

June 2025 Newsletter

Summer is a-l-m-o-s-t here:

June is the month when we experience the solstice on June 21. It happens at the same instant for all of us, everywhere on Earth; only our clocks are different. Here are some other interesting facts about the June solstice:

** The word “solstice” comes from the Latin words *sol* “Sun” and *sistere* “to stand still.”

On the summer solstice, the Sun’s path stops advancing northward each day and appears to “stand” still in the sky before going back the other way.

** On the solstice, the Sun reaches its northernmost position, reaching the Tropic of Cancer and standing still before reversing direction and start moving south again. In fact, that’s how the Tropic of Cancer got its name. A few thousand years ago, the solstice happened when the Sun was in the constellation of Cancer the Crab.

** On the summer solstice, you may observe that the Sun’s path across the sky is curved - NOT a straight line. It appears to rise and keeps veering to the right as it passes high overhead. This is quite different from the laser-straight path the Sun moves along in late March and Late September, near the equinoxes.

** You may also observe that the midday Sun is highest up in the sky (or, lowest if you live in the Southern Hemisphere). But did you know that the Sun’s highest point is getting lower and lower over time? That’s because Earth’s tilt is slowly decreasing.

** On this day the Sun rises farthest left on the horizon and sets at its rightmost possible spot. Sunlight strikes places in your home and garden that get illuminated at no other time.

With all that, most people only care about one single solstice fact:

It’s the start of summer! (If you live in the Northern Hemisphere)

TIME TO PAY DUES FOR NEXT YEAR (2025-2026):

It’s that time again! Dues for the coming year will be \$25.00 but as we did last year please consider giving a little extra if you can. This way we can keep the bank balance from dwindling since we aren’t planning on having a plant sale again this spring. ***Please give your cash, check or money order to Sandra.*** If you need to mail it to her you’ll find her address in your yearbook ...

POST OFFICE TROUGH:

A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to check on the trough and surrounding area to make sure it is tidy and to water during the summer months.

May - Thanks Lexie for checking on the trough and reports are that it's looking good!

June - Joan F.

July - Sandra R.

August - Deb M.

THINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED:

MAY MEETING:

HORTICULTURAL CORNER:

The focus plant is Jasmine and everyone was encouraged to read a bit about this beautiful plant.

PROGRAM:

Carol Schneider presented about Peonies. Her grandfather started as a letter carrier and became a horticulturalist who grew 1000+ plants and became a commercial grower. He hybridized many plants that have been registered. Peonies originated in China and can be found all over the world.

Carol went over each of the varieties of peonies - Tree, Herbaceous, Itoh including how to plant and care for as well as gave resources for more information.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (GMM):

On Monday, May 19 there was a General Membership Meeting which was well attended by more than 50 people. The theme was "Flowers are the Music of Summer".

Business Meeting:

** Installation of new officers

Programs:

** Horticultural Program: James Gagliardi, Director of Bellevue Botanical Gardens talked about "Creating Beautiful Landscapes for Pollinator and Wildlife Habitat:. He had a beautiful slideshow full of many inspiring ideas.

** Design Program: Presentation was done by Elaine Pinkerton, Debbie Spiller and Linda Maida.

SAVE THE DATES:

June 3 - 5, 2025 - WSFGC Convention “Wonderful World of Color” at Little Creek Casino in Shelton

July 18 - 20, 2025 - District Flower Show - “Songs of Summer” at Bellevue Botanical Garden.
Volunteers needed!

September 29, 2025 - General Membership Meeting

EDUCATIONAL CORNER:

How to Create a Garden That Blooms With Color All Year Long

Bring color into your garden throughout spring, summer, fall, and winter.

Creating a garden that bursts with color year-round is a goal many gardeners have. But while it may be easy to create interest during spring and summer when many flowers are blooming, maintaining color in fall and winter may seem like a mystery. Luckily, there are many ways to design an eye-catching garden year-round, from growing ornamental grasses and perennial flowers to planting berry bushes and evergreen trees. All it takes is some planning, and you can create a garden that blooms with color during spring, summer, fall, and winter.

Meet the Expert

Peggy Anne Montgomery is a horticulturist with [FlowerBulbs.com](https://www.flowerbulbs.com)
Roger Davis is the outdoor landscape manager at [Longwood Gardens](https://www.longwoodgardens.com)

RELATED: [11 Colorful Perennial Flowers That Will Thrive All Summer](#)

Know Your Growing Zone

The first step to creating a garden that blooms with color year-round is to know your growing zone. "Understanding your growing zone is the key to selecting plants that will not just survive but thrive in your specific climate conditions," says Roger Davis, outdoor landscape manager at Longwood Gardens. "Local garden centers are a great resource for helping to find plants adapted to your zone." Knowing your growing zone will also help you identify plants native to your area, which are typically lower maintenance than non-native plants.

Check Bloom Times

Make sure you know the bloom times of the flowers you're planting before putting them in the ground. "Flowers are fleeting, so it's important to take bloom time into consideration when planting your flower garden," says Davis. "By selecting varieties that bloom at different times, you can create a symphony of colors from spring through fall." Bloom times are often listed as a range. For example, if a label lists spring to summer, it means the plant will bloom at some point within that range and not for that entire time.

Plant a Mix of Perennials and Annuals

Perennials are essential if you want a garden with year-round color because they come back and get bigger every year. "Choose spring, summer, and fall bloomers to extend your season of color," says Peggy Anne Montgomery, horticulturist with FlowerBulbs.com. "One easy way to do this is to visit your garden center every month or so to see what's blooming that would fit your garden style and buy three or five to plant in your garden." For winter interest, look for perennials that have beautiful evergreen foliage or geometric seed heads.

While perennials are the backbone of a colorful year-round garden, annuals add extra charm to your garden's color palette, says Davis. Introduce these plants, which bloom for a single season, strategically to fill in gaps and provide pops of color when needed, ensuring your garden remains vibrant throughout the year.

Grow Plants That Offer 4 Seasons of Color

Opting for plants with four seasons of interest is a smart choice for any gardener. "Seek out shrubs that provide beautiful blooms, lush foliage, captivating autumn color, and beautiful texture during winter," says Davis. The list of plants that offer four seasons of color isn't long—generally, only trees and shrubs fall into this category, says Montgomery. Some examples include paperbark maple, serviceberry, river birch, redbud, and Sargent's cherry.

Select Long-Blooming Plants

While some plants only bloom for a week or two, others can provide color for much longer. "[Long-blooming flowers](#) are the workhorses of a [colorful garden](#)," says Davis. "Choose varieties like coreopsis and annual salvias that bloom tirelessly, ensuring a continuous display of color from spring to summer." Long-blooming flowers also provide consistent [food for pollinators](#) and can help your garden to be a wildlife sanctuary. To ensure a continuous supply of blooms, make sure you deadhead spent flowers periodically.

Get Creative When Adding Color to a Winter Garden

Bringing color into your garden during winter can be challenging, but there are ways to make it happen. "Incorporate plants with interesting winter textures such as evergreen shrubs, berry bushes, and ornamental grasses to keep color year-round," says Davis. "Brighten gray vistas with golden-leafed conifers, witch hazels, or leave the bronze-like

heads of dried hydrangeas on display. Even bare branches can be unexpected sources of winter color."

Keep Up With Maintenance

To keep your garden healthy and in full bloom throughout the year, regular maintenance is key. Deadheading spent blooms is essential, as it encourages a continuous supply of blooms and ensures plants aren't putting their energy into seed production, says Montgomery. Throughout the year, you should also apply mulch for moisture retention and amend soil with compost to replenish nutrients and encourage a healthy soil environment, says Davis.

Have a Plan for Every Season

Lastly, having a plan is key when it comes to creating a garden with year-round color. To make this more manageable, it's helpful to break your gardening tasks up by season.

Spring: During early spring, you want to ensure that your garden is in its best shape to host the parade of color that's about to come. Start by cleaning up your garden and removing any dead foliage that accumulated during winter—also, cut back perennials that are getting ready for new growth. Spring is a great time to mulch your beds and [start seeds indoors](#).

Summer: Utilize summer to plant pockets of colorful annuals in places where spring plants have finished, [deadhead flowers](#) as they finish, and take notes for next year if things need to move or be edited, says Davis.

Fall: Fall is the best time to plant bulbs for next spring, like tulips, daffodils, and crocuses. To add color to your garden, display containers of chrysanthemums and asters—two popular fall-blooming perennials. Add compost to garden beds.

Winter: While most of your garden is dormant, use winter to create a plan for the coming season and buy seeds, says Davis. Winter is also a good time to do developmental pruning on trees.

More Ideas for Year-Round Flower Gardens

Create a layered effect with tall, medium, and shorter flowers for your year-round flower garden. Consider choosing from the list of seasonal blooms to begin planning your garden, but always check your zone for the appropriate plantings and accurate bloom times.

Early spring: [Daffodils](#), [tulips](#), [hyacinths](#), alliums, creeping phox, candytuft, astilbes, coral bells, [geraniums](#)

Late spring: [Hosta](#), salvia, [peonies](#), [foxglove](#), [clematis](#)

Summer: [Daisies](#), butterfly weed, delphiniums, catmint, Veronica, [lavender](#), yarrow

[Late Summer](#): Liatris, hibiscus, [coneflowers](#), heliposis, Russian sage, speedwell, [begonias](#), [dahlias](#), gladiolus

Fall: Along with mums and asters for [autumn color](#), add [sedums](#), anemones, hyssop, lobelia, Joe Pye weed, [bee balm](#), [black-eyed Susan](#)

Winter: Along with ornamental grasses, add [winter flowers](#) and berries, such as hellebore, cyclamen, ornamental cabbage, winterberry holly, red chokeberry, and