

They're ba-ack! Reports of tent caterpillars are coming in and I've even seen them in my own garden all over our Cotoneaster. Dang! Get out the Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). It's available at most nurseries, feed stores and garden centers. Read and follow the label directions. You'll have to spray several times over several weeks. It only works when the caterpillars are immature and actively feeding so act now to stem the tide.

Doing nothing is also an option. If you aren't into raising fruit trees and berries then you might want to consider doing nothing. Mother Nature has a way of helping plants bounce back from all kinds of insect and cultural problems. Hopefully this is final year three of the onslaught. Next year should be much better. Keep your fingers crossed.

I promised two weeks ago I'd tell you about plant sales throughout the county. Here is a list so far:

- April 10 (Saturday) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Dahlia Society at South Kitsap Mall in Port Orchard
- April 24 (Saturday) from 9 a.m. to noon – Bainbridge Island Garden Club 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale – NW corner of Ace Hardware Parking Lot on High School Road. Featuring exotic plants, perennials, ground covers, bulbs and much more
- April 30 and May 1 (Friday and Saturday) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Fuchsia Society Plant Sale at Fairgrounds Cat Barn
- April 30 and May 1 (Friday and Saturday) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Central Valley Garden Club at the Club House at 10200 Central Valley Road
- May 1 (Saturday) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Sunnyslope Garden Club sale at the Sunnyslope Community Hall on Old Clifton Road in South Kitsap
- May 7 and 8 (Friday and Saturday) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – WSU Master Gardener Plant Sale at the Fairgrounds in the Cat Barn
- May 8 (Saturday) from 9 a.m. to noon – Flotsam and Jetsam Garden Club at the Hansville Community Center
- May 8 (Saturday) from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – Poulsbo Garden Club at the Poulsbo Library north parking lot. Features plants and garden related art and treasures.
- May 8 (Saturday) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Evergreen Garden Club (Mason County) – Pope Center in Belfair by Olympic Savings Bank
- May 15 (Saturday) 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Long Lake Garden Club at Kitsap Bank on Bay Street in Port Orchard

And, if you have any money left over after all these wonderful plant sales you'll want to hit the early bird Bainbridge in Bloom ticket sales. Tickets are discounted at twenty-five dollars through May 15. Call 206-842-7901 or email [www.gardentourinfo](http://www.gardentourinfo) to order yours now.

Our other Kitsap County garden tour is Gifts of the Garden in South Kitsap the weekend of June 19 and 20. Tickets are available through the KCCHA Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority. Call Gloria at 360-535-6163 to order your tickets at only fifteen dollars each. I've seen the gardens featured this year and I'll tantalize you with details in a future column.

WSU Master Gardener clinics are opening throughout Kitsap County this month. Visit Master Gardeners onsite Wednesdays at Anna Smith Garden on Tracyton Boulevard north of Fairgrounds Road from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Extension Office Clinic at 715 Sidney is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. You can always drop off your gardening problem samples as early as 8:30 a.m. and late as 4:15 p.m. daily except weekends.

Other diagnostic clinics are: Bainbridge Island Winslow Hardware (Thursdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.); Bainbridge Island Farmers Market (Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.); Kingston Farmers Market (Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.); Central Market (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Poulsbo Farmers Market (Saturdays July 10 through October 30); Home Depot (Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Lowe's Hardware (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Bremerton WalMart (Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Port Orchard Farmers Market (Saturdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.); Port Orchard Nursery (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Fred Meyer Port Orchard (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

If you have insects or spiders to be identified freeze the critters in a jar with a lid for 24-48 hours. For diseased plants or plants with problems bring both healthy and sick tissue (as big a sample as you can without killing the plant). The Master Gardeners will ask you lots of questions and will help you discover how to be successful gardeners. Once in a while Master Gardeners have to become grief counselors for gardeners whose plants expire. Just remember you can always make compost and an expired plant always provides an excuse to go out and buy another temptation.

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