



Pigeon Point News

www.pigeonpointneighborhood.homestead.com
email: PigeonPointCounc@aol.com

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Page 2

Spring Gardening tips from Neighbors

English Ivy

Did you hear that english ivy has been declared a noxious weed in Washington and Oregon? English Ivy is not native to the Pacific Northwest and has no natural predators or pests to keep it in check. It easily escapes from gardens and landscaping and grows without restraint, out competing native vegetation and growing onto trees in our parks and neighborhoods. English ivy does not provide a significant amount of food for native wildlife, and forms "Ivy Deserts" - areas so dominated by ivy that no other vegetation can survive. Ivy competes with trees for light, water and nutrients, which can negatively affect their growth or actually kill them. The weight ivy adds to trees also makes them more susceptible to blowing over during storms. Ivy does not provide adequate habitat for native wildlife, although it is perfect for rats. This information is from "Ivy Off Urban Trees" form of the Washington Native Plant Society.

Fall Trees

It is now time for us to begin thinking about ordering trees for the neighborhood for fall planting. If you have an interest in planting trees on your parking strip please let us know as we will need to begin the ordering process sometime in April. Anyone that has seen the trees that we received last year can attest to the fact that this is a super deal. Great trees in exchange for your labor to plant and care for them. Let Pete or Robert know if you are interested and you will be included.

Tips, Tricks and Ideas for Pigeon Point Gardeners

Spring is when we finally get to enjoy the colorful outbursts from our crocus, daffodil and tulip bulbs. If you forgot to plant any bulbs last October or November, page ahead in your calendar and write yourself a note to do so when the time comes. Meanwhile, walk around the neighborhood for ideas on interesting ways to plant them. Check out the parking strip at 19th & Genesee with its riot of crocus color coming up through the lawn. Putting the bulbs in the grass will force them to grow and bloom more quickly than if they're in the garden. It's a cheerful sight on a gray March day. To plant the bulbs, just use a shovel to lift a thick flap of the sod and place your bulb underneath. Then replace the flap. After any of your bulbs are done blooming, ensure a robust return next year by NOT cutting the foliage until it turns brown. This can look a little untidy towards the end, its okay to tie the leaves into a knot or braid.

What can you do NOW in the garden to get it ready for a great summer full of flowers, fruits and vegetables? Weed and mulch, weed and mulch. Start weeding now before roots get too deep and before flowers and seeds start forming. One pesticide free way of controlling dandelions is to pour boiling water over the plants. Use 2 to 3 inches of compost or other mulch to cover the areas and limit the weed invasion. While you are down so close to the ground, patrol for slugs.

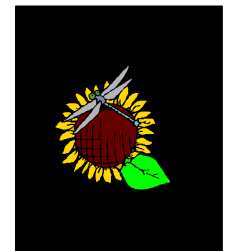


Now is a good time to prune your roses if you haven't already. But DON'T prune spring blooming plants such as lilacs, azaleas or forsythia until after they are done flowering. These plants set their buds in late summer/early fall so pruning them in the winter will give you a rather naked shrub the following season.

Our soil up here on the hill has a lot of clay in it. You can help it out by digging compost in to it. First check that the soil isn't too wet by squeezing some into a ball in your fist. Poke at the clump; if it falls apart, its dry enough to start working. If it stays together, wait another couple of weeks before you begin. Go in on a couple of yards of compost or topsoil with a neighbor. There are several local suppliers that can usually handle same day delivery.

Go visit your locally owned and operated nurseries to pick up seeds, starter plants, pots, tools and other goodies.

GOOD LUCK AND HAPPY GARDENING!!!!!!



Internet Resources for gardening
www.gardening.wsu.edu
www.seattletilth.org

<http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/practicalgardner>