



NEWSLETTER

May 2022

Office hours: 10:30AM to 3:00PM

Monday through Friday

Other times by appointment

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WATER EMERGENCY CONTACT PROCEDURE

If you have a water pressure problem/emergency call the office number (503) 368-7309 and if no one answers, be sure to leave a message as the line might be in use when you call and will kick you over to messaging. If you don't reach anyone at the office, then call (503) 457-5146 and if no answer, also leave a message. You can also come to the office, 9155 Nehalem Rd. during regular hours, or by appointment.

DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH. Call the office to request an electronic invitation

LIBRARY REOPENING!!

After a two-year Covid forced hiatus, the annual North Tillamook Library Friends Book Sale is on for May 27-28. The sale will be held in three locations in Manzanita - the Pine Grove, Hoffman Center and Calvary Bible Church. A member's only sale will take place from 5-7 pm on May 27th (you can become a Friends member at the door). The public sale will be from 9 am to 4 pm on May 28th. The book sale features thousands of fiction, non-fiction and children's titles and is the largest annual fundraiser for the Friends.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Over the last decade, it has become increasingly apparent that even in Oregon water is a precious and finite resource. Neahkahnie is part of a small sliver of the State of Oregon that is not currently experiencing drought conditions. Concerningly, the water district reached a point last July when instantaneous water demand exceeded the output of our springs. In the near future, summer watering of lawns and gardens in Neahkahnie - when water use is at its peak and output of our springs is at its lowest - may no longer be an option. Now is the time to start developing a drought tolerant landscape by using plants that tolerate the coast's wet winters and dry summers. For that reason, we asked Neahkahnie resident Ketzell Levine to provide some suggestions for landscape plants that will help with the water district's water conservation efforts.

David Boone, member Board of Commissioners, Neahkahnie Water District

NEAHKAHNIIE'S NEW REALITY---THE NEED FOR DROUGHT-TOLERANT GARDEN PLANTS

Decades ago, when I first arrived in Portland, I marveled at the city's rhododendron, particularly those at the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. I mentioned to a groundskeeper, likely during a spring rainstorm, how fabulous it was that the rhodies got enough water most of the year to sail through summer unaided. "No way," he answered. "We water."

I was gobsmacked. This much rain and plants still needed water? Sadly, having made good my escape from East Coast heat and humidity, it seemed I'd still be subject to the tyranny of the hose.

By the mid-2000's in the gardening world, summer watering became less of a given and more of a choice. By the time the City began issuing water restrictions, waterwise gardening ruled the day. Colorful gravel gardens gained favor over Rose City's often bedeviled roses and the trendiest lawn color, hands-down, was and remains summer-dormant beige.

I got to the coast in 2017 and lo and behold, what did I find? Rhododendron! Not simply in gardens but growing on the edge of woodlands and right along 101. Could it be? A rhodie growing hose-free? In fact, *Rhododendron macrophyllum*, the Pacific or Coast rhododendron, has managed just fine without us for the last fifty million years.

Our native evergreen rhodie is a superb garden plant, the first on my list of drought-tolerant choices for smart coast gardeners. This is a big plant, minimum 10' and double that in shade, with bell-shaped flowers ranging from blushed to saturated pink. Since this rhodie takes both sun and shade and isn't fussy about soil, your challenge won't be growing it but finding a nursery source. Keep looking.

Armeria (sea thrift) is a rugged sun-loving, salt-tolerant groundcover. Count on low cushions of evergreen foliage topped by tiny spheres that, starting in that cruelest month, truly bloom for months. Flowers range from white through many shades of pink to red. Note: I killed the red one.

Erigeron (Oregon beach daisy), like *Armeria*, is going to look familiar for very good reasons: it thrives in sandy soil and loves to bloom. In the Hoffman Wonder Garden, we grow ours in gravel with no summer water and recommend trimming it to keep it tidy and flowering through fall.

Hebe, pronounced HE Bee, comes in a universe of sizes, from 6" to 6'. We grow 8 different varieties that are so unlike one another you wouldn't know they were of the same genus. And why would you? Leaf colors vary from pewter to chartreuse with a nod to burnt orange and flower colors from pale lilac to deep dark purple. Yum.

Cistus (rockrose) works much like a sun-loving rhododendron with its big round evergreen presence and super showy flowers. That's it for the resemblance; most rhodies hail from the mountains of Asia while *Cistus* is strictly Mediterranean (read: no summer water). Let size and flower color be your guide (our fave is called 'Jenkyn Place').

Arctostaphylos (manzanita) is what we lovingly refer to as "the shrub that spells home". The many pleasures of this genus are why we now celebrate Manzanita Day (it's March 31st). In sizes ranging from groundcovers to small trees, with leaves on a color spectrum from powder blue to lustrous green, manzanitas ask only sun, fast drainage, and hose-free summer neglect.

Most of the plants listed above can be seen at the Hoffman Center Wonder Garden across from the Hoffman Center for the Arts. Please stop by and enjoy these plants as well as many others that could find a place in your landscape!

Ketzel Levine is a former Morning Edition correspondent and plant expert for NPR. More importantly, she says, she's the plant curator at the Hoffman Wonder Garden.

MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

NORTH COAST COMMUNITIES FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION: March & April 2022 Newsletter <https://healthywatershed.org/> Join their upcoming free zoom community meeting On May 9th 5:30-6:30pm https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?join_source=calendar_invite&meeting_key=ZlqcOqpqz8tGdwQBvJgGwS5eZZtxl_Ch1a0

CALL 8-1-1 BEFORE YOU DIG: Even for things as seemingly minor as putting in a mailbox or installing a realty sign, call before you dig. Plan your project 3 or more days in advance to allow for all utilities to be located before starting any excavation project. Utility companies only locate within the public right of way (ROW). They will not locate and mark utilities on private property.