

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 03-21-07) Spring Musings

If you're not quite ready to spend too much time out in the cold in your garden you may want to head out to one of our many tempting and delightful nurseries for inspiration. In the nursery greenhouses and shops you'll get a respite if the weather's yucky, but you can still get a good gardening fix.

This week you might want to check out Bremerton City Nursery at 912 Adele Avenue in west Bremerton. Look south at the Kitsap Way and Marine Drive intersection near Arnold's Furniture and you'll see the words "Garden Center" on the roof of the nursery. This nursery maximizes every inch of space both inside and outside. Plan to spend a bit of time wending your way through all the satisfying temptations. At the nursery's Coffee Spigot espresso stand you'll be able to purchase a latte or chai to sip while browsing and if it gets too chilly outside head into the gift shop stocked with a myriad of interesting goodies for gardeners.

We just might get more sunny days this month. You'll want to find Dragonfly Farms Nursery at 34881 Hansville Road. The nursery opened this year on March 2 and hours are Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call the nursery at 360-638-1292. Visit the website at www.dragonflyfarmsnursery.com. Heidi Kaster, owner and nursery woman extraordinaire picks a plant each month to feature and she tells us all about that plant choice plus all the other events going on at the nursery. Sign up for a free email newsletter complete with coupon for a discount on plants. The display gardens beckon us to stroll and linger for a long time, even if it is cold out. Kaster has always offered a great selection of trees and smaller conifers, but this year she's really expanding the choices. Her website lists the current offerings.

If you're looking for a gardening fix in the south end of the county head out to the Belfair Highway just south of Gorst and you'll see the Brothers Greenhouses at 6090 Victory Drive, Port Orchard. It's a delightful place to wander around under the cover of several greenhouses. The nursery also has a tantalizing selection of collectible items with plantly themes for inside and outside your home.

At Sacks Feed and Garden 10991 State Hwy 104 NE in Kingston you'll find abundant temptations both inside and outside the store. Bird feeding supplies, gardening garb, home and garden decorations, books and numerous items will give you plenty of encouragement to linger a while indoors. The small greenhouse outside the building always has something beckoning us to ponder and purchase.

During this 2007 gardening season, I'll be touching on all our local Kitsap nurseries. Visiting and supporting them is a way to keep our economy local and you'll save gas too. Starting on Sunday April 1 you'll also want to check out "Kitsap Gardener" on BKAT (Bremerton Kitsap Access Television) at 3 p.m. on the first and third Sundays. It's a monthly gardening series on various topics starring me and a host of Kitsap County Master Gardeners and other local horticulture professionals.