



Lael's Moon Garden Nursery

February 2010

If you prefer to view this as a webpage, click here:

<http://laelsmoongarden.com/gardentips/feb10newsletter.html>

Happy 2010!

It's hard to believe that Lael's Moon Garden just completed its tenth year. It was late last century when we got the cockamamie idea to start a nursery. As two lifelong plant geeks, it was a perfect choice for us. Your support and encouragement has made our rapid and continuous growth possible (er, well, until last year but that's not your fault!) We appreciate you and we're ready for another ten years. Hope you are too!

Bare Root Fruit Trees and Berry Plants are In!

Right now is the time to plant your fruit orchard, vineyard, or berry patch. We have just received a great selection of bare root apples, European pears, Asian pears, sweet cherries, pie cherries, European plums, Asian plums, peaches, hazelnuts, walnuts, grapes, strawberries, Marion berries, boysenberries, black and red raspberries, and rhubarb. We also have a few held-over potted fruit trees and vines-some will bear fruit this year!

The WSU test gardens at Mt. Vernon, WA and customer requests and reports are our guides in selecting fruit tree varieties. We always try to get larger size fruit trees than generally available so they will bear sooner, but some new varieties are only available in smaller sizes. Quantities of some fruit varieties are limited, so shop early to get the best selection. To see a list of the varieties we have on hand, go to our website [Feb 2010 Newsletter](#) and click on the documents on the right side near the top of the page.

Would You Believe Seven Degrees Fahrenheit?

So far this winter we've had a month of Global Warming kicked off by two weeks of New Ice Age! We had two nights of +7 degrees at the nursery in mid-December 2009 and some customers reported even colder temperatures. The result indicates the difficulty of predicting plant hardiness. The US Dept. of Agriculture zones are only a rough guide because they are based on average low winter temperatures. In winters like this one with temperatures outside the normal range, plants rated hardy for our zone may die or suffer damage.

Hardiness depends on more than just temperature. The size of a plant can also affect its hardiness. For example, we had some two-gallon rosemary "Tuscan Blue" plants that were obviously killed by the cold, yet a larger one in a five gallon pot came through just fine.

How "hardened off" a plant is will definitely affect its hardiness. Plants with succulent new growth when the cold comes are almost certainly going to suffer damage. We have a "Marbled Dragon" English laurel that was pruned late last summer. It pushed new growth afterward that is now fried although the older foliage is fine. A nearby plant of the same

variety was not pruned and it exhibits no damage. Rapid onset of cold weather after a warm spell is particularly problematic.

Plants in containers are also less hardy than those in the ground. In the ground, plants have soil around them which helps to insulate the roots. Roots are often the least hardy part of the plant as they are intended to be covered. That's why mulching or heeling in plants and pots will allow them to withstand colder temperatures.

Exposure to wind and sun can also affect cold hardiness. Then there are also some situations that defy explanation. The "Sundance" Mexican orange in our test garden suffered considerable damage in the snowy 2008 winter when the temperature was only about + 14 degrees. We cut it back and it recovered nicely last summer. In the 2009 winter when the temperature got seven degrees colder and there was no insulating snow, the "Sundance" shows minimal damage. Go figure.

Then there are plants like "Wilma Goldcrest" cypress and *Cistus purpurea* that are often considered borderline in our zone but show little damage from this year's low temperatures. We have those plants in a couple of sizes and none shows much damage. It's one of life's little mysteries, like which cave is Osama Bin Laden hiding in?

So what should you do if you have a cold-damaged plant and you're not sure whether or not it's alive? The best thing to do is hold off cutting the plant back until spring. If it's ugly, why not cut it back? Because it may only be dead on the tips and cutting them back now could make the plant die back even farther if there's another cold snap. So it's better to repress your inner control freak and let it be ugly until spring.

But what if you just can't control yourself and you just have to whack it back? Here's a little test to see if a branch is alive. Starting at a branch tip cut off about six inches and look at the inside. If it's brown inside it's dead, so cut off another six inches and look again, and so on. If it's green inside, there's hope. Be advised though that sometimes a green-inside branch is only clinging to life and can die later-but why not leave it and give it a fighting chance?

Sometimes, when trees or shrubs get too cold the bark will split at ground level. This will almost certainly kill the plant because it dries out there and it will not be able to move water and nutrients up the trunk. Or perhaps you're like the customer who told our colleague at another nursery, "I'm a nurse and I know dead when I see it!" In either of these latter cases, dig it up and plant something else and no-one will ever know. There's no cure for dead.

Ready for Spring Yet?



What a stupid question. Who isn't? Fortunately, there are plants that can't wait either and begin to bloom in mid-winter to very early spring. **Witch hazels** (*Hamamelis x intermedia*) are a good example. These small trees/large shrubs are among the first to bloom anywhere from early January to mid-February.

We offer three varieties: "Jelena" (burnt copper flowers), "Diana" (burgundy red) upper picture, and "Arnold Promise" (bright yellow.) lower picture. Witch hazels also have reliably bright fall color for multi-season interest. This year our Arnold Promise started blooming in October and is **still blooming**.



Good old **daffodils** are another early riser. Normally planted as bulbs in the fall, they can be planted from containers in spring too. We offer two gallon "Tete a Tete" which has dainty yellow multiple flowers on each stem. It's a good one for rock gardens or to put in a sunny border. Plant daffodils among other perennials to hide the daffodils when they go dormant in the summer. They will always come up and flower before other perennials the next spring.



Winter hazels (*Corylopsis spicata* and *C. pauciflora*) are early blooming shrubs that are really striking. They prefer a little protection from afternoon sun and are floriferous at a time we are really hungry for flowers. They have pale yellow flowers in great abundance. (Not the bright lemon yellow of forsythias, which bloom about the same time. But we also offer three varieties of forsythia if their brighter flowers float your boat!)

(Photo courtesy of Great Plant Picks click link below for more info) <http://www.greatplantpicks.org/display?id=2385&searchterm=all>

Dog tooth violets (*Erythronium dens canis* "Pagoda") are not violets. They have a bulb that is white and pointed like a dog's tooth. They are easy to grow in woodland conditions (afternoon shade and regular moisture) and are as reliably perennial as daffodils. Dog tooth violets have showy, pendulous, star-like yellow flowers for a long period in early spring. Their broad, waxy leaves are often mottled with pale maroon markings. Because they are relatively slow to multiply they are rarely offered in bulb catalogs and nurseries. We dig from our own beds and containerize them in fall, so they are ready to bloom in spring. These always sell out, but we have some nice two-gallon ones this year and a large bed of them to divide in the future. Each year we hold a few more out to propagate to increase production.



The display garden also has a bed of dark pink dog tooth violets (*Erythronium revolutum*) which you are free to covet even though we do not have any to offer for sale as yet. We are also doing seed propagation of the pink ones, but that's slower than Larry is on a very cold, wet winter morning!

(Photo courtesy of Great Plant Picks click link below for more info) <http://www.greatplantpicks.org/display?id=2451&searchterm=all>



Sweet Box (*Sarcococca ruscifolia*) is a low evergreen shrub that blooms in mid-winter. The flowers are hardly noticeable, but the fragrance fills the whole yard for a long time. (Ours are beginning to bloom now!). Plant this one in shade or close on the north or east side of the house. It does not like hot sun.

Finally, **Lenten Roses** (*Helleborus*) are a fine old standby for early and long-lasting bloom. They come in a variety of colors (from white through pink to burgundy-black) and have evergreen foliage. We offer both single- and double-flowered varieties. Although they are usually billed as a shade plant, they will stand a lot of sun with regular water. (We have some growing nicely in full sun with regular water.) You get all new foliage along with the flowers by cutting back the old foliage when the flower buds first show. (Hellebores foliage may get ratty toward the end of winter.) Hellebores bloom a long time--beginning in late January on well into spring. Ours are starting to bloom now.



Garden Shows

On our web site you will find a listing of the garden shows and off-site events we plan to participate in during 2010. We update the list regularly. A couple of shows are:

Feb 20 & 21, Lewis County Home Show

@ Yard birds Event Center in Chehalis, 2100 N. National, Chehalis WA

Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM

Free Admission, Free Parking. Speakers: Ed Hume, Marianne Binetti and others

Presented by the Master Builders

<http://www.omb.org/chapters/lewis-county-chapter>

March 19, 20 & 21, 45th Annual Home and Garden Show

@ Yard birds Event Center in Chehalis, 2100 N. National, Chehalis WA

Friday 10 AM to 7 PM, Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM

Free Admission, Free Parking. Speakers: To Be Announced

Presented by the Centralia- Chehalis Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.chamberway.com/homegarden/>

That's all for now. We're back on our winter schedule: Open weekends 10 AM to 5 PM and other times by a phone call. It's also time for us to go back out and continue cleaning up, pruning, planting, transplanting, and potting. Then there's weeding too (those buggers wintered well!)

Feel free to share this email with friends. You are receiving this email because you are on the mailing list for Lael's Moon Garden. If you no longer wish to receive our timeless epics, just let us know and we will take you off the list.

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Laels Moon Garden 2010 Bare Root Pricing

Bare Root plants will be potted as they begin to grow and bare root pricing will not apply to potted plants

Name	Name2/rootstock	Variety name	Description	Caliper/ Age / Grd	Height	Regular Price	Bare-Root Price
acer	negundo	Flamingo		1"	6-7'	39.99	35.99
acer	rubrum	Burgundy Belle	maple, red	1.25"	6-7'	79.99	71.99
acer	rubrum	October Glory	maple, red		5-6'	39.99	35.99
acer	truncatum	Pacific Sunset		1"	7-8'	64.99	58.49
apple	semi-dwarf	Akane		1"	6-7'	29.99	26.99
apple	semi-dwarf	Chehalis		11/16"	5-6'	24.99	22.49
apple	semi-dwarf	Empire		1"	6-7'	29.99	26.99
apple	semi-dwarf	Enterprise		9/16"	4-5'	26.99	24.29
apple	semi-dwarf	Gravenstein		1-1.25"	6'	29.99	26.99
apple	semi-dwarf	Honeycrisp		11/16"	4-5'	29.99	26.99
apple	semi-dwarf	Liberty		1-1.25"	6-7'	29.99	26.99
apple	semi-dwarf	Pristine		1"	6-7'	29.99	26.99
apple-combo	semi-dwarf	akane, gala, jonagold, spartan,summerred		1"	3'	39.99	35.99
apple-esp		Gala, Gravenstien, Jonagold, Fuji, Braeburn, Red macintosh		3 tier		49.99	44.99
apple-esp		Gravenstien, Liberty, Melrose, Spartan		3 tier		49.99	44.99
cane berry	rubus	Munger blackcap raspberry		2 yr #1		7.99	3 for 18.99
cane berry	rubus	Heritage raspberry	july&sept 3-4'	2 yr #1		4.99	3 for 10.99
cane berry	rubus	Boysen, thornless	may-June	1 yr #1		5.99	3 for 13.99
cane berry	rubus	Marion berry	July-aug	2 yr #1		7.99	3 for 18.99
cherry-pie	dwarf-gisela	Montmorency	self-fruitful	7/8"	5-6'	34.99	31.49
cherry-sweet	dwarf-gisela	Angela		1"	6'	35.99	32.39
cherry-sweet	dwarf-gisela	Early Burlat		1"	6'	35.99	32.39
cherry-sweet	dwarf-gisela	Glacier		1"	5-6'	35.99	32.39
cherry-sweet	dwarf-gisela	Lapin		1"	5-6'	35.99	32.39
cherry-sweet	dwarf-gisela	Sweetheart		1"	5-6'	35.99	32.39
cherry-sweet-comb	semi-dwf Mazzard	Angela, Bing, Lapin,Rainier, Stella		1"	6'	44.99	40.49
cornus	alba	Ivory Halo	dogwood, varieg leaf		18-24"	17.99	16.19
fig	ficus carica	Desert King	yel-grn, hardy to 5 deg	1-2'	#5	19.99	17.99
filbert/hazelnut	corylus	Barcelona			5-6'	24.99	22.49
filbert/hazelnut	corylus	Lewis			3-4'	19.99	17.99
kiwi	actinidia arguta	74-49	hardy, female,early		2-4'	21.99	19.79
kiwi	actinidia arguta	Anna	hardy female		2-4'	21.99	19.79
kiwi	actinidia arguta	male	hardy 15-20'		2-4'	21.99	19.79
malus		lollipop	crab, dwrf, flower	#1	4'	49.99	44.99
peach	semi-dwarf	Frost		1"	6-7'	32.99	29.69
peach	semi-dwarf	Frost		1"-1.25"	6-7'	32.99	29.69

Laels Moon Garden 2010 Bare Root Pricing

Bare Root plants will be potted as they begin to grow and bare root pricing will not apply to potted plants

Name	Name2/rootstock	Variety name	Description	Caliper/ Age / Grd	Height	Regular Price	Bare-Root Price
pear-asian	espalier	Shinko, Shinseiki		2 tier	4'	29.99	26.99
pear-european	semi-dwarf	Rescue		11/16"	4-5'	27.99	25.19
pear-european	semi-dwarf	Uobileen		1"	6-7'	31.99	28.79
plum-european	semi-dwarf	Brooks		1"-1.25"	6-7'	31.99	28.79
plum-european	semi-dwarf	Seneca		1"	6-7'	31.99	28.79
plum-european	semi-dwarf	Stanley		1"	6-7'	31.99	28.79
plum-japanese	semi-dwarf	Beauty		1"	6-7'	31.99	28.79
plum-japanese	semi-dwarf	Shiro		1"-1.25"	6-7'	31.99	28.79
prunus-dwf gisela	x yedonensis	Akebono	pink flow cherry	5-6' br	5-6' br	49.99	44.99
robinia	pseudoacaccia	Frisia	locust, golden	1"	7-8'	49.99	44.99
salix	integra	Hakuro Nishiki	dappled willow	18-24"	18-24"	12.99	11.69
salix	niobe		golden weep willow	6-8'	8'	34.99	31.49
spiraea	japonica	Magic Carpet		12-18"	12-18"	17.99	16.19
strawberry	fragaria	Seascape	everbearing	clump			10 for \$6
strawberry	fragaria	Tristar	everbearing	clump			10 for \$6
strawberries sold in groups of 10 10 for \$6, 20 for \$11, and 30 for \$15							
syringa	vulgaris	Sensation	lilac	2-3'	2-3'	19.99	17.99
ulmus	glabra	camperdownii	elm, camperdown	Hvy	6-7'	79.99	71.99
viburnum	nudum	Winterthur			12-18"	15.99	14.39
walnut	juglans	Carpathian			5-6'	29.99	26.99
walnut	juglans	Cascade			6-7'	29.99	26.99
weigela	florida	Wine & Roses			12-18"	17.99	16.19

Laels Moon Garden Container Edibles
Quantities of some potted Edibles are limited

Name	Name2/rootstock	Variety name	Description	Caliper/ age / grd	Height or Pot Size	Retail Price
apple	dwarf	Mutsu		9/16"	6-7'	26.99
apple	semi-dwarf	Gravenstein	ear Sept	1"	4-5'	29.99
apple	semi-dwarf	Jonagold		7/8	#10	29.99
apple	semi-dwarf	King		7/8	#10	29.99
apple	semi-dwarf	Liberty	mid-oct red	1"	#10 5-6'	29.99
apple	semi-dwarf	Wynoochee Early	aug, yellow with red stripes	3/8"	3-4'	19.99
blueberry	vaccinium	Bluecrop	mid, allround 4-6'	18-30"	#2 18-30"	15.99
blueberry	vaccinium	Bluejay	early-mid, med-lrg 6-7'	3 yr	#2	15.99
blueberry	vaccinium	Bluejay	early-mid, small	18-30"	#2 18-30"	15.99
blueberry	vaccinium	Chandler	mid-late lrg 5-6'	18-30"	#2 18-30"	15.99
blueberry	vaccinium	Darrow	late, large, 5-6'	18-30"	#2 18-30"	15.99
blueberry	vaccinium	Draper	mid large vigorous	3 yr	#3 2-3'	15.99
blueberry	vaccinium	Duke	early, med-lrg 5-6'x4'	18-30"	#2 18-30"	15.99
blueberry	vaccinium	Duke	early, med-lrg 5-6'x4'	3 yr	#2	15.99
blueberry	vaccinium	Duke	early, med-lrg 5-6'x4'	4 yr	#3 2-3'	18.99
blueberry	vaccinium	Patriot	early, dk blue lrg, producti e	3 yr	#2	15.99
cane berry	blackberry	Chester-thornless	3-4' july, black sweet	2yr #1	#5 stk	7.99
cane berry	blackberry	Darrow blackberry	3-4' july rlg rust resist	2yr #1	#5 stk	7.99
cane berry	raspberry	Caroline raspberry		2yr #1	#5 stk	7.99
cherry-pie	giesela dwarf	Montmorency	self-fruitful	7/8"	#10 5-6'	34.99
fig	ficus carica	Desert King	yel-grn, hardy to 5 deg	#1	#3 24-30"	19.99
filbert/hazelnut	corylus	Duchilly		1"	#10	24.99
filbert/hazelnut	corylus	Ennis		1"	#10	24.99
grape	vitis vinifera	Canadice			#2	12.99
grape	vitis vinifera	Mars			#2	12.99
grape	vitis vinifera	Saturn			#2	12.99
kiwi	actinidia arguta	Anna	hardy female	#1	#5	21.99
kiwi	actinidia arguta	Issai	kiwi-female,self fruitful	#1	#5	21.99
kiwi	actinidia arguta	male	hardy 15-20'	2-4'	#5	21.99
mulberry	morus	Illinois everbearing			#3 5-6'	29.99
pear-european	semi-dwarf	Comice	Oct yellow	1"	5-6'	29.99
pear-european	semi-dwarf	Orcas	Sept yellow-carmine	1"	6-7'	29.99
plum-japanese	semi-dwarf	Beauty	Red skin,yellow flesh	1"		29.99
plum-japanese	semi-dwarf	Shiro	yellow skin and flsh	1"	6-7'	29.99
rhubarb	rheum	Crimson Red		jumbo		8.99
strawberry	fragaria	Tristar	everbearing		hanging pot	12.99