

Plant Amnesty ▲▲▲

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www.plantamnesty.org

WINTER 2007

Perennial Maintenance for Beginners – Part II

by Cass Turnbull

(The following is the second of three parts. The original article first appeared in the Arboretum Bulletin.)

Staking. It's necessary and it's a royal pain. I'm of the opinion that well over half of the perennials commonly in use will flop. That is, they grow up in the spring, get flowers, and fall over onto the ground right before the party. There's always a summer rain that flattens perennial beds all over town. Hearing rain pelt down on a warm June night, I rest smugly knowing that the beds for which I am responsible are supremely prepared. My best advice to you is: "Stake early and stake often".

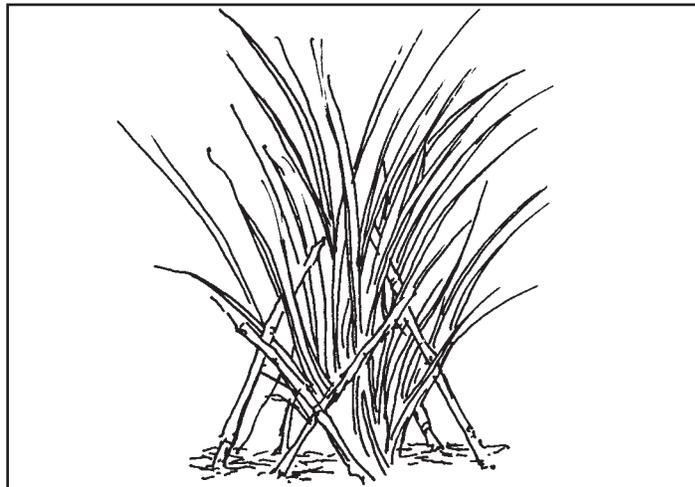
In February or March at the latest (the same time you are cutting back the sword ferns and epimedium), get going with the hoops and cages. You have no idea how fast that clock is ticking. Of greatest need is putting hoops over the bleeding hearts—while you are out there, do the peonies. By hoops I mean those egregiously expensive, green, vinyl-clad glorified tomato cages that have cross-hatching on the top. Place them over the plant early enough so the foliage will grow up and through the caging, hiding the hoop, and preventing the otherwise inevitable and heartbreaking flop in coming months. Adjust peony cages upward or add bamboo stakes or t-bars to prevent the even taller stem and its heavy bloom from breaking. As you place the hoop over the crown of the emerging plant, and push the legs down, you may find that one of the wimpy legs bends as it hits a buried pebble. For

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Modified Picket Fence

Watch Out for Wolves in the Urban Forest

By Jamie Roulette

Just as PlantAmnesty has decided to dip its toes into the pond and help save the Urban Forest, it seems that there are some naysayers throwing mud on the good name "Urban Forest". By using deceit and sleight of hand, they are leading citizens to believe that they don't want to live in a doggone FOREST! Well the gig is up, big bad wolves, PlantAmnesty is here to expose those big teeth of yours! Oh, and by the way, the joke is on you. We already live in a Forest . . . an Urban Forest. Why do we call the trees and landscape that surround us an Urban Forest? When did this idea and the passion for trees in towns first evolve, and why does it matter? These are some of the questions I will address to try to arm you against the charms and wiles of the big bad wolves who are naysaying our efforts to Protect, Promote and Preserve the Urban Forest.

In the U.S., the roots (forgive the pun) of Urban Forestry can be traced back to a Philadelphia ordinance in 1700, by which the city required homeowners to plant trees outside their doors. Fifty years later, Philadelphia began systematically planting street trees; by 1896 the city had hired its first Chief Forester. Since then, there have been many bold moves on the part of citizens and lawmakers to establish and protect trees in cities. Considering legislation ranging from the 1899 Tree Warden Act of Massachusetts (every town in the state

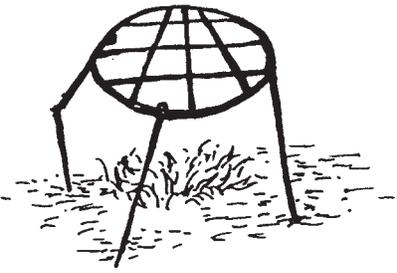
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Perennial Maintenance for Beginners – Part II

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aesthetics' sake, it may take several re-positionings to get the top part level. These same legs will, in a year or two, fall off altogether. I use zip tie and green coated electrical wire to reattach them. It is time consuming and annoying, but I have not found a better replacement. I dream a lot about inventing a tasteful, durable, adjustable perennial hoop. Hoops are only used for certain plants. Large, spreading, mat-type plants and single stemmers get different treatments.

I have long since given up the common system of string tied between several bamboo stakes corraling, say, Shasta daisies or a clump of irises. Instead I use the "wire fencing roller-coaster" or the "modified bamboo picket fence". Tying string is way too time-consuming and straight-up bam-



Peony Cage – KA

boo stakes are a hazard (see part 1). Instead, I use a series of bamboo stakes, ends cut at a slant, and jab them in at angles. One stake goes this way and the next goes that way, crossing the first in an arrangement that looks like a series of X's. Do this around the perimeter and also randomly inside the plant. As a flower stem starts to flop, it leans up against a helpful stake, or it may even rest inside a V-crotch. The stems in the interior of the clump never flop onto their neighbors, reducing the overall weight on the outer ring. I like bamboo because



Low Cage / Bowed Fencing

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PlantAmnesty

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 E-mail: info@plantamnesty.org

Mission Statement

To end the senseless torture and mutilation of trees and shrubs caused by mal-pruning (and other common forms of plant mis-management).

Goals:

1. Raise awareness of the problem.
2. Provide solutions (referral service, education, volunteer pruning and care), and ensure they are readily accessible to the public and green industry professionals.
3. Engender respect for plants.

We Affirm:

- That our organization is inclusive, tolerant, and based on grassroots collective action.
- That our educational materials are clear, current and technically accurate.
- That we will maintain a sense of humor and goodwill while being outspoken on the issues.

Staff

Referral Service Coordinator Fran Bry
 Events & Referrals Assistant. Sherry Perrine
 Office Administrator Joyce Lane

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 Vice President Marlis Korber
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<i>Printing & Distribution</i>	Consolidated Press

Please mail us articles, short jokes, artwork, tales, Adopt-A-Plant and Eco-Exchange information. The newsletter is a benefit of membership.

Perennial Maintenance for Beginners – Part II

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when I am done I can cut the top parts off at just the right height, hiding them from view.

This staking is best done as soon as the plant grows up, but it is also great for “remedial staking”, which is an art in itself. Once the perennial has flopped (and it happens to the best of us), the temptation is to stand it back upright and give it a straight-in stake and tie. But by then the ends of the stems will have already curved upwards. When you stand that daisy straight up, its flowers now face backwards. Better to just prop the stems up half way, using bamboo stakes pushed in at a slant. And do it in a series of layers (sort of like the way beauticians foil hair.)



Remedial Staking KA

This works especially well for Siberian iris. Under-staking at a slant is good for tired lady's mantles and many other plants.

I have tried the metal and plastic stakes, but I always come back to bamboo, even though it is only good for a year or two before it rots. And I have trained myself to hit the nurseries early, early, early, before all the good bamboo is gone. Good bamboo is fat and strong, not those flimsy



Under-staking

little sticks that snap at the slightest pressure. I load up with several bags of bamboo for the season.

A client of mine had a perennial bed added to her landscape. She claims it was to keep me interested. A year or two later, three giant grasses were added to the back, and they “made” the bed. But because the bed is well-watered, they would fall apart mid-season, splaying all over the place. And so did the echinopsis and the phlox and the shastas. Down came the lupine, and out splayed the hardy geraniums, along with the peach leaf bell flowers. Not very nice-looking. Not attractive.

This is how I came to depend on the wire fencing roller coaster system of flop prevention. The grasses were so heavy



that they would pull over and/or push up whatever caging I put over them. Now I use real metal fence posts pounded in four corners. Over that I roll out a piece of wire fencing, cut to fit. You can purchase this fencing in rolls, along with the posts and the post pounder (my most borrowed tool), at Lowe's or Home Depot. It looks like chicken wire but the holes are bigger and square, and the wire itself is more substantial. You can sometimes find it in green. I use zip tie (cable tie) to secure the wire “lid” on the top of the 2- or 3-foot posts. Then I attach side pieces so blades don't escape the sides and flop. Almost the entire back border gets this treatment.

Toward the front of the border, where the lower mounding perennials are, I use cut and bowed rectangles of wire fence placed directly on the ground over the emerging plant. The shape of the cut piece is similar to a loaf of bread or, in some cases, the top of a loaf of bread, with bamboo or metal stakes driven in at the corners. Here again the foliage will grow up though the caging, hiding it.

When I am done with the whole caging and hooping business, the bed looks like a madman's miniature roller coaster

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Welcome New Members

Patricia Abbate
Rick Anderson c/o
Olympic Nursery
Maggie Aspland
Elizabeth Aurich
Teresa Bailey of
A.M. Leonard
Darce Barager
Patty Barr
Patsy Bergdahl
Tracey Bernal
Pirkko Borland
John Bowles
Len Braarud of
Braarud Fine Arts
Michelle Bradford
Judith Brown
Susi Bryer
Martha Burdick
Gilbert Cerise
Clear Creek Nursery
Paula Clements &
Joy Heydon
Heather Cramer
Kevin Code & Louis
Worden
Ann De Lancey,
Ph.D.
Judith Dean
Kathryn B. Donald
James Doulong
Jim Downing
Christopher Dunagan
of The Kitsap Sun
Peter Dunn
Jimmy Eager
Valerie Easton
Kristine Emerson
Andrew & Laverne
Feasel of Tree-ific
Arbor Care
Emmanuel Felicisimo
Toni Fielder
Ron & Joanne Fox
Paula Furick
Karen Geiger
Vincent Geraci
Tracie Giles
Shannon Greydanus
Eric Guise
Joyce Hansen
Gary Hanson
Karen Harris
Doris Hixson
Brett Hodges
Howard Hoffer
Richard Holmes of
Holmes Tree
Preservation
Marlys Hoon
Gregory Houghton
Trish Hurley
Jenefer Hutchins
Libby James
Kirsti Johnson

Cyrus Khambatta
of The Phfffft!
Company
Deeann Kirkpatrick
Jill Landretti &
Darren Radu
Bernadette Laqueur
Ruth Lipscomb
Lorraine Lofton
Kelly Lucas
Gary Luke of Sas-
quatch Books
Mark Macintyre
Mary Jane Mackay
Dee May
Jennifer McBride
Nancy Mclean of
The Corporation of
Delta
Lynn Montgomery
Geoff Nisbet
Anne Norris
Mike Peacore
Edna Peak
Gordon Polson
Cindy Ponko
Larry Riches
Craig Rochester
Emily Rosian
Doris Roth
Nuria Ruiz
Wayne & Jody
Sagawa
John Samaras
Laura Schleer
Dawn Schofield
Maura Shapley
Susanna Smith
Teri Stilson
Kate Storms
Valerie Strong
Garden Tapestry
Kit Thayer
Steve Thompson
Walter Thompson
Gary & Peggy
Tribble
Kathy Veterane of
Tapestry Garden
Design
Eric Wahlquist
Karen Wallin
Elizabeth K. Ward
Lisa Weeks
Beverly Weiss &
Gene Hammond
Ellen Whitford
Amy Williams
Midge Williams
Christine Yokan
Nancy A Zack
Karen Zimmer

Plant Activist Update

Story Time with Ian

The audience gathered on a beautiful August evening. The sun, low on the horizon, gave that extra special glow to all the plant life around us. Blankets were laid out on the soft green grass, inviting folks to lounge on them. The air was still and warm: perfect weather for a picnic. A delicious spread adorned the tables: fresh cantaloupe, antipasti, and hummus waiting to be spread onto French bread and crackers. PA members and guests walked about and chatted with each other while filling their plates, then settled down on the blankets.

As the sun set, author **Ian Taylor** entertained the crowd with witty anecdotes and stories from his book, *Suburban Adventures of a Naked Gardener*. Eventually it got so dark that not even Ian's flashlight cast enough light, and the audience slowly drifted away, taking fond memories with them. It was a delightful way to spend a summer evening. **Plant Sale '07**

They say that 90% of what you worry about doesn't happen, while 9% think it wasn't as bad as you thought it would be. So it was for this year's Plant Sale—it rained all day. And I mean all day! Not sprinkles, not drizzle, not showers, but rain, as in "steadily falling" and "rain, heavy at times". As they say in the South, it was a real frog strangler. Nevertheless, people had a good time, even as they bought and sold plants with soaked tennis shoes and with heads bent.

We had many high quality plants, thanks to the continued generosity of our fabulous local nurseries. Thanks to the fabulous publicity from **Ciscoe Morris** and **John Curley**, we also had lots of people to buy them. Had it been sunny, we suspect the gross would have been double. But, as it was, we made around \$9,000—a perfectly respectable, much needed and greatly appreciated boost to the PlantAmnesty coffers.

Many, many volunteers and staff hours made it possible. If you don't find your name in the acknowledgements, we apologize—and please let us know. The following people are being singled out and given PlantAmnesty **Plant Sale Purple Hearts** for service above-and-beyond the call of duty: **Joe the Shrubber, Deidre Muns, Julie Hale, Fran Bry, Vernie Neal, and Emily Ross.**

Globe Trotting Cass

Thanks to the generosity and arboricultural commitment of **Daniele Zanzi**, Cass and PlantAmnesty were part of the program at an Italian arborist conference, Men and Trees. And for good reason: an un-topped tree in Italy is a neglected tree. Only the pines and other conifers seem to be safe. And this is true in a land that shows an otherwise remarkable and universal appreciation of plants. In every conceivable nook, cranny, balcony, crevice, street side, and pedestrian or parking area, plants abound—many in tiny pots, miraculous kept alive by vigilant watering and—mirabile dictu—not run over in a country with decidedly fluid concept of lanes, parking areas, and sidewalks. Also of horticultural interest: ivy and clematis could be seen climbing up greenbelt trees, and all the terracotta pots in public spaces were rolled plastic.

This trip confirmed what long-time PlantAmnesty member **Walter Barrows Jr.** called to tell us earlier this year—topping is a worldwide problem. Although we have temporarily slain the dragon in Seattle, the farther away you get, the more tree topping prevails. PlantAmnesty was started 20 years ago this October with the stated mission to "end mal-pruning in King County (in five years)" as proof it could be done. Today, if you are a large tree or an ethical tree service in Seattle, life is good. (If you are a shrub, you still have an excellent chance of being mal-sheared.) The question now is, "Can the anti-topping crusade work cross-culturally?" The unique combination of humor and controversy embodied by our name and mission

Plant Activist Update

statement has worked fabulously to make “bad pruning” the subject of countless newspaper articles, radio broadcasts and TV segments. And that has been the fastest, cheapest, easiest way to change the public’s awareness of the mal-pruning problem. Unfortunately the “mock militant” approach does not translate into Italian. Can we change the public’s awareness of mal-pruning without it?

Meeting of Like Minds

Our 20th Anniversary meeting was celebrated with many desserts and a speech by our favorite PlantAdvocate from Audubon, **Matt Mega**. We really appreciate Matt’s sharing his expertise and insights into creating successful political action. He gave us words for verbalizing the PlantAdvocate’s complaint: “Too many trees are being cut down.” We had video footage of some of PlantAmnesty’s greatest media hits of the past 17 years: the public service announcements, the evening news retraction of their recommendation to top trees, the Oregon Field Guide, PBS coverage of topping, poodleballing and vandalism of trees for views, and the 2006 Gig Harbor Mutilated Tree Protest.

Included was 1990 footage of the evening news segment that featured the Boyer Street Mutilated Tree Protest. At the end of the segment, the news anchor noted hopefully that, “the City is looking at regulations to end this sort of pruning.” This led right into our evening letter writing session that focused on getting the proposed improvements to the Seattle Street Tree Ordinance passed—the same improvements have been proposed, and always put on the back burner, FOR OVER 18 YEARS! Those letters have now reached the Mayor and Seattle City Council members, but it is only the beginning of our PlantActivist lobbying effort.

The next phase of our effort involves our new web-based system which makes it easy and fast for anyone to send the mayor and council members a message. Yes folks, at Plant Amnesty the term cutting edge doesn’t apply just to pruners and loppers any more!

TAKE ACTION NOW! Just go to www.plantamnesty.org/action and see how easy it is to send our officials a message that it is time to pass this ordinance! (And once you see how easy it is, then send the link to your friends and neighbors. The more people who speak up, the better our chances of success!)

Double Renovation Workshops

Thanks to **Ann Lovejoy’s** continued support of PlantAmnesty’s educational series, we had a ton of people sign up for the fall renovation workshops. We had to do two workshops on the same day, in order to accommodate half the demand! The day was mercifully rain free. Thirty students, nineteen teachers and ten volunteers pruned plants, moved plants, removed plants, and enlarged beds. We are especially grateful to our two hosts **JoAnn** and **Rex Clark** and **Kathryn Donald**, to **Marianna Clark** for her excellent job organizing both extreme garden makeovers, and to **Bill Wanless** who taught the second class.



Cass with Italian Topped Tree

Thank you to all who participated--you know who you are.

Tree Hugger Oktoberfest

A good time was had by all. All three bands were highly entertaining, the ambiance of the Main Stage was perfect and the horticultural games were good fun. The only thing missing was a crowd of 150 people! Why the low turnout? Are we too old to drink beer and boogey on a school night? Too cheap? Was it the change in venue (due to circumstances way, way beyond our control)? Was there a publicity/event notice failure? Was it the rain and the World Series game? We don’t know. The really important question is: will we do it again next year? If you have thoughts to share, don’t hold back. A really big thanks goes out to our entertainers: **Trio A Propos**, **the Tree Amigos**, and **Lake City Way**. And thank you too to those who organized this event and then showed up as volunteers!

Another One Bites the Dust

Our savior and General Manager, **Charlotte Moss**, is moving on to greener and better-paying pastures. We are eternally grateful for her contributions to PlantAmnesty. She showed nerves of steel and demonstrated a superior ability to make sustained efforts when needed. And she has tenacity. Heck, she took on Qwest and won! Char is a natural manager with an innate ability to be efficient and organized, which is equaled only by her wide range of technical proficiencies. May all her future endeavors meet with success. She will be missed.

Just for Fun

INTELLIGENT DESIGN

By Paul Rudnick

88 *The New Yorker*, September 26, 2005

Day No. 1:

And the Lord God said "Let there be light," And lo, there was light. But then the Lord God said, "Wait, what if I make it a sort of rosy, beach, filtered half-light, so that everything else I design will look younger?"

"I'm loving that," said Buddha. "It's new." "You should design a restaurant," added Allah.

Day No. 2:

"Today," the Lord God said, "let's do land." And lo, there was land.

"Well, it's really not just land," noted Vishnu. "You've got mountains and valleys and – is that lava?"

"It's not a single statement," said the Lord God. "I want it to say, 'Yes, this is land, but it's not afraid to ooze.'"

"It's really a backdrop, a sort of blank canvas," put in Apollo. "It's, like, minimalism only with scale."

"But – brown?" Buddha asked.

"Brown with infinite variations," said the Lord God. "Taupe, ochre, burnt umber – they're called earth tones." "I wasn't criticizing," said Buddha. "I was just noticing."

Day No. 3:

"Just to make everyone happy," said the Lord God, "today I'm thinking oceans, for contrast."

"It's wet, it's deep, yet it's frothy; it's design without dogma," said Buddha, approvingly.

"Now, there's movement," agreed Allah. "It's not just 'Hi, I'm a planet-no splashing.'"

"But are those ice caps?" inquired Thor. "Is this a coherent vision, or a highball?"

"I can do ice caps if I want to," sniffed the Lord God. "It's about a mood," said the Angel Moroni, supportively. "Thank you," said the Lord God.

Day No. 4:

"One word," said the Lord God. "Landscaping. But I want it to look natural, as if it all somehow just happened."

"Do rain forests," suggested a primitive tribal god, who was known only as a clicking noise.

"Rain forests here," decreed the Lord God. "And deserts there. For a spa feeling."

"Which is fresh, but let's give it glow," said Buddha. "Polished stones and bamboo, with a soothing trickle of something."

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PLANT SAMPLES NEEDED

Lydia Putnicki, a PlantAmnesty gardener, is working on her master's degree at the University of Washington. She is planning to examine and identify powdery mildews that are found on rhododendrons based upon anatomical characteristics and through DNA sequencing.

In order to do this, she needs samples of powdery mildew on named rhododendrons. Here's the drill: label the sample and put it in a sealed plastic bag. Mail the sample and a short description of the plant site to Lydia Putnicki, College of Forest Resources, Box 352100, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-2100. If you have any thoughts or questions, contact her at 206-321-9216 or at ltymon@u.washington.edu. Thanks for helping!



Alien Plum Tree



Howard Harrison, MRC
425-246-9430

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Watch Out for Wolves in the Urban Forest

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was required to hire someone to care for its trees) to the 1990 Farm Bill (providing for urban forestry grants and establishing the National Tree Trust and the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council), it is obvious that our predecessors recognized the value of trees in our communities early on!

In 1965 Erik Jorgensen of the University of Toronto coined the term “urban forestry” to refer to “tree management in an entire area influenced by and utilized by the urban population”. He and many others recognized that the models and ideas applied to native forests did not necessarily fit the management challenges and needs of trees in communities, but that those trees did function in some of the same ways as a native forest. In short, trees, shrubs, soils, wildlife and people in a community form an ecosystem; they work in harmony, in much the same manner as a native forest does. Therefore, the management decisions and actions we take will affect the whole system.

One of today’s main challenges is recognizing that each tree, shrub, weed/herbicide, bit of soil/pound of synthetic fertilizer, ounce of rain/mile of stormpipe/root system of a tree, pest/pesticide, beneficial insect, etc. is a part of a greater whole—not just “our yard” or “the city park” or “a street tree”. Like it or not, each of these elements and the people involved have a potential impact on the other.

Why is all of this important? In the Puget Sound area, we are blessed with a seemingly endless abundance of trees. Note the word “seemingly”. Have you ever seen a Dodo bird? There once was a seemingly endless abundance, in fact a gross overpopulation, of this goofy bird—and yet they are now extinct. Could our “logic” that removing just this one 200’ pine tree; just a short row of those healthy, mature black locust (who likes those anyway?); just a few common ol’ Doug Fir (after all, there are plenty more where those came from); or just a couple of these (vagrant-harboring) London Plane trees in order to build a bigger building, accommodate construction vehicles or mysteriously solve



City without trees – City with trees



Wish List

Wanted: REI Employee to sponsor
PlantAmnesty grant

Got it!

Fax Machine Donation from
Pat Halsell

A Special Cass Turnbull Thank You
goes out to **Alden Lavin**, my Power
Point Savior.

the issue of homelessness, actually be flawed logic? In just these four projects, our urban forest—our interconnected fully functioning ecosystem—has lost upwards of twenty trees. How many of these projects start every day? Take a look around you. Development is only one part of the problem. Start counting the disappearing Dodo birds. Have you killed any or seen some “pruned” to death? How did that loss affect your environment? Your neighbor’s environment? Your utility bill? Your air quality? The temperature in June? Maybe one tree didn’t seem so important, but when you start to tally the cumulative loss, the numbers can be staggering. Can we stop viewing urban trees as

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Calendar of Events

Board Meetings are the first Monday of every month, 7-9 pm at Magnuson Park, Building 30. They are open to members and the public. Call or e-mail for exact location or if you want to put something on the agenda.

PlantAmnesty's Annual Meeting and Gala Holiday Party

December 18, 7-9 pm

**University of Washington Botanical Gardens, Douglas classroom
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle**

It's time to celebrate our achievements at our gala Holiday Party. Drink Champagne punch, bring your best potluck dish and enjoy festive décor, prized, games and music. We'll review the year's many and great accomplishments and announce the 2007 PlantActivist award winners. We hope to see you there! And John Turnbull's award winning chili.

Garden Book Club

January 15th

6 – 9pm, Tuesday

Location TBD (somewhere in Seattle)

Join us for this brand new Plant Amnesty book group. Potluck 6 - 730pm. Book discussion (on tree and garden-related books, of course) and future book selection is 7:30 – 9pm. Friends, spouses and participating teens are welcome. Learn more! Contact Lacia, LLB101@excite.com for more information.

PlantAmnesty Meeting of Like Minds

February 19, 7-9 pm

**University of Washington Botanical Gardens, Douglas classroom
3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle**

This meeting will be hosted by the Education Committee—topic: Sustainable Gardening in the Public Sector (Spencer Liesl Zappler). Auction of cool things. It's a potluck, but if you can't cook or are just too tired, just show up and eat. We understand.

Northwest Flower and Garden Show

February 20-24

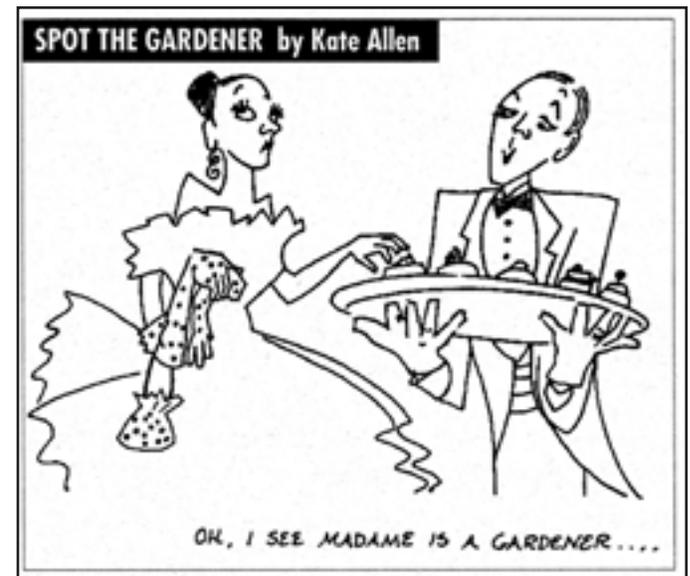
Thaw out and dream about spring at the Northwest's largest garden show. PlantAmnesty will be there—with your help. And you can get into the show for free, just for helping us staff the PA booth. We always put new people with a veteran, never alone, and you get to see the secret training video. Call the office to volunteer (206-783-9813) or e-mail us. For more information, check out www.gardenshow.com.

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

March 16, 10 am – 2:30 pm

Confused about pruning fruit trees? This is a great opportunity to learn how. Join the experts at Magnuson Park in Seattle for a morning of “how to” lectures, followed by hands-on practice. Register by sending in the form on page 9.

Cost: \$30 for PlantAmnesty and Tilth members, \$35 for the general public. Make checks payable to PlantAmnesty. Pre-registration is required. Use the form on page 9, or contact PlantAmnesty at info@plantamnesty.org or 206-783-9813.



Tacoma Calendar of Events

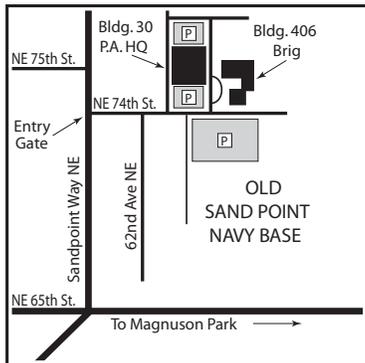
TACOMA CHAPTER

Every other month

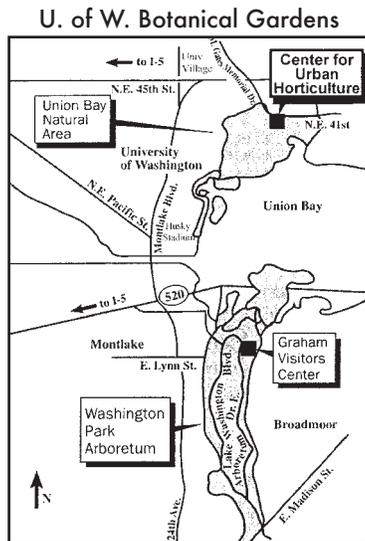
6:30, Second Tuesday

Metro Parks Building

Our membership meetings are held every other month with a topic of general interest for members and the public. We meet at the Metro Parks Building, 4702 S. 19th Street at 6:30. Potluck items are requested. The Tacoma Chapter also staffs an educational booth at the Point Defiance Flower and Garden Show and hosts a Pruning and Landscape Renovation Workshop every year. Please call to nominate a yard if you have one. PlantAmnesty-Tacoma also runs a budding Good Gardener and Arborist Referral Service. For more information on any of the aforementioned please call Lorey @ 253-759-5438



PlantAmnesty Offices, Classes and Plant Sale



U. of W. Botanical Gardens

**FOR OUR MEETINGS
WE'VE MOVED BACK!**

3501 NE 41st St, Seattle, 98105

Cass Turnbull's 2008 Master Pruner Seminar Series Sponsored by Fanno Saws

Join Cass and other experts for this 18-part series of in-depth pruning slideshows. Along with hands-on workshops, the Master Pruner seminars constitute a complete pruning course. Classes are good for ISA and Master Gardener continuing education credits. **Take one class—or take them all.**

Sundays, 10 am to noon, at Sand Point Magnuson Park, 7400 Sandpoint Way NE, Seattle, 98115, Bldg. 406 “The Brig” (Enter on NE 74th St.). Follow the “Pruning Class” signs. \$5 for PlantAmnesty members, \$10 for the public for each session. No registration required—just show up. Questions? Call Cass at 206-783-9093.

Sunday, January 13, 2008: Roses. Learn the basics of rose pruning from hybrid teas to shrub and climbing roses. Deadheading and timing are also covered.

Sunday, February 10, 2008: The Hackables, Shearables and Untouchables (Shrubs 2) Some plants are cut to the ground each year. But barely touch others, and all hell breaks loose. Find out which ones are which, as well as which plants are appropriately sheared every year. How to prune butterfly bushes, lavatera, heather, lavender, rock-roses, broom, witch hazel, and others.

Sunday, March 9, 2008: Vines. Learn about the pruning and management of some of our most common ornamental vines: wisteria, clematis, Boston ivy/Virginia creeper, trumpet vine, and honeysuckle.

2008 Class List

- 1/13 – Roses
- 1/10 – Shrubs 2
- 3/9 – Vines
- 4/13 – Tools
- 5/11 – Difficult Plants to Prune
- 6/8 – Rehabilitative Pruning
- 7/13 – Trees 2
- 9/14 – Prune & Renovate
- 10/12 – Japanese Garden Pruning Workshop
- 11/9 – Horrors/Art

(No classes held in August or December.)



PlantAmnesty Fruit Tree Field Day Workshop

\$30 for PlantAmnesty and Tilth Members and \$35 for General Public

First the basics of fruit tree pruning are covered in a morning lecture by an expert in the field. followed by an afternoon of live fruit tree pruning demonstrations in small groups. This workshop will take place at Magnuson Park in Seattle.

Sunday, March 16 - Fall Workshop: # of reservations _____ x \$_____ = \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$_____

Name(s) _____

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**Please make check payable to PlantAmnesty and Mail to: P.O. Box 15377, Seattle, WA 98115-0377
Renovation site wanted. Call (206) 783-9813**

Just for Fun

continued from page 6

“I know where you’re going,” said the Lord God. “But why am I seeing scented candles and a signature body wash?”

“Shut up,” said Buddha.

“You shut up,” said the Lord God.

“It’s all about the mix,” Allah declared in a calming voice. “Now let’s look at some swatches.”

Day No. 5:

“I’d like to design some creatures of the sea,” the Lord God said. “Sleek but not slick.”

“Yes, yes, and more yes – it’s a total gills moment,” said Apollo. “But what if you added wings?”

“Fussy,” whispered Buddha to Zeus. “Why not epaulets and a sash?”

“Legs,” said Allah. “Now let’s do legs.”

“Are we already doing dining-room tables?” asked the Lord God, confused.

“No, design some creatures with legs,” said Allah. So the Lord God, nodding, designed an ostrich.

“First draft,” everyone agreed, and so the Lord God designed an alligator. “There’s gonna be a waiting list,” Zeus murmured appreciatively. “Now do puppies!” pleaded Vishnu. “And kitties!”

“Ooooo!” all the gods cooed. Then, feeling a bit embarrassed, Zeus ventured, “Design something more practical, like a horse or a mule.” “What about a koala?” asked the Lord God.

“Much better,” Zeus declared, cuddling the furry little animal. “I’m going to call him Buttons.”

Day No. 6:

“Today I’m really going out there,” said the Lord God. “And I know it won’t be popular at first, and you’re all gonna be saying “Earth to Lord God,” but in a few million years it’s going to be time-less. I’m going to design a man.”

And everyone looked upon the man that the Lord God designed. “It has your eyes” Zeus told the Lord God.

“Does it stack?” inquired Allah.

“It has a naive, folk-artsy, I-made-it-myself vibe said Buddha .

The Inca sun god, however, only scoffed. “Been there. Evolution,” he said. “It’s called a shaved monkey.”

“I like it,” protested Buddha. “But it can’t work a strapless dress.” Everyone agreed on this point, so the Lord God announced, “Well, what if I give it nice round breasts and lose the penis?”

“Yes,” the gods said immediately.

“Now it’s intelligent,” said Aphrodite.

“But what if I made it blond?” giggled the Lord God.

“And what if I made you a booming offscreen voice in a lot of bad movies?” asked Aphrodite.

Day No. 7:

You know, I’m really feeling good about this whole intelligent-design deal,” said the Lord God. “But do you think that I could redo it, keeping the quality but making it at a price point we could all live with?”

“I’m not sure,” said Buddha. “You mean, what if you designed a really basic, no-frills planet? Like, do the man and the woman really need all those toes?”

“Hello!” said the Lord God. “Clean lines, no moving parts, functional but fun. Three bright, happy, wash ‘n’ go colors.” “Swedish meets Japanese, with maybe a Platinum Collector’s Edition for geeks,” the Buddha decided.

“Done,” said the Lord God. “Now let’s start thinking about Pluto. What if everything on Pluto was brushed aluminum?”

“You mean, let’s do Neptune again?” said Buddha.



“She’s Got Legs” (crepe myrtle)

Thank You, Major Donors

**Fanno Saw
JoAnn and Rex Clark
Kathryn Donald**

Tree Cheers and Thank You, Plant Sale Donors and Volunteers

continued from page 7

individual entities and start treating them as a part of an urban ecosystem and as essential parts of a city's infrastructure? In short, can we acknowledge that they are assets, not liabilities? It is easy to focus on the heaved sidewalks, blocked street signs, water wasted, houses crushed and powerlines downed by these quiet servants, but what do they do for us? In Seattle's Greenwood neighborhood, there are great examples of using urban forestry to manage stormwater. (Look up the SeaStreets Project on the city of Seattle website). American Forests and other organizations are publishing reports about the carbon sequestering and ozone generating value of a healthy urban forest canopy. A tree properly placed on a lot can aid in cooling and heating a home or business and lower utility bills. Here I go, back to my girl Aretha Franklin. The next time a storm blows through this town, picture all the trees "dancing" and belting out in that true Aretha fashion: "You better think (think), think about what you're tryin ta do ta me..." Will Seattle's urban forest become another version of the story of the Dodo bird? Will we let it get to the tenuous level of existence of the tiger with its ever dwindling gene pool? Will we let the wolves rule the forest—bulldozing the trees that our grandmas sat under—or will we pocket our cavalier attitudes about the abundance of trees and begin to focus on the management, rather than merely the maintenance, of the most valuable green in the Emerald City? And will we do it before it is too late?

2007 Fall Renovation Teachers & Volunteers

Teachers

Cass Turnbull
Denise Anderson
Joe Devaney
M.P. (Mart) Martin
Matthew Gelentere
Nicola Whaley
Trish Eden
Bill Wanless
Marian Dam
Keith Dekker
Krissey Hakiel
Paul Falter
John Dixon
Joe Wagner

Volunteers

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Tracey Bernal
Carolyn Siebe
Judy Griesel
Cathy Stevens
Marianna Clark
Margaret Schroeter
Lacia Lynne and Ben Bailey
Shawna Van Nimwegen
Larry Arnold
Howard Harrison
Mathew Gelentere of
Mathews Gardening

2007 Plant Sale Drivers

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Scott Pringle
Vernie Neal
Rich Hill
Lacia Bailey
Shelley Retchless
Ann Baron
John Dixon
Dana Knickerbocker

Lorey Donaldson
Bill Daugaard
Sarah Ness
Diedre Muns
Joe Wagner
Larry Arnold
Fran Bry
Julie Hale



2007 Plant Sale Volunteers

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Rick Anderson
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Lacie Lynne Bailey
Ellie Bender
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Shelley Buechel
Ruth Chaus
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Klark Dahlman
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Robinwood Nursery
Sky Nursery
Smoky Point Plant Farm
Star Nursery
Storm Lake Growers
Tissues and Liners
West Seattle Nursery
Windmill Gardens

Individuals

Jacquie Heidanus
Marsha Hicks
Retha McKinnon & Lee Jones
Barbara O'Steen
Mark & Debi Saner
Nicola Whaley

Perennial Maintenance for Beginners – Part II

continued from page 3

and amusement park. I'm surprised my customer lets me do it. But soon it will all be covered over with the growing foliage, and the stage will be set and utterly secure for the summer show. This rigging is, as you can well imagine, difficult and hazardous to walk through. Shall we call it "challenging"?

I should mention that if you have really enormous beds, spread out over, say, a half-acre of land, you can afford to let many of the floppers flop. Later the growing portions will turn up and grow nicely again. In merry old England, I think I heard they covered the dormant perennial beds with the crooked, pruned branches of a quince. They would act as the support; a system with the advantage of being organic and disposable at the end of the year. Could it be rolled up like a rug and tossed out?

What about the single stem type plants? These are things like peach-leaf bell flowers, Asiatic and oriental lilies, and the prima donna of all perennials--the delphinium. In these cases a single or double stake is used. If you can tell which way your spire may fall, you can use two bamboo stakes crossed in an x, such that the stem rests in the crotch of the x. Also, garden stores now sell useful "t-bars": metal but malleable arms bent at the top. Stick the stake in the ground and then wrap the "arms" around the perennial stem. But like their peony cage brethren, t-bars are subject to bent-leg-syndrome. A single bamboo stake, set straight up next to the stem, is perfectly acceptable. And some people prefer jute or string. I am perfectly happy with the spools of twist tie that are sold for such purposes. I attach the spool to my tool belt at the beginning of the day. I especially like the fact that the cutting system is included on the spool. In the future I will be coming out with a line of garden wear that includes camouflage-colored tie, a quiver for bamboo poles, adjustable stakes and hoops. The "perennial tender's" tool belt will have a place for a tiny hammer, wire cutters, zip tie, hand pruner and water bottle.



Bowed Wire Cage / Fence

The lordly delphinium presents the greatest challenge to the perennial bed tender. Its single stakes must be constantly adjusted upward and retied at regular intervals all along the stem. Almost overnight the flower spikes seem to shoot up to well beyond the last tie point. Then the rain comes, or even a tiny breeze, snapping the stems of these, the most wonderful blue flowers in all the world. You wake up to

a forest of fallen blooms. Tragic! And yet, the smart gardener immediately goes out and brings them indoors for placement in a vase. Call an impromptu luncheon and impress your friends with your extravagant flower arrangement. Whenever you are grooming your perennial beds, remember to cut the floppers and a few others to take indoors.

The annoying chore of staking is only exceeded by the more time-consuming and annoying chore of un-staking at the end of the year. All this stuff has to be dis-assembled and the dead leaves combed out by the New Year. You can't just leave it up--it would look like heck. And besides, you have to get in there and weed and mulch everything before it all starts growing again, which will be happening sooner every year. Or so it seems. (Part 3 in next newsletter: Perennials: Pests and Diseases)



PLANTAMNESTY REFERRAL SERVICE

Many people know they can call our referral service for a recommendation of an ISA certified arborist who shares PlantAmnesty's pruning and plant care philosophies. But what if you want:

- **Private pruning lessons** – there's nothing like learning hands-on with your own plants, one on one with an instructor.
- **A garden cleanup** – oh, you've been meaning to get out there and somehow the time and plants got away from you.
- **Some ideas** for how to perk up your existing plantings, or plan a whole new garden design.
- Someone to come look at your ailing tree or landscape ("tree doctors" still make house calls).

Just call 206-783-9813, ext. 3 – our very own Referral Service. Someone will match you up with the correct horticultural specialist for all your garden needs – be it an arborist, gardener, designer, consultant, or diagnostician.

Ugly Tree Photos



Amatuer Pruning Disaster



"Oops - bumped my head"



"Hairy Tree" (crepe myrtle)



Patriotic Trees

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Let us know if you would like a Literature or "Cool Stuff To Buy" Order Form.

Adopt-A-Plant.

You call, you dig, you haul, that's all.
PLEASE FILL HOLES AND LEAVE THE SITE TIDY

The PlantAmnesty Adopt-a-Plant list is available on our web site for members. The following are examples of some recent listings. If you do not have access to the internet, please call us at (206) 783-9813 ext. 0 and we'll mail you a current copy of the complete list.

ECO - EXCHANGE

Free to good home – 8 black soaker hoses and faucet end timer. Call or email Nancy in Magnolia, (206) 286-0430.

I'm a Master Gardener working with the Chavez Demonstration Garden next to the light rail station on Beacon Hill. We're looking for two Chinese Windmill Palm trees. If you have any to give away, please call Gene at 206.935.6376

Orange tree, cross between a key lime and an orange, 6ft x 26inches. Call 425.885.1754 10/2/2007 N Edmonds: 8 ornamental cheery trees 10 ft. Contact: Kate at 425.742.3824 or katereed@comcast.net

Edmonds: dogwood, bergenia, golden feverfew, hostas, lamb's ear, and pink cyclamen, among other things, available for adoption. Call Paulette at 425.743.5088

Queen Anne: 7 8ft cedars available for adoption. Contact: 206.285.0820

Mukilteo: Two 4'x5' agaves for adoption. Call Carolyn at 425.374.3483.

West Seattle: 10' dogwood tree must go before house is leveled. Call Karen at 206.933.5778

Ravenna: Butterfly bush, coral bells, assorted natives, and other plants. Call Janet (name not on machine, just leave message for her by name) at 206.523.1161

Silverdale: 2 10' trees. One false cypress and one spruce. Call Jeannie at 360.692.7467.

Sammamish: Two 4'-tall dogwoods, good condition, to good home. Call Sonia at 425.961.0169

Edmonds: 3 small madronas for adoption. Call Kathy at 425.744.1006

Ravenna: 8'x6' witch hazel for adoption. Call Shannon at 206.524.6701.

West Seattle: 8'x5' lilac, 6'x5' rosemary bush available. Call Bromlin Jackson at 206.938.5415.

Ballard: 10 ft yucca, very healthy. Contact Alison at 206.992.2497

Stanwood: 13 shore pines, heights range btw 5-7ft x 2.5ft, one 9ft deodar cedar. Shelley at 360.939.2451

W Seattle: 6-7ft purple and white variegated lilac, root pruned one year ago so easy to move. 2 Jackson and Perkins Iceberg tree roses (white) 4-5ft, disease resistant. Contact Kitty, 206.935.2096 or ritzenh@88mi.org

Edmonds: 8-9ft Japanese maple, green leaves with gold and red fall color. Call Linnae at 425.776.7363

Seattle: raspberries, heirloom variety. I'm moving and can't take them with me. Contact Carol, 206.784.6511

NE Seattle: 10ft rhodie, bright pink buds that open to light pink flowers, which then fade to white. Sandy, 206.522.8965

W Seattle: mature lilac with lavender blooms and a 10 year old white star magnolia. Nan, 206.933.1832

HOUSE PLANTS

W Seattle: a rubber tree, and a yucca-like plant, both in pots. Rhonda at 206.909.5861

Vashon: 10' Norfolk Pine, outgrowing Bill's greenhouse, needs a new home soon! Call Bill at 206.567.4905
6.5' tall by 3.5' wide Norfolk Pine in a pot. Jane at 206.244.4846

Laurelhurst: approx 30 philodendrons. I'm moving and can't take them with me. Call Carl at 206.527.7072

Beacon Hill: 10 ft pink flowering cherry. Call Merian, 206.763.9430

Clyde Hill: Various trees and shrubs available for adoption. Need to be salvaged by the end of November as we are tearing down the house and rebuilding. Please contact Amy to schedule an appointment, 206.661.5330
BELLEVUE/Crossroads: honeysuckle available for adoption. Call Vivian at 425.747.6535

Greenlake: Our builder plugged into our backyard 6 maple trees, of which subspecies I do not know. They are already 10 ft. tall, 6' apart and soon to create problems for the yard. We'd love to find them a good home. Call Brentat 206-407-4772

Bellevue: Large rhodie, 10'X8'. Call Al - 425.747.7575

Northgate: 2 Dwarf Alberta Spruce approx 9ft. Call Loreen at 206.361.2795

Madison Park: I have a potentially lovely Magnolia tree - Magnolia grandiflora "Saint Mary" - that is NOT happy in my garden. She is 9' 3" tall. I can be reached at 206.323.0989 or at leeb43@comcast.net. I would like to see this beautiful tree go to a happy garden

Seattle: 5' Western Red Cedar available for adoption. Call Janice at 206.283.0872

N Seattle: 2 mature rhodies 7-8ft, one with dark pink flowers, the other with medium pink flowers. Rick at 206.284.1888

W Seattle: three Pampas Grass ranging from 5 to 6ft. Dave at 206.409.5615

Seattle: Colorado Blue Spruce in a pot, about 5' tall including pot, that needs a good home. Contact Niki at 206.526.7674

Renton: 10 ft Copper beech grown from seed (may be weeping variety). It's in an oak barrel, although it's most probably gone through the bottom. Contact-Paula 425.226.4067 or roadyes@gmail.com

Crown Hill: 6x3ft Douglas fir. Contact Vicky at 206.783.3870 or vpapajani@earthlink.net

Mapleleaf: 8x8ft rhodie, pink flowers. Call 206.329.0053 or email ggerhart@comcast.net

Bellevue: 10-12ft Bay Tree, 10-13ft blue pine (a native). Both in raised beds, so should be easier to move. Marge at 425.747.2212

Kent: 9 - 10ft cottonwood, and 2 sword ferns. Contact Jerry at 253.639.1586

N of UW: Hydrangea 6ftx5ft, blue flowers available for adoption. Contact Larry at 206.729.8397

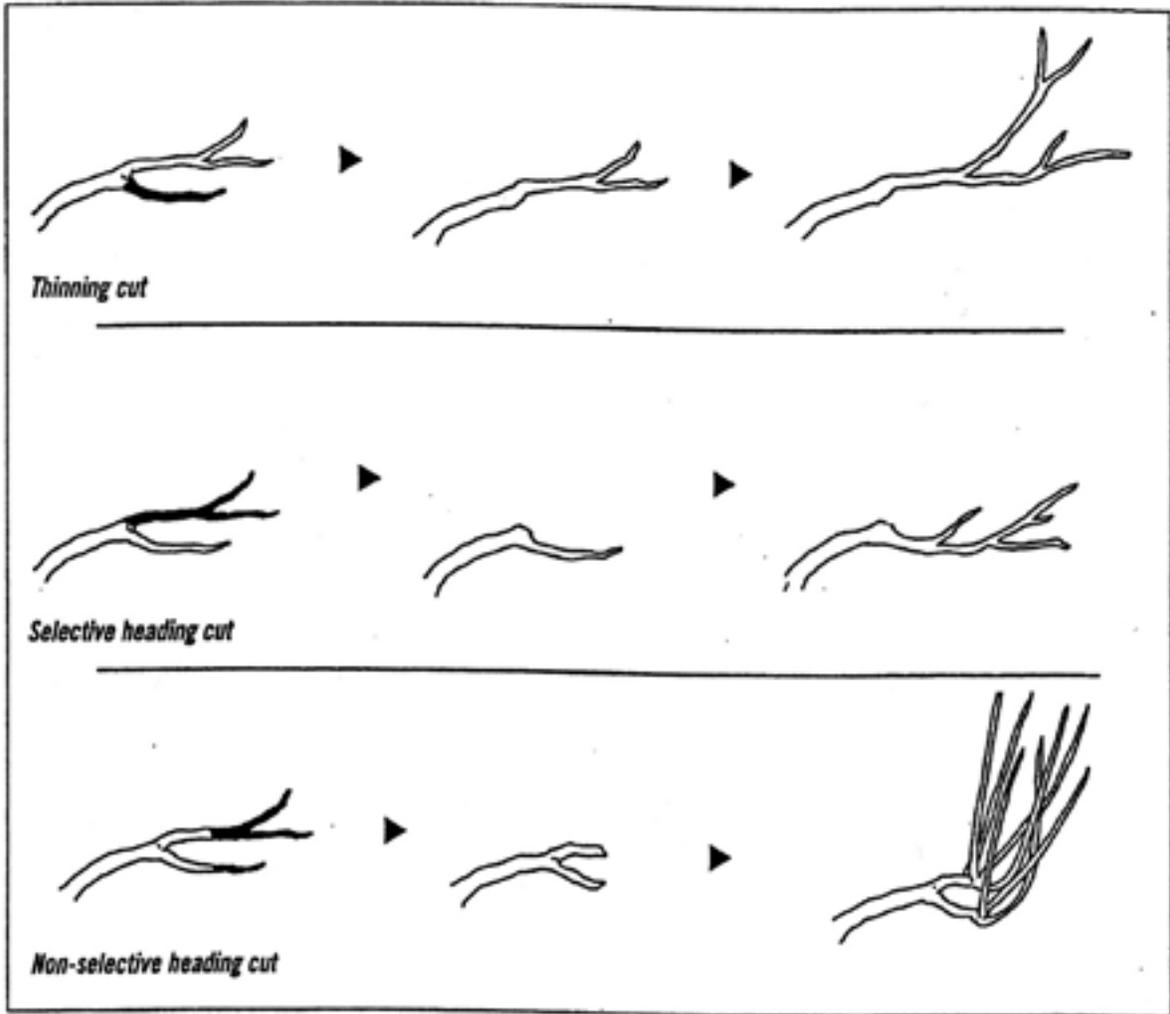
Edmonds: trumpet vine. Call Barbara at 206.551.6547

Laurelhurst: approx 30 philodendrons. I'm moving and can't take them with me. Call Carl at 206.527.7072

Seattle: Indoor plant: Large Spathophyllum aka Peace lily available for adoption. Call Joan at 206.633.1528.

Seattle: 3 arborvitae 8ft. All in great condition. Call Matt at 206.251.0475

Important Notice:
The Adopt-A-Plant and Cyber Library password: The user ID is pruner and the password is boxwood.



Types of cuts

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