

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 4-09-03) , ©2005

Nick Penovich of “The Lawn Jockey” called me about last week’s column on lawns. He’s had great success controlling thatch buildup by using one-quarter-inch of compost as a treatment early in the spring. Nick also wanted me to remind gardeners that many Aprils have very cold weather and the emerging grass is frozen by frost or else the seeds rot in the soil because it’s too cool and damp. Nick’s right and I’m happy to pass on his advice. For more information about Nick’s techniques for lawncare visit his website at www.lawnjockey.net.

Sean Olmstead owner of Clear Creek Nursery wanted me to let readers know the classes planned for spring at the nursery are on hold for now. He’s still working through the permitting processes for holding classes in a building on the site. Stop by the nursery to be on their waiting list for notification of future classes.

I inadvertently omitted Country Nursery and Gardens on the Seabeck Highway when I listed the classes at local nurseries. You’ll want to call the nursery at 478-0288 and request a listing of their classes. April and May promise classes on Mosaic Stepping Stones and Garden Mirrors, Dazzle Sandcast Hanging Birdfeeders, Perennial Design with Thomas Oliver and Summer Container Combinations.

April also signals graduation day for the new crop of WSU Master Gardeners. Congratulations to Jackie Aitchison, Laurie and Eric Barnes, Karin Bodinguis, Tim Bower, Janet Brookes, Marji Buffington, Virginia and Anne Burkhardt, Sally Conrad, Patrick Diehm, Susie Edwards, Patricia Foote, Susanne Gibbs, Domoni Glass, Kate Gormley, Tara Groothuis, Niene Hartley, Mitzi Hartman, Debbie Hendrickson, Erin Herndon, Linda Heys, Ann Hobson, Christine Hodges, Sandy Jardee, Lyneen Jesse, Jody Johnson, Marialis Jurges, Carrie Kirchner, Joan Komedal, Kathy Lacey, Cheryl LaPlant, Roland Malan, Carolee McCarthy, Marta Morris, Linda and Richard Morton, Diane Mueller, Helene (Beanie) O’Neill, Sally Orlob, Phyllis Poulsen, Jeanne Simmons, Penelope Trapp, Pam Warner and Michael Watkins. Each of these dedicated volunteers have completed more than sixty hours of training and will be giving back more than fifty hours of volunteer time to their communities this year.

You’ll be able to take your plant problems and questions to WSU Master Gardeners all over the county beginning this month and lasting through the end of September. Diagnostic Clinics are found in the following locations: Port Orchard Farmers Market (Saturdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.); Port Orchard Nursery (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Port Orchard Fred Meyer (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Bremerton Wal-Mart (Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Bremerton Lowe’s (Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Silverdale Home Depot (Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Poulsbo Market (Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Poulsbo Central Market (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Kingston Farmer’s Market (Saturday 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.); Winslow Farmer’s Market (Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.); Bainbridge Hardware (Thursday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.); Cooperative Extension Office (715 Sidney Port Orchard, Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

Plant sales abound in April and May. Here's a few you'll want to check out: