day (or more) and not even have to spend the night! There will be tours, workshops, speakers and entertainment.

April 24, 2023 - Arbor Day Celebration at Bellevue Botanical Garden.

May 13 - The Issaquah Garden Club has invited the Sammamish Garden Club to partner with them for a plant sale in May. We will share the work of planning, set-up and take-down as well as in the profits. More information (date, location, etc.) will be forthcoming ...

May 19 - Work day at Bellevue Botanical Garden - 9:00AM - 11:00AM

May 22, 2023 - General Membership Meeting (GMM) - Speakers will be from Waste Management about recycling and an ikebana Designer

June 5 - 8, 2023 - Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs Convention in Olympia. Details will be shared as they are know ...

September 22 - 24, 2023 - District Flower Show, Bellevue Botanical Garden

## ***EDUCATIONAL CORNER:***

### **10 Indoor and Outdoor Herb Garden Ideas That Guarantee Fresh Basil, Parsley, and More All Year Round**

Herb gardens can be set up in a variety of spaces and climates, whether you have a windowsill, balcony, or backyard.

## MADELINE BUIANO

One of the most rewarding aspects of having a culinary garden is getting to enjoy the fruits of your labor. From snipping off some fresh rosemary for a cocktail garnish to using home grown lavender in your flower arrangements, growing herbs is one of the most low maintenance ways to start a kitchen garden. The best part? You can grow herbs even if your square footage is limited, both inside and out. Whether you set up a windowsill growing station or plant a dedicated bed in your big backyard, our herb garden ideas will ensure you have access to fresh basil, parsley, thyme and more all year round.

### Create a Border With Herbs

Blending form and function, herbs can be used to create beautiful edging for your garden. "Herbs can [create a lovely border](#) that smells fantastic," says Carrie Spoonemore of [Park Seed](#). "Using herbs as a border can also deter pests away from plants in the center of the raised bed."

One variety that's a particularly great border plant is Anouk Lavender, which makes for a uniform edging that can repel bugs and [deter rabbits](#) and deer. Simply plant it around the greenery you want to protect or use it to enclose your entire garden.

### Plant Herbs in Window Boxes

Many herbs grow well in confined spaces because of their fairly shallow root systems, which makes [window boxes](#) an ideal place for them. Additionally, window boxes [offer good drainage](#)—a necessity for a handful of herb varieties. "Herbs like spearmint, oregano, rosemary, and thyme all work well in window box planters," says Joe Raboine, director of residential

hardscapes, [Belgard](#). "Window boxes are perfect if you don't have ample space or are looking for a convenient option to grow culinary herbs."

## Go Vertical With a Canvas Shoe Organizer

If you're running out of places to put your plants, consider going vertical with your herbs. "Growing herbs in a vertical garden can be a great space-saver and a beautiful backdrop for any space indoors, on an exterior wall, or in your yard," says Spoonemore. One way to do this indoors is to hang a canvas shoe organizer on the back of a door that receives ample sunlight. "Herbs can remain in the pots from the store, and a small plant tray can be placed inside each pocket to collect drainage," says Spoonemore. Place tall herbs like rosemary on the top rows, bushy herbs like thyme in the center, and basil and mint on the bottom.

## Grow Herbs in Raised Garden Beds

[Many gardeners use raised garden](#) beds to grow herbs, flowers, vegetables, and more as they allow for more soil control and have excellent drainage. "Raised garden beds are a great option for herbs," says Kayla Fell, creative director of [Refugia Design](#). "We like to add a mixture of warm weather favorites such as basil, oregano, and thyme alongside varieties of lettuce and tomatoes in our raised beds." If you go this route, it's important to have a system in place to [protect your plants from four legged friends](#), like deer, squirrels, and even your family pet who may scavenge your supply.

## Grow Windowsill Herbs

Want your herbs right where you can see them? Grow the plants on your windowsill. "Growing herbs indoors can be especially convenient for cooking," says Spoonemore. Alternatively, if you don't have optimal lighting in your home, you can invest in an herb garden kit with fluorescent light. "Herbs will need at least six hours of sun or 14 to 16 hours under a grow light," says Raboine.

Keep your herbs in containers that offer proper drainage so the roots don't stay wet—typically, the best size pot for [windowsill herbs](#) is 4 to 6 inches deep. "You can get creative and add style to your herb garden by using old tea cups or bowls," says Spoonemore. "Place small rocks in the bottom of containers without a drainage hole." If your vessels do have drainage holes, make sure to use plant saucers or trays to protect your windowsill from water damage.

## Xeriscape With Herbs

Ideal for areas where droughts are common, [xeriscaping is a garden system](#) that depends on annual rainfall for irrigation and requires little to no supplemental water. These landscapes utilize what the natural climate provides in order for plants to thrive. A handful of herbs are drought tolerant, meaning they are great for xeriscaping. "Lavender, rosemary, and sage are Mediterranean herbs that love the heat and drier soil," says Spoonemore. "This makes them a perfect choice for xeriscaping."

## Attract Pollinators With Flowering Herbs

[Welcome pollinators](#) like bees and butterflies into your garden by planting flowering herbs. "Bees are especially attracted to those with more nectar, such as thyme, oregano, rosemary, lavender, and lemon balm," says Raboine. On the other hand, calendula and sage will attract butterflies. Keep in mind that allowing some herbs to flower can change their flavor. "If you plant more than you need and let some go to seed, our pollinator friends will be very appreciative," says Fell.

## Combine Herbs With Flowers

Planting herbs alongside flowers is visually impactful, but also beneficial for your garden. "Biodiversity in the garden adds interest by infusing a variety of colors and textures," says Spoonemore. "Having a mix of plants of different heights will add an aesthetic that is pleasing to the eye." Additionally, pairing a pest repellent flower next to your herbs can keep the edible plants safe from predators. "Some combinations that work well together are pansies and rosemary, thyme and zinnias, and roses and chives," says Raboine.

## Plant Herbs in Hanging Baskets

Another way to save space while still creating a beautiful display of herbs is to grow them in [hanging baskets](#). "Herbs in hanging baskets are convenient and eye-catching," says Spoonemore. "They can provide a pop of color and flavor to your outdoor area while helping keep pests away." Any herb that grows well in a potted environment can be kept in a hanging basket. "Some common choices are dill, parsley, marjoram, and basil," says Raboine.

## Grow Cascading Herbs

Decorate a pergola or fence by placing cascading herbs close by the structure for the plants to drape over and grow around. "Lemon balm, chamomile, and oregano are herbs that will spill beautifully and will have charming tiny blooms, as well," says Spoonemore. "Creeping thyme is also great to spill over the edge and will shade the soil, slowing evaporation."