

Today's column is one of those mixtures. First of all – don't forget to visit the NW Flower and Garden Show at the Convention Center in Seattle February 6 through 10. You won't be sorry. Two additional gardens have been added making a total of 28.

One is created by Larson Casteel Company of Kingston and Interbay P-Patch called "Million Flower Memorial Garden: A place for solace, serenity and sanctuary." Inside the display is a very special "compost" area. After the September 11 tragedy thousands of people expressed their grief by dropping off flowers at the Seattle Center fountain leaving over a million flowers in memory of the victims. The composted flowers are from this outpouring of feelings. Interbay wants to use the compost to create a memorial garden. Their garden at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show is their way to create awareness and generate support for the project. Larson Casteel and Interbay P-Patch volunteers want to share their garden with all of us.

We can all commemorate the lives of the victims of September 11 by planting special memory areas in our own gardens this year. It's a perfect time of year to plant a tree, shrub or other hardy plant. Choices abound at our local nurseries. For inspiration attend our two local garden shows in March. It's not too early to mark your calendars. The Soroptimists Garden Show featuring Scott Connor is Saturday March 2 at North Kitsap High School. The three-day Home and Garden Show at the Kitsap Fairgrounds is March 15 through 17.

I've been receiving seed catalogues several times a week. Even if you don't order seeds by catalogue many offer a ready almanac and reference for growing plants. One of my current favorites is Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds. It's full of offerings of rare non-hybrid heirloom seeds. Illustrations are so vibrant you could frame them to hang on a wall. Visit [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com) to order your own catalogue or order seeds online. Or phone or Fax a request to 417-924-8917. Baker Creek is from Mansfield, Missouri so make sure you read all information provided for the seeds. Some might not be good choices for our shorter, cooler growing seasons. Nevertheless the catalogue is a real treasure and treat.

Many of you may have been reading or seen news broadcasts about a chemical manufactured by Dow called Clopyralid found in many weed and feed products. Clopyralid takes a very long time to biodegrade and can effect seed germination. WSU is currently researching this matter as are Dave Peters, County Recycling Coordinator (and compost expert), Art Biggert, Ocean Sky Farms, Bainbridge Island, and WORC, Washington Organic Recycling Council. I'll provide further information on their findings and recommendations in a future column. Visit WORC's website at <http://compostwashington.org>. You can also read more about Clopyralid (clo-peer-a-lid) by using [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) as your search engine and keying in the word Clopyralid. Remember if you don't have Internet access our local libraries provide it for free.

Speaking of our wonderful local libraries you might want to check out some of their many gardening books from their extensive horticulture section. Open houses at Heronswood fund the collection purchases. You'll find a plethora of ideas for your gardening planning and needs.

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