

It's never too early to talk about the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. But first we need to talk about the outdoor burning ban that took effect January 1, 2001.

Burn Ban – If you live in the incorporated cities of Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Port Orchard and Poulsbo and inside the boundaries of Silverdale and Kinston outdoor burning is now prohibited. You can get information about the restrictions from your nearest local fire department or library. Curbside yard debris collection is available within the city limits of Bremerton (\$5 per month), and Poulsbo and Bainbridge Island (\$9.75 per month). Call your garbage company to sign up for this service. Materials accepted include grass, leaves, other garden trimmings and branches up to 3 inches in diameter. The materials go to a composting facility for recycling.

The Kitsap Burn Ban Hotline is 1-800-266-3119. If you'd prefer information via computer the website www.kitsapburnban.org has links to boundary maps and local numbers for details about burning restrictions and solutions in Kitsap County. Or call 360-337-5777 or 1-800-825-4940 and Kitsap County Public Works will provide more information. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency website www.pscleanair.org also has information.

At the "kitsapburnban" site notice the sections titled "Frequently asked questions about outdoor burning," "composting," and "chipping services information." However, one of my favorite chipping services was omitted. Add Chipper Bob 360-277-3301 to your list. Computers are available at local libraries to access the sites. In Port Orchard you can find printed information on waste disposal, composting and lawn care at Givens Community Center, the County Extension Office and at Public Works during normal weekday hours.

While checking out the above-mentioned sites I came upon a link to the "Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County." Kitsap County is presently working closely with this group and we now have our own publications telling us how we can more conscientiously garden (and have lawns) without destroying or poisoning our environment (both land and sea). Contact Dave Peters at Kitsap County Public Works and ask for information about healthy lawn and garden practices.

Visit the King County site at www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/house/lawncare.html. The site gives reasons to NOT use weed and feed and offers step-by-step information to have a green and healthy lawn and ultimately good health for humans, fish and other creatures. If you don't have access to a computer or printer, send me a SAS with the word "lawncare" on it and I'll send you the information.

Northwest Flower and Garden Show – Each year this show heralds spring. Held at the Seattle Convention Center the show starts on Wednesday February 7 and runs through Sunday February 11. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. During the show tickets are \$18 or for the half-day price after 3 p.m. of \$11 (at the door only). Tickets purchased in advance are \$14. Group rates (20 or more) can be purchased in advance for \$13. Children under 11 are admitted free. Order tickets online at www.gardenshow.com. Also access this site for sneak previews of this year's show.

Purchase tickets locally at Carter's Garden Center or Country Nursery and Garden in Bremerton, Bainbridge Gardens or Bay Hay and Feed on Bainbridge Island, Rosedale Gardens or Peninsula Gardens in Gig Harbor or at Valley Nursery in Poulsbo.

Don't miss the Kitsap County Master Gardeners display showcasing shade-loving plants. Be sure to catch Dan Hinkley's talk titled "Why Native Plants" and Ann Lovejoy's "The Splendor of Sages." Attend Ann's talk and get a great sneak preview of her new book on sages. Dan is the guru of native plants and how they can shine splendiferously in our gardens. "The Bluest Skies are in Seattle" is designed and created by Dan and Will Robinson of Elandan Gardens, Ltd. and "The Octopus's Garden" features Wild Side Rustic Furniture of Port Orchard.

The 13th Annual Show is called New Paths promising extra room to stroll through the 27 Show Gardens. Even the Café has a garden this year. Ikebana and bonsai exhibits are featured on the sixth floor, next to the educational exhibits. The orchid show continues to please and will feature more than 20,000 flowers.

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