

# Seattle Tilth

ORGANIC GARDENING • URBAN ECOLOGY • COMPOSTING • RECYCLING

VOL 29 NO 3 • MAY/JUN 2006



Students at the New School proudly display veggies from their garden.

## It's All About the Kids!

Liesl Zappler, Seattle Public Schools Groundskeeper

Last fall the Seattle School District adopted a terrific IPM policy. IPM (Integrated Pest Management) is a practice of pest management that utilizes cultural, mechanical, and biological forms of control before utilizing pesticides. The new IPM policy bans high-hazard pesticides, and establishes stronger guidelines for least-toxic pesticide use. The high-hazard criteria were developed by the Washington Toxics Coalition, and they ban pesticides considered most hazardous to human and environmental health. The policy was written by a great committee of knowledgeable and dedicated individuals. Angela Storey, the Pesticide Organizer for the Washington Toxics Coalition, served as the chair for the IPM Policy Committee. Also involved were representatives from the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle University, King County Hazardous Waste Management, Seattle City Parks, the National Wildlife Federation, the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders, as well as representatives from the School District, including parents and teachers.

Numerous other school districts have adopted more inclusive IPM policies including the districts for Bainbridge Island, Vancouver, and Oak Harbor. Concerned parents in Bellevue are currently working on their IPM policy. These policies serve to reduce the toxicity and frequency of pesticide use, encourage the use of alternative practices (such as using mulch and vinegar-based products), and set definite guidelines for district personnel to follow.

There are numerous studies that show the negative impact pesticides have on children's health, as well as the environment. There are so many alternative methods of pest control that pesticide use should rarely, if ever, occur.

Our schools serve our communities, and yet it takes community involvement to positively affect change. The following are the top five ways parents, concerned citizens, and gardeners can get involved to find out what practices their district currently employs, and how to effectively bring about change:

Continued on page 6

**Volunteer at the Plant Sale!**

(See back cover)

## Want to Support Tilth?

## Adopt-a-Program!

Willi Evans, Development Committee Chair

Seattle Tilth shares a fundamental feature with your gardens: healthy roots. Both gardens and organizations need careful cultivation in order to continue growing. Seattle Tilth has come up with a brand new way for you to further support our programs and staff. Now you can direct your donations right into the programs you love by joining Seattle Tilth's Adopt-A-Program initiative.

### It's simple:

1. Select which program(s) you want to support
2. Choose a monthly funding level that works with your budget
3. Provide Seattle Tilth your debit or credit card information
4. Seattle Tilth will automatically debit the amount you specify each month for 12 months. You can stop anytime and Seattle Tilth will contact you after 12 months to make sure this program still works for you.

### It's that easy!

*P.S. Prefer to make one annual gift as opposed to monthly deductions? No problem! We can make arrangements and welcome your contributions in any form.*

Seattle Tilth has set a goal to raise \$12,000 in 2006. Together we can meet our goal if just 100 people sign up to con-

Continued on page 3

## Summer Classes

Pre-registration is required for all classes. To register or for more information, call 206-633-0451 x1 or go to [www.seattletilth.org](http://www.seattletilth.org).

## Garden Volunteer Program

Volunteers work alongside Tilth gardeners to install and maintain seasonal organic gardening displays. Join a garden crew and commit to three, three-hour work parties per month for two months. The Summer Crew runs June–July, and Fall Crew runs August–September. Volunteers must attend an orientation session.

## Children's Garden Summer Programs...

...are filling up fast! Check the website for an updated list of which classes are still available.

## Garden Clinics at the Sale

Held during the Edible Plant Sale in the Good Shepherd Center Demonstration Garden. \$8 Tilth members, \$10 non-members

## Salsa Gardening

May 6, Saturday, 11:30 am–12:30 pm or  
May 7, Saturday, 11:30 am–12:30 pm

Learn cultural tips for growing your favorite salsa ingredients – heirloom tomatoes, tomatillos, hot and sweet peppers, onions and cilantro. Strategies for growing these heat-loving crops in our climate will be addressed as well as planting and harvesting tips. Then you can buy them at during the Edible Plant Sale!

## Culinary Herb Gardening

Saturday, May 6, 1–2 pm or  
Saturday, May 7, 1–2 pm

This workshop will teach you how to grow fresh kitchen herbs all season long! We'll go over tips for planning your herb garden, including how to select the best varieties for your site. We'll show you a simple herb spiral you can easily create right outside your kitchen door which will keep fresh herbs at your fingertips all summer long. You can buy your plant starts at Tilth's Edible Plant Sale.

## Other Garden Clinics

Held in the Seattle Tilth Demonstration gardens. Participants have a chance to listen, see, and participate in demonstrations for each class. \$15 Tilth members, \$18 non-members.

## Natural Yard Care – Summer

June 7, Wednesday, 6–7:30 pm  
Bradner Gardens Park

Are you looking for ways to create a chemical-free yard? This workshop will present simple and inexpensive techniques that will help you create a beautiful and healthy space for you and your family to enjoy. This workshop will teach you how to identify those summer pests in your yard and how to deal with them organically. Summer lawn care and money-saving watering techniques will also be presented

## Dealing with Summer Pests

June 24, Saturday, 11–12:30 pm  
Good Shepherd Center Demonstration Garden

Now that your garden is growing, all you have to do is sit back and watch, right? But hey, what's eating holes in your broccoli and what about all of those weeds? Come out and learn from the Tilth gardeners to identify pests and deal with them organically. We will discuss Integrated Pest Management practices to deal with pest, weed, and disease control in the vegetable garden. Bring samples from your own veggie garden for diagnosis.

## Grow More in a Small Space

May 25 & 27, Thursday, 6–8 pm and Saturday, noon–4 pm  
Bradner Gardens Park

2-day workshop to help you maximize the use of small garden plots. Whether it's a community garden plot or small urban lot, Tilth gardeners show you techniques to double or triple

*Continued on page 4*

Seattle Tilth Association is a non-profit organization and an urban chapter within Tilth's regional network.

### Our Mission Statement

Seattle Tilth inspires and educates people to garden organically, conserve natural resources, and support local food systems in order to cultivate a healthy urban environment and community.

### Board of Directors

Nancy Evans  
Willi Evans  
BJ Hedahl  
Nicole Kistler  
Brandon Pemberton  
Jayne Simmons  
Craig Skipton  
President Neal Thayer

### Staff Members

Lorraine Brooks *Natural Soil Building Program (nsb)*  
Andrea Cummins *Natural Soil Building Program*  
Kathy Dang *Demonstration Garden Coordinator*  
Keala Hagmann *Office Assistant*  
Liz Katz *Natural Soil Building Program*  
Karen Luetjen *Executive Director*  
Samantha Maykut *Natural Soil Building Program*  
Charlotte Moss *Bookkeeper*  
Laura Niemi *Demonstration Garden Coordinator*  
Sam O'Brien *Children's Garden Assistant Teacher*  
Amy Ockerlander *Natural Soil Building Program*  
Colleen Quinn *Manager, NSB Program*  
Angelina Shell *mc&sb Volunteer Coordinator*  
Lisa Taylor *Children's Garden Coordinator*

### Office Hours and Phones

Monday–Friday, 10 am–5 pm or by appointment

206 633-0451 Office Phone  
206 633-0450 Fax  
206 632-1999 Executive Director  
206 633-0224 Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline  
206 633-0097 Master Composters/Soil Builders  
206 633-5045 Volunteer Line

### Website

[www.seattletilth.org](http://www.seattletilth.org)

### Email

Send to [firstname.lastname@seattletilth.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@seattletilth.org)

### Address

Seattle Tilth Association, 4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, Room 120, Seattle, Washington 98103

### Seattle Tilth Newsletter

The Seattle Tilth Newsletter is published by the Seattle Tilth Association. Readers are encouraged to submit articles, ideas for articles, original artwork, and other commentary. All material should be mailed c/o The Newsletter to the address above or e-mailed to [karenluetjen@seattletilth.org](mailto:karenluetjen@seattletilth.org). Submissions will be printed as space allows. Seattle Tilth reserves the right to edit for interest, length, and style.

Copy Editing by Roger Weaver.

Design and typesetting by Keala Hagmann.

**TILT. TURN. DONE.**  
THE TILTERATOR COMPOSER.  
**More compost. Less work.**  
206.240.2047 | [www.tilterator.com](http://www.tilterator.com)

### Tilth 'tilth\ n

[ME, fr. OE, fr. *tilian* to till]

(bef. 12c) 1 : the quality of cultivated soil

2 : the cultivation of wisdom  
and the spirit



## Adopt-a-Program!

*Continued from page 1*

tribute \$10 per month. Now all you have to do is choose which program you'd like to support.

Here are the five categories and some sample items that you can fund.

### Tilth Roots

The Seattle Tilth staff spends nearly all of their time delivering the classes, workshops and events you love. Supporting Seattle Tilth's "roots" will help us improve our office infrastructure and free up staff to plan new programs and make existing ones even better!

\$20 per month = Get Tilth's word out

by underwriting one issue of the newsletter's postage fees

\$30 per month = Strengthen our community connections by sending 3 staff to the Tilth Producers Conference

\$85 per month = Subsidize the addition of online registration and donations to website

### Scholarship Fund

Help seed interest in Tilth by providing community groups, public schools, and low-income individuals a chance to take part in our adult and children's gardening education opportunities.

\$20 per month = Train a teacher or community leader to be a Comprehensive Organic Gardener

\$85 per month = Underwrite an "Organic Gardening: the Basics" class series for non-English speaking people

### Adult Gardening Education

Tilth gives people the tools to improve the environment in a very tangible way: by teaching them how to grow beautiful organic gardens. Supporting our adult education programs will allow our staff to learn new skills, develop better classes, and offer high-quality supplies to their students.

\$20 per month = Train staff in a new gardening technique; Provide training manuals for an entire class of Comprehensive Organic Gardener students

\$50 per month = Translate English teaching materials into Spanish; Supply 1 year of plants, seeds, and other supplies for the Demonstration Gardens

### Teaching Peace Through Gardening

This grant-funded program teaches disadvantaged children about peace in the context of garden ecology and environmental stewardship. Adopting this program will help us enhance current programming and expand this opportunity to more children from marginalized communities.

\$50 per month = 30 forks or spades designated for Teaching Peace; large pop-up tent for outdoor classroom area

\$85 per month = Underwrite 1 5-week session of Teach Peace

### Children's Gardening Education

Adopt the children's garden and you'll give the gift of gardening to kids aged 1 to 14. Seattle Tilth's children's garden teaches kids about the earth and their environment through songs, games, stories and hands on learning.

\$10 per month = Send 1 child to a week-long camp; rent bus for 1 Earth Steward's Tour

\$85 per month = One month paid teaching internships; large pop-up tent for outdoor classroom area

The full list of Adopt-a-Program options can be found at [www.seattletilth.org/support/adopt-a-program-doc](http://www.seattletilth.org/support/adopt-a-program-doc).

## 2006 SEED SWAP EVENT

**TOP** Children's Garden Coordinator Lisa Taylor and Executive Director Karen Luetjen sold raffle tickets with enthusiasm. **MIDDLE** Dozens of people brought seeds to share with others. **BOTTOM** Arthur Lee Jacobson signs a copy of the new second edition of his book, *Trees of Seattle*, for Susie Thorness.

## Thanks to these Individuals and Businesses for Donations for the Seed Swap Raffles

Charlie Beck	New Renaissance Cakes
Phil Brooks	Pacific Rim Brewing
Chef'n Corporation	Company
Willi Evans Galloway	Planck Pottery
John Hurd	Sterling Café
Arthur Lee Jacobson	Sterling Salon
Nicole Kistler	Swanson's Nursery

## Join the Seattle Tilth Board of Directors

Contact Brandon Pemberton at 206-669-1547 for information about board committee work and positions.

## Summer Classes

*Continued from page 2*

your harvest compared to conventional techniques. Participants get ideas for basic garden planning and learn several planting techniques for vegetables and herbs. Learn about vertical gardening. Find out which vegetables can be grown on a trellis. Participate in constructing garden trellises. Each student receives a garden kit with seeds selected by Tilt gardeners especially for our climate. \$65 Tilt members, \$75 non-members plus a \$10 materials fee payable at first class. Advance payment required.

## Comprehensive Organic Gardener Program

June 6–22, Tuesdays & Thursdays 6–9:30 pm  
or September 20–October 11, Wednesdays  
7–9 pm and Saturdays 10 am–3 pm  
Bradner Gardens Park

Learn organic vegetable gardening methods and practice them with us. Curriculum merges scientific and practical information with experiential learning and hands on practice. A unique and popular course designed to give the beginning gardener an introduction to the dynamic world of organic gardening and an opportunity to get their hands dirty in the process! Advance payment required.

June session: \$175 Tilt members, \$205 non-members before 5/23/06. \$205 members, \$235 for non-members after 5/23/06.

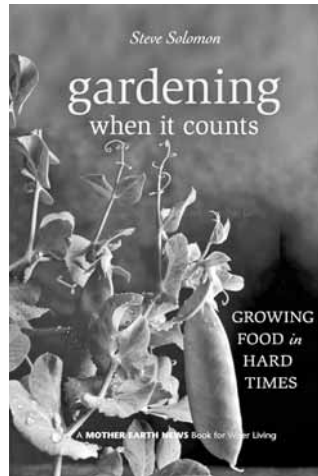
September session: \$175/\$205 before 9/6/06. \$205/\$235 after 9/6/06.

## Create Garden Harmony A Permaculture Workshop for the Urban Dweller

August 10, 12 & 13, Thursday 6:30–8:30 pm,  
Saturday, and Sunday, 10 am–3 pm  
Bradner Garden Parks and other locations

3-day workshop provides an introduction to permaculture and offers skills for interpreting and applying these principles in an urban setting. Create hands-on permaculture garden projects to build the skills and experience you need to replicate them in your backyard. Topics include, garden planning, natural patterns in the garden, inviting wildlife into the garden, and plant and people communities. Designed to inspire the city gardener to think and act more permaculturally, this course provides resources for making further connections to permaculture in the Seattle community. Co-sponsored by the Seattle Permaculture Guild. \$95 Tilt members, \$105 non-members. Advance payment required.

# When Times Get Tough, the Tough Grow Veggies



## Book Review: *Gardening When It Counts: Growing Food in Hard Times* by Steve Solomon (New Society Publishers, 2005)

Bill Thorness

A gardener always wants to get those newly sown seeds off to the healthiest start, but what methods best support that goal? Germane advice on the topic can be found in a new book by Steve Solomon, who as founder of Oregon's Territorial Seed Company has a special connection with those little nuggets of life.

Consider this example: When we till the garden bed, he says, the capillary nature of the soil is temporarily lost, and soil that would normally "wick up" moisture

from below has lost its ability to do so. A simple technique to restore capillarity is to tamp down the furrow before sowing. Sow into the furrow, then cover it with compost. The seeds can draw necessary water from below, thus reducing the need for overhead watering, which lowers soil temperature and increases the danger of damping off problems. The compost holds more moisture than regular soil, and will provide less resistance through which the sprout must push.

If tamping, damping, furrows and such terms are a bit foreign or scary, dig into Solomon's latest book, *Gardening When It Counts: Growing Food in Hard Times*. In patient, comfortable prose, he takes readers through the basics, with such chapter themes as "Helping Plants Grow." He posits that a gardener needs just three tools, and suggests how to choose the best starts from the nursery – or, better yet, how to grow your own starts.

But the book presents a larger theme, implied by its title. Solomon suggests that the advent of peak oil and unsustainable economic practices are sending the United States toward a crisis. To face those times, he offers thrifty suggestions to gardeners with poor soil or little water. For instance, a plant will be healthier grown from seed in the ground than transplanted, as it will develop a stronger root system. He makes a compelling case that planting farther apart saves water and results in bigger, healthier vegetables, because they are not competing for available soil moisture. Square-foot or intensive gardening this is not!

Solomon's earlier book *Growing Vegetables West of the Cascades*, became a well-thumbed primer for regional Tilties. This volume also is a cornucopia of tips, from progressive thinning to root cellaring, to help develop your food gardening techniques. Although he no longer owns Territorial and now lives in Tasmania, his wife's homeland, this book too has many references specific to our area, while comparing needs in many climates.

But along with the serious theme and non-stop advice, the author succeeds in conveying a neighborly, over-the-fence style that supports his desire to be "the gardening grandfather you never had." How can you not smile when coming across his invented words, like vegetablearian and fertigation?

Indeed, sharing the spirit of gardening is almost as important as the techniques, especially if his theories about "coming hard times" come true. What better place – with the possible exception of Tasmania – could we live in if we must face that future? Solomon doesn't know of any. "Ah Cascadia!" he writes. "Closest thing to paradise there is in North America."

# The Community Fruit Tree Harvest Ann Lovejoy

## Working to Bring Your Backyard Fruit to Local Food Banks

*Michelle Bates-Benetua, Lettuce Link Program Manager*



banks. The process is simple: Tree owners call in to register their fruit trees and the Community Fruit Tree Harvest volunteers take care of the rest.

Though many of our trees bear healthy fruit without much nurturing, our northwest apple and pear trees are especially susceptible to pests. If left unchecked, the codling moth larva and the apple maggot, our most destructive invaders (active beginning in June), may burrow into the flesh and render the fruit inedible.

“We don’t have to kill the bugs to have a sexy apple,” says Don Ricks, the volunteer picker who was instrumental in organizing the first harvest program last year. Organic treatments run the gamut – from clay sprays and trichogamma wasps to bug zappers and pheromone attractants.

Ricks recommends simply using nylon footies to cover each individual apple or pear early in the fruits’ development. Though this can take time, this method effectively prevents the worms from ever reaching the meat of the fruit.

As part of the Community Fruit Tree Harvest, Lettuce Link and Seattle Tilth can arrange for a volunteer crew to come and protect your apple and pear trees before the pests can do their damage. This early protection will improve the quality of the fruit and increase yield, ensuring more good fruit is available to our local food banks.

**Interested in sharing fruit from your backyard?** Call the Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224 to register. You will be asked a series of questions, followed by a possible staff site visit to determine if your fruit is healthy enough for donation.

**Know you have worms in your apples and pears, but still want to donate?** No problem. Contact us early--*before the first week of June* –and we may be able to arrange for a volunteer crew to organically protect your apple and pear trees from the codling moth larvae and apple maggots, before they can do their damage. When your fruit is ready, we will be back again to pick!

For more information on how you can protect your fruit trees organically, contact Don Ricks by e-mail at: [donricks@hotmail.com](mailto:donricks@hotmail.com).

**Interested in volunteering to harvest and transport fruit to food banks?** Call Lettuce Link at 206-694-6754. Find out how you can help!

Those of us with fruit trees know the sound well – plums, pears, and apples thudding to the ground faster than we can gather and fold them into fresh pies and tarts.

This year, rather than letting this fruit fall and rot in our backyards, residents in Wallingford, Fremont, Phinney Ridge, and the University District can donate their healthy fruit to those who need it most – our local food

## On Natural Care for Lawns and Landscapes

On Saturday, May 27, in a rare public appearance, Ann Lovejoy will present a two-hour slideshow on “Natural Lawn and Landscape Care” (from 10 am–2 pm, with a one-hour break for lunch. Lunch is not included in the program fee, but a list of nearby restaurants will be available). The program will be held at the NHS Hall in the University of Washington’s Center for Urban Horticulture (3501 NE 41st St, Seattle, near University Village).

This PlantAmnesty event is co-sponsored by Seattle Tilth. During the afternoon portion of the program, Ann and a panel of experts will answer garden-related questions in a friendly and intimate setting.

This program is a must for people wanting to learn more about how to care for their gardens without hurting the ecosystem. Ann Lovejoy and Cass Turnbull will sign copies of their books at the end of the session.

This event is a benefit for PlantAmnesty. Public, \$25. PlantAmnesty and Seattle Tilth members, \$15. Pre-registration required. Contact PlantAmnesty at 206-783-9813, or send check or money order to PlantAmnesty, PO Box 15377, Seattle, WA 98115-0377. Or sign up on-line at [plantamnesty.org](http://plantamnesty.org). Questions? Call PlantAmnesty 206-783-9813, or e-mail them at: [info@plantamnesty.org](mailto:info@plantamnesty.org). PlantAmnesty membership costs \$25.

info@lawnandgardenhotline.org  
206.633.0224

## Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline

Free expert advice tailored to the home gardener and landscape professional



## Naked Gardener Which Tool? What Job?

I was brought up to believe that one should Always Use The Right Tool for the Job. Well, I was brought up hearing this, and heard it often enough that it left an impression on me. I doubt whether actual belief ever played any part in it. The recommendation was usually delivered in the same tone as others, such as the frequently-repeated Stand Up Straight, or Get Your Hands Out of Your Pockets. Taking all this advice very badly, I stooped and slouched, and took perverse pleasure in finding novel uses for the tools in my Dad's tool shed.

There is a very useful-looking antique tool on my kitchen counter that no-one in the household ever uses: not me, not my son, not my wife, not my stepson. The only other members of the household are the cats, and cats—as is well-documented—are not a tool-using species, and may be discounted. So there it languishes, a tool without a use. Occasionally I'll pick it up and turn it over in my hands for a few moments, admiring it and wondering what on earth it could be. But its name, and its purpose, are both lost.

The tool came from a Machynlleth junk shop that I wandered into when visiting Welsh relatives a year ago (and if you can pronounce *Machynlleth* correctly you will earn my deepest respect). When I inquired, the fellow behind the counter told me it was probably used for cutting vegetables, and this seemed plausible: it has a fine, broad blade of Sheffield steel, much worn and pitted with age, and a transverse handle of old polished wood, nicely turned.

Another, older man, who seemed to be just hanging about the shop, said no, he thought it was the sort of thing they used in butter-making. He was himself about as worn and pitted with age as the tool in question, and this seemed to give him some authority in the matter. I suspected that hanging about this shop occupied much of his time. He could have been there for years. Perhaps he had come in sometime in the last century, to sell the very same tool I was now about to buy. We'll never know.

Every craft has its special tools: "all trades, their gear and tackle and trim" as Gerard Manley Hopkins puts it. Gardening is no exception to this, and early in the year the garden catalogs are filled with the latest gadgets—or the newest twist on the old gadgets. Some of these products are more worthwhile than others, and there's nothing like a few experiences with poor tool performance to make one realize that the best practice is to buy the very best tool you can afford. As a former Tilt Garden Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, and Bookkeeper recently observed to me: "A poor man can only afford the best tools".

Which brings me to one of my favorite gardening tools, a four-foot length of 2" cove molding, painted white on one side. It didn't cost me much. In fact I don't suppose it cost me anything. I doubt whether you or I will ever see such a tool in any of the gardening catalogs, but that does not detract from its utility, or my pleasure in using it.

Last weekend I planted several rows of lettuce, spinach and arugula and used my cove molding for every row. The technique is to slice open the seed furrow across the raised bed with the sharp edge of the molding, sprinkle the seeds according to one's pleasure into the furrow, tamp them down with the flat edge, scrape sufficient soil back over the furrow with the sharp edge, and tamp that down again with the flat edge. Sometimes I even finish it all off with a squeeze from the 2" side—just to firm the soil down nicely.

All this takes a matter of seconds, and I cannot remember how else I used to do it. I suppose that means I must be using the right tool for the job.


If so inclined, the reader is invited to take this narrative of the cove molding technique as a recommendation, and I hope you profit by it if you do. I was never very good at following recommendations, myself.

## It's All About the Kids!

*Continued from page 1*

1. **Request Pesticide Records** Find out what they've been using, where, and for what purpose. See if alternatives will work. Could redesign, mulch, or least-toxic pesticides be used?
2. **Offer to Help** Get a group together for a weeding and mulching party!
3. **Write an IPM Policy** Get other concerned parents, citizens, and district personnel together. Contact the grounds department, facilities director, school board members, and parent-teacher-student associations. Angela Storey at Washington Toxics Coalition can help!
4. **Review Landscape and School Design Plans** Many indoor and outdoor pest problems can be avoided through proper design. For any given landscape, it's vital to select drought tolerant plants that will fill in and shade out weeds, while providing year round seasonal interest.
5. **If You Can't Beat 'Em, Join 'Em!** One of the best ways to influence change is to infiltrate the crew and show them how it's done! We need more organic gardeners in the public sector! Work for schools, parks, DOT: be the change you wish to see!

Seattle School District IPM policy: [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org) Click on "Board Policies" in the left column, then follow to "H. Support Services", and finally "Integrated Pest Management Procedures"



206.634.0949  
Serving King County  
License #EDENEI\*983C6  
Info@YourOwnEden.com  
LINDA STEEN, OWNER

Eden

LANDSCAPES

Surround Yourself With Beauty™

- ✦ EXCELLENT LAWN AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE
- ✦ QUICK PROPERTY FACE LIFTS
- ✦ BEAUTIFUL DECORATED PLANTERS
- ✦ COMPLETE LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION

## Join Seattle Tilth!

Date \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal  
 Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 New address?  Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gift for \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership levels**  \$30 Regular  \$50 Supporter  
 \$100 Sustaining  \$500 Lifetime  \$15 Limited Income

**Additional tax-deductible contribution** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### *Maritime Northwest Garden Guide,*

For an indispensable guide to year-round gardening in the Maritime Northwest, enclose \$12.50 (includes tax and postage) per copy. Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies.

**Mail to** Seattle Tilth, 4649 Sunnyside Ave N, Room 120, Seattle, Washington 98103



## Hot Questions from the Natural Lawn and Garden Hotline

Please contact us at 206-633-0224 or [info@lawnandgardenhotline.org](mailto:info@lawnandgardenhotline.org) if you have questions or concerns regarding your carts.

### “I think something is eating my tree. What’s wrong? What can I do?”

*Bring us your bug eaten leaves, your dying branches ...*

Here at the Natural Lawn and Garden Hotline we help gardeners with pest and disease problems every day. It is a difficult task to do over the phone... like describing modern art. Whenever we get a call like the example above, we cringe inwardly, as it is almost impossible to give proper identification to a pest or disease problem without a good description, or preferably a sample.

Why is it so important to get an accurate diagnosis? The bug you think is eating your plum may actually be eating the bug that is eating your plum. Your maple’s leaves may be dying because of a fatal disease or merely due to the tree’s location. Simply put, to get the most effective cure you need to know the problem.

To get the best diagnosis do a little detective work of your own first:

- Locate the source of the problem. Is it on the leaves, stems, trunk, or roots? Is it more evident at the top, middle, or bottom? Has the problem moved from one area to another? How long have you noticed it?
- Take look at where it is planted. What side of the house is it on? How much sun does it get? Is it on a slope?
- Look at the plants next to this one and see if they share any of the same symptoms. Also, do you own any

other plants of the same type as this one? How are they doing?

- If it is a small plant, try lifting it up. If it is large, lean against the trunk. Often plant problems you see in the leaves actually happen in the roots. The roots should firmly hold the plant in the soil. Take a look and the ground around the plant. Notice if the soil is up against the trunk. Pull back some soil and look for any swelling, rot or insect feeding.
- Before you talk with us, try to find out the name of the plant (and how long you’ve had it). If you can’t determine the name, try to think of a plant that looks similar.

We can give you a more confident diagnosis if you bring a sample in to Tilth. And, if you speak with us in advance, you can even drop them off over the weekend and after hours. If you live too far away to stop by, think about sending a photo along in e-mail.

When you come in, bring more than the dead parts of plant. Take some leaves and stems with a range of symptoms: some green and some dying or eaten. If you think the culprit is an insect, of course try to grab it, but almost as valuable to us is what the insect leaves behind: look for leaves with any grit, webbing, or goo.

Getting the full story about the problem takes away much of the guesswork in diagnosis. It allows us to give you an effective and targeted solution.

## Classifieds

**Cynthia Creasey, real estate agent** specializing in gardens that come with houses in Seattle. Call 206-276-8292, Lake & Co. Real Estate.

**Rain Barrels.** 60 gallon, food clean, fully assembled with brass fittings and removable mesh screen. Available in black, terra cotta and blue. Excellent value, only \$57.50 each (delivery and installation available). Call or e-mail me, Dan Borba, at 253-272-8173, [naturalrainwater@yahoo.com](mailto:naturalrainwater@yahoo.com). Harvesting the rain since 1999.

**Calvin Creasey, Natural Gardening.** Rose care and pruning. The best plants, grandly grown. 206-789-6456.

**Green Light Gardening Consultation,** design, and pruning lessons. Specializing in helping you create a wildlife-friendly and child-friendly garden with year-round beauty. Emily Bishton, 206-523-1774 or [www.greenlightgardening.com](http://www.greenlightgardening.com)

### **Worm composting on the Eastside?**

Red wigglers for sale. Call Judy, 425-868-2694, or email [judy1007@comcast.net](mailto:judy1007@comcast.net).

### **Professional worm bin consultant.**

Specializing in worm bin set up and operation. \$40 for 1 hour consultation and informational material. Tilth member and student discounts. Call Barb at Wiggle Worm Farm, 206-297-7303.

### **See your garden with new eyes –**

Experienced and thoughtful pruning and personal instruction on how to manage your landscape. Katy 206-782-7113 or [www.gardenvision.net](http://www.gardenvision.net)

# Seattle Tilth

4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, Room 120  
Seattle, Washington 98103-6900  
RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 13555

*The date above  
your name is  
your membership  
expiration date.  
Thanks for renewing!*

## City of Seattle Compost Bin SALE! Home Delivery now available!

**Compost bins are on sale NOW to all City of Seattle residents!** Compost bins can save you money by reducing your utility bill for garbage and yard waste. They also help you create a healthy yard by making free compost!

**Call 684-0190 to order.** Payment by cash, check and credit card (VISA, MC accepted). Bring proof of Seattle residency such as a utility bill or driver's license. Pick up compost bins at the Seattle Conservation Corps office located at Sand Point/ Magnuson Park, Monday thru Friday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

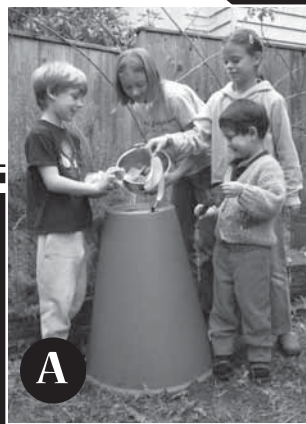
**Call 684-0190 for Home Delivery or Saturday and Evening pick up.**

**For information on composting and compost bins call the Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224 or visit [www.seattle.gov/util/yard](http://www.seattle.gov/util/yard).**

Save  
up to **85%**

**A) Green Cone Food Composter**  
\$25 each or two for \$40

**B) Yard Waste Compost Bin**  
\$25 each, limit 1 per household



Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

### 2006 Savvy Gardener Class Series

If you are ready to swap some lawn for lush layers of color, find out about the free Savvy Gardener classes by visiting [saving-water.org/education\\_classes.htm](http://saving-water.org/education_classes.htm). Create a thriving landscape with more beauty, less water and fewer pesticides and fertilizers. Our annual Savvy Gardener Class series will teach you how to create a gorgeous garden that's easy to maintain and gentle on our environment. Enjoy a better way to beautiful. The classes are sponsored by the Saving Water Partnership.



### Volunteer for the Edible Plant Sale!

Seattle Tilth's Edible Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 9 am-3 pm and Sunday, May 7, 11 am-3 pm

If you're interested in helping, send an email to [volunteer@seattletilth.org](mailto:volunteer@seattletilth.org) with Plant Sale Volunteer in the subject line, or call 206-633-5045 x1. Please indicate the dates and times you're avail-

able, your duty preference, phone number and email address.

A spreadsheet with the schedule of volunteer needs can be found at: [www.seattletilth.org/volunteer/voljdplantsale](http://www.seattletilth.org/volunteer/voljdplantsale). If you've volunteered in the past, contact us as soon as possible and let us know that you are interested in helping again.

We always love new and returning volunteers! Remember, all plant sale volunteers are invited to a pre-sale Friday, May 5