

Even though this gardening season seems to be winding down there's still plenty of time to plant trees, perennials, shrubs, bulbs and woody plants. Nurseries and home improvement centers have abundant choices for us to take home. And best of all, most of their plants are on sale; some with 30-70 percent discounts. In the next few weeks I'll offer information and suggestions for fall plantings and plant care. But this week let's talk about sales, fall events and corn gluten. Be sure to keep your plant purchases watered every day until you plant them in the ground; plants in pots dry out fast

Two sales you'll want to check out are at Bainbridge Gardens on Miller Road NE on Bainbridge and Gardenscapes the Herb and Perennial Farm at 4556 Terrace Way SE in Port Orchard. Bainbridge Gardens is spreading out their sales throughout the year, something's on sale each month. Through the month of September a large selection of perennials and aquatic plants is on sale for 30 percent off. October 5 through 15 is their "Gigantic Gift Sale" with savings from 10-75 percent. Gardenscapes sale began September 13 and continues until the nursery closes for this year on October 1. Every plant is 30-70 percent off and selected items in the shop will be 25-50 percent off.

While you're at Bainbridge Gardens and Gardenscapes be sure to put your name on their mailing list. Their newsletters are wonderfully informative and you'll get advance notice of all their sales and activities for the year. Also stop in at Valley Nursery and ask to be put on their newsletter mailing list. All three newsletters are free. You can also call the nurseries and ask to be put on their mailing lists

Speaking of Valley Nursery don't miss their Fall Festival on Sunday September 24. It promises to be a day packed with fun. The Kitsap County Dahlia Society, Peninsula Fuchsia Society, Kitsap County Rose Society, Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society and Westsound Beekeeper's Association will all be on hand to entice and delight you with their displays and informational booths.

Valley is encouraging gardeners to bring photos of their gardens to the nursery on Saturday, September 23, for a photo exhibit during the Festival. The exhibit was a hit last year. You can also enter the scarecrow contest on Saturday. Bring your entry to Valley at 3 p.m. Festival attendees will vote for the winners. Voting concludes at 2 p.m. on Sunday. There's also a contest for the three tallest sunflowers and three sunflowers with the largest faces, the biggest zucchini and largest tomato. The contest is open to kids and adults. Prizes are gift certificates to the nursery. You can't win if you don't enter.

Events abound for kids. Professional marionettes Shirley and Terry McManus will bring their puppets at 2:15 in the Kid's Corner for entertainment. There's a petting zoo with llamas from Llama Rose Farm, pygmy goats and doves. Kids can wander through the corn maze and free balloons and face painting are part of the festivities. Adults and children alike get free popcorn and apple juice. Other activity includes strolling musicians from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Kitsap Connection in the afternoon, breakfast and lunch selections to purchase from the Fajita Shack, and the Rainbow Girls' hot dog stand.

At the other end of the county on Saturday, September 23, travel to Wild Birds Unlimited at 3711 Harborview Drive in Gig Harbor. It's the 8th Annual Wildlife Expo and Sale. Scott Conner, KOMO Radio Garden Show host will be speaking and vendors from all over Kitsap County will be present to tempt you with information and products.

It's not too early to think about a respite from our rainy, gray winter month of January. Ann Lovejoy and Bainbridge Gardens are conducting a horticultural eco-tour adventure to Costa Rica starting Tuesday, January 23 and commencing Friday, February 2. Each group of ten participants will have its own guide, all of whom are bilingual Costa Rican botanists, biologists or naturalists deeply committed to the conservation of Costa Rica's rich natural heritage. Bainbridge Gardens owners Chris and Junkoh Harui will accompany Ann and the group. Call 206-842-5888 for more details.

Would you like to learn more about controlling weeds with corn gluten? Email Ann Lovejoy at Lovejoy60@aol.com and she'll send you a copy of an article she's written about this great way to organically control weeds in lawns and gardens. I've written about it in my column too and will be happy to provide a copy via email or regular mail. Corn gluten products are available in Kitsap County at Bay Hay and Feed, Bainbridge Gardens and Valley Nursery.

You can email comments to Peg at gardenmentor@yahoo.com or in care of this newspaper.