

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 05-07-03) , ©2005

Mothers Day is fast approaching. Plants and books make great presents for moms. The WSU Master Gardener Annual Spring Plant Sale is this Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fairgrounds in the 4-H Cat Barn. Kingston Junior High, North Kitsap Junior and Senior Highs and South Kitsap High School Horticulture Classes all have plants for sale this weekend too. Don't miss this opportunity to find plants at great prices and to contribute to very worthy causes and make your mom happy too.

"Cottage Gardens" by Philip Edinger and the Editors of Sunset Books in paperback at \$14.95 is 128 pages of enticing photos and information. The cover promises "enchancing designs," "all the best plants," and "finishing touches." Information is provided for planning, planting and caring for cottage gardens. Tips are given on pathways, fences, walls, hedges, gates, seating, containers, decorations, garden art and myriad other structures.

"The One-Hour Garden" by Joanna Smith for Reader's Digest is a 160 page hardback at \$26.95 packed with information. The subtitle reads, "How you can have a no-fuss, no-work garden." This book delivers on that promise. Color photos on every page illustrate the techniques and ideas described for stress-free easy care gardening. This book is clear and concise and is packed full of tips for the first-time or newer gardener especially, but even seasoned gardeners would enjoy adding this book to their library.

Books by Timber Press never disappoint. "The 500 Best Garden Plants" by Patrick Taylor was published originally in 1993 but the 2000 reprint is still timely and would be appreciated. It's very affordable at \$19.95 and would be a welcome addition to any gardener's plant reference collection. Three hundred photos illustrate the selections and each page describes details on cultivation, hardiness, propagation and plant's place of origin.

This year's Michael Pollan selections for the Modern Library Gardening series of republished garden book classics are out in bookstores now. One of my favorites from this year's group is "The Gardener's Bed-Book" by Richardson Wright containing "short and long pieces to be read in bed by those who love green growing things." These short essays (one for each day of the year) were first published in 1929 by the renowned editor of "House and Garden." The essays were meant to be read at night before retiring. Richardson Wright was editor in chief of "House and Garden for more than thirty-five years. All the books in this series are very affordable at \$10.95 to \$14.95. "Gardener's Bed-Book retails for \$12.95.

For the gardener who has every gardening or plant book imaginable give "Wild Plants of Greater Seattle," by Arthur Lee Jacobson for \$24.95. This field guide is illustrated with pen and ink botanical drawings of the plants found in woods to alleyways including escaped garden ornamentals, weeds and natives. Included are ample descriptions on identifying the plants along with notes on edibility, toxicity and medicinal uses.

Lone Pine's duo Alison Beck and Marianne Benetti have produced "Gardening Month by Month in Washington and Oregon" available for \$15.95. Many gardeners already own their previous

guides on “Shrubs and Trees,” “Perennials” and “Annuals.” This seasonal guide includes planning calendar pages, along with tips on pruning, planting, propagation, lawn maintenance, garden design and much more. Every page has brilliant colored photographs and is packed with tips and lore for gardening in our Northwest.

If your mom is a fan of Val Easton, Horticulture Librarian for the Center for Urban Horticulture, and Seattle PI columnist, you’ll want to buy “Plant Life” (Growing a Garden in the Pacific Northwest) at \$19.95 from Sasquatch Books. Glorious photos by Richard Hartlage illustrate Valerie’s wonderful words throughout the book. A few of the topics covered are: “No-fuss roses; Valuable Viburnums, Perfect pathways; Annual climbers; Self-seeders; Hosta fever; Coping with summer and Dusky leaves.” You’ve all read these words before but – I totally covet this book. Hmmmm – Maybe I need to buy myself a Mothers Day present.

Happy Mothers Day to all you moms and especially to my adopted moms Mary Aitchison and Genny Good. And an extremely extra special Happy Mothers Day to my favorite columnist in all the world – Sammy Quinn, Red Hat Woman and Awesome Kingston and North Kitsap Treasure. You enrich our lives and inspire us Sammy.

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