

The

REYNOLDA GARDENS
of Wake Forest University

Winter
2000

Gardener's

JOURNAL

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An Invitation to Come In

by **Camilla Wilcox**, curator of education

With the start of a new century, thoughts naturally turn back to the beginning of the last century. If asked, most of us can easily recite the history of the intervening years in terms of big events and major advances in medicine, business, education, and technology. We can see that family and personal lives have changed dramatically in the last hundred years. We know intellectually that much has happened in this short time to create the conditions of everyday life that we take for granted. Of all the things we might think about that were not in existence in 1900, we may not consider the fact that Reynolda was not yet born, even though today it's hard for many of us to imagine life without Reynolda. In 1900 Mrs. Reynolds was just beginning to develop her ideas and to obtain the parcels of land for an estate that would be both a private playground and a progressive working farm. An important part of her concept was that she would be able to issue an open invitation to citizens of the surrounding area to come in and learn about the latest information on agriculture and home arts and to enjoy the gardens and other areas of the property.

For a few short years, her vision became reality. The Reynolda community bustled with activity, and Reynolda quickly became the place



CHILDREN IN THE YOUNG NATURALISTS SUMMER PROGRAM HARVESTING FLOWERS IN THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN.

to go for information, inspiration, and enjoyment. We all know what happened next: following the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Reynolds' dream of establishing a long-lasting model farm and community gradually faded. Property was sold or given away, farm operations ceased, and eventually the businesses associated with Reynolda closed. The Reynolds' descendants alone owned what was left of the 1,000-plus acres and were responsible for making sure that Reynolda was maintained. Through these years Reynolda came to be owned as well in another sense by the visitors who continued to come inside its gates and fences and enjoy the gardens and grounds—owning it not in the fiscal but rather in the spiritual sense of loving it and feeling protective toward it, a legacy of the early invitation and generosity of Mrs. Reynolds.

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When the 129 acres that were to be known as Reynolda Gardens were given to Wake Forest College by the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, this open space within the city was already recognized by its owners as a place where people could come to be refreshed spiritually. The 1961 deed of gift stated that "with the vibrant growth of the metropolitan area of the city of Winston-Salem, there is an evergrowing need in Forsyth County for land areas to be set aside, preserved and enhanced in the beauty of their natural state, which land areas can become a refuge for relaxation and contemplation and a haven for reflective outdoor leisure...." As the years have passed, the open space has become more and more valuable to the community that has grown up around it. It is a unique property: unlike other park-like places, there are no athletic fields, no playgrounds, no concession stands. There is a hardwood forest surrounding hilly, rolling fields, a wetland, soft chipped-wood trails through the woods, clean streams and ponds, greenhouses, and a formal garden.

Because of Mrs. Reynolds' interest in plants, many types of plants were incorporated into the landscape design of the estate; consequently, the plant life is unusually diverse, helping to create a wide range of habitats that makes Reynolda a haven for wildlife. Daily life in Forsyth County is probably busier now for most people than it was in the Reynolds' time, and people have fewer opportunities for sustained interaction with the natural world. With less time and less open space, the resource of a quiet preserve within a city that Reynolda offers is irreplaceable.

The educational needs of the community have changed over the past hundred years as well, as it has moved from an economy based on agriculture to the more diversified economy of the present day; most people in this now-urban area do not need information on agricultural and domestic science. But Reynolda still serves a vital educational function. For young people it provides a unique outdoor laboratory where they can make observations and gain information on plant-related science. In recent years the need for such a resource has increased as many schools at all levels have moved away from plant



THE RESTORED ROSE GARDENS NEAR THE GREENHOUSE HAVE BEEN NAMED THE NANCY BECK JOHNSON ROSE GARDENS IN RECOGNITION OF GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF MRS. JOHNSON BY HER MANY FRIENDS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHEAST. A GRADUATE OF WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY, AS WERE HER HUSBAND AND THREE CHILDREN, MRS. JOHNSON IS REMEMBERED FOR HER LOVE OF WAKE FOREST AND FOR HER GENEROUS HOSPITALITY TO NUMEROUS UNIVERSITY GROUPS IN CHARLOTTE, WHERE SHE HAD LIVED SINCE 1980, AND IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, WHERE SHE AND HER HUSBAND HOSTED THE MASTERS PARTY EACH YEAR FROM 1974 UNTIL 1980. GARDENING WAS A LONGTIME SPECIAL INTEREST OF MRS. JOHNSON. BECAUSE OF THIS AND BECAUSE OF HER CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH WAKE FOREST, IT IS FITTING THAT THE RESTORATION OF THE ROSE GARDENS AND THE FUTURE RESTORATION OF THE PERENNIAL BORDER ALONG THE GREENHOUSE BE DONE IN HER MEMORY.

study. For this and other reasons related to the pressures and concerns of modern life, many young people have very few opportunities to develop a connection with the natural world. As we look ahead to the future these young people will face, we can hope that they will have access to Reynolda or a place like it where they can begin to understand what it means to protect and care for the local environment and to observe the complexities of plant life and the natural world. Adults come to Reynolda to learn about plant science and horticulture through structured programs and solitary walks. The knowledge they gain enriches their lives as they learn to create successful gardens at home, learn about soil and plant sciences, or learn about the ecology of the area. Parents begin teaching their children about the natural world here, often beginning in their stroller days to show them the plants and animals of the gardens, greenhouses, and woods.

The endowment that was left to support Reynolda Gardens long ago became insufficient to maintain it, and the community that has always loved Reynolda has taken on much of the responsibility for making sure that the grounds and gardens are maintained and the educational programs remain vibrant. Over the past fifteen years, local citizens have donated close to two million dollars to restore and maintain it. Individuals and groups have shared hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours.

Here are the statistics. Last year

- ☉ 356 individuals and clubs contributed money to support garden maintenance and to keep public programs operating at low or no cost to program participants, with gifts totaling over \$40,000,
- ☉ seventy individuals shared their time and expertise through the volunteer programs,
- ☉ a garden club took on the duty of keeping the wildflower garden clear of weeds,
- ☉ a scout troop assisted with clean up of the woods,
- ☉ an uncounted number of visitors picked up trash and performed other maintenance activities during their daily walks on the nature trails.

As a result of all these acts of support, well over 100,000 people were able to enjoy Reynolda Gardens last year in ways that met the unique

needs of each visitor.

Each child who visits the Gardens as part of the school program performs a task in the Children's Garden, a plot that is set aside for students within the formal garden. He or she might plant a cabbage, pull weeds, plant seeds, harvest, or water. Most of the children won't be back to see their own plants grow, but they learn while they're here that other children will benefit from the work they did, just as they benefit from the work done by children who came before them. Each child also pots a plant to take home and care for. So when they leave, the children take several things with them: a plant; the information they have received from their leaders; and memories of the experience of spending time with knowledgeable and caring adults, but they also leave something behind through the work that they did in the Children's Garden. Mrs. Reynolds left behind this extraordinary property and the initial invitation to come into Reynolda. Now all of those who help to support and care for Reynolda are following her lead, just like our children in the Children's Garden. Each one takes some remembrance of Reynolda away and leaves something of value behind—time, talent, money, labor, ideas,—to benefit others they'll never see. It is all of those people, now, who issue the invitation to the community to come in. ☉

Make Room for Alliums

by **Joe Grigg**, *horticulturist*

The plants of the *Allium* genus, part of the lily or Liliaceae family, are a very useful group. Some plants within this group are valued not only for their culinary use but also for their ornamental characteristics. The five *Alliums* I have chosen to discuss all have edible parts and will add ornamental value to your garden with either flower color or foliage effect.

Allium cepa (onion), *A. schoenoprasum* (chives), and *A. porrum* (leek) were important components in the original design of the vegetable garden at Reynolda. According to the 1921 plan by Thomas

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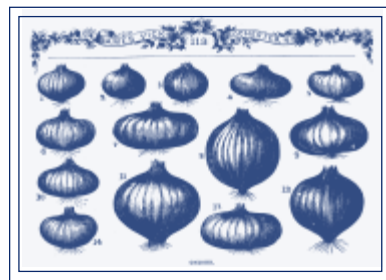
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Sears, landscape architect and designer of Reynolda Gardens, the plants were grown in large groupings within two thirty- by forty-foot plots. The area in which they were planted was within a section of the garden called the Fruit, Cut Flower and Nicer Vegetable Garden. Although these two plots are currently

home to strawberries and rhubarb, during the 1920s they were dedicated to parsley, endive, and of course the *Alliums*. It is interesting to note the role that the leek played in the garden at that time; several gardening books of the early twentieth century considered *A. porrum* to be less known to the culinary world. Specific varieties for these plants were not listed on the 1921 plan.

Of all the *Alliums*, none is more popular and well-known than the onion. *A. cepa* (onion) is grown worldwide, and there are many cultivars that exist to suit one's taste. A 'Mars' is mild flavored and has pink flesh with a red outer skin. 'Buffalo' is a yellow-skinned cultivar that becomes sweeter with several months of storage. Try these in soups or on sandwiches.



THE 1878 VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE FEATURED NUMEROUS ONION VARIETIES. TODAY'S GARDENERS OFTEN LIMIT SELECTIONS TO ONE OR TWO.

A. porrum, as mentioned above, was not popular in the early twentieth century but is now gaining popularity. Leeks are mild in flavor and are a nice addition to soups and other dishes. In addition to its

flavor, the leek adds a nice bold texture to the garden with its flat, blue-gray leaves that can reach three feet long and two inches wide. There exist both spring and fall leeks. It is best to start spring leeks in the greenhouse in February through March and transplant them into the garden when plants reach eight to fifteen inches tall. Harvest time varies with cultivars but is usually between fifty and eighty days. Fall leeks allow harvesting through winter and into the following spring, depending on the cultivar. 'Tardorna' is an example of a fall leek that will overwinter in the ground if the winter is mild.



LEEK (*ALLIUM PORRUM*)

and is surrounded by a white papery outer layer. The foliage usually dies back at this time, leaving no trace above ground of its existence.

Use all parts of *A. schoenoprasum* (chives) in cooking. The leaves, bulbs, and flowers can be used to add

onion flavor to soups or salads. For an alternative to the species look for the cultivar 'Forescate'. It is larger than the species and has deeper pink flowers that appear in summer. Remember to divide the clumps every three years to maintain plant vigor.



GARLIC (*ALLIUM SATIVUM*)

A. tuberosum (garlic chives) is as useful as chives and its chopped leaves are often used in salads and stirfry. Garlic chives and chives may appear similar in the garden, but the leaves of *A. tuberosum* are flat while *A. schoenoprasum* are hollow. Also, the flower color and bloom time are different for each. Garlic chives have a white flower that blooms in late

summer (August), and chives have a pink flower that blooms in late spring to early summer.

Look for these interesting and useful plants in the herb and vegetable garden at Reynolda. ☺

Growing Hardy Ferns

by **Diane Wise**, horticulturist

If you're like me, you've forgotten how long, hot, and dry last summer was. You've forgotten dragging hoses, deadheading, and endless weeding. You've forgotten how happy you were when fall arrived, and you could finally put your garden to bed for the winter. How in the world could you forget so soon??? Because you've just received your first spring gardening catalogue! So many plants, so little time. As you dream and study and ponder, please give some thought to including a few hardy ferns in your landscape plan. I've been successfully growing ferns for years and simply can't imagine my garden without them.

There are many reasons to use ferns in your garden. They offer great variety, ranging in size from one-sixteenth of an inch to sixty feet tall; come in all colors from pale gold to burgundy to silver to blue; and have many uses, including rock gardens, foundation plantings, borders, and containers. But best of all, they're beautiful, inexpensive, relatively easy to find, resistant to pests, and, once established, simple to cultivate.

Okay, you're sold; you'd like to grow ferns but don't know where to start. Guess what? I can help. First, let me recommend a great book, *Ferns for American Gardens*, by John Mickel, Macmillan Publishing Company. Dr. Mickel is curator of ferns at the New York Botanical Garden and a former botany professor. Buy this book and you'll probably never need another one (about ferns, that is). It's well organized, easy to use, and great for the layman or serious student. It's a wonderful resource and well worth the \$60.00 price tag.

Second, I'd like to recommend some ferns to you, the beginner, that I have had great luck with, and I'm sure you will too. All prefer shade but can tolerate some sun, with adequate moisture, and require little in the way of maintenance. Some are evergreen and all are dependable and hardy (meaning they will survive the winter in our climate). You should be able to find all of them at our local nurseries, either by common name or botanical name, which I've also included.

Let's begin with the Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*). You've undoubtedly seen this fern often around our state as it can be found in moist woodlands as well as on rocky, dry slopes. It is particularly noticeable during the winter months when almost everything else is dormant. Christmas fern has evergreen arching fronds of twelve to twenty-four inches long and is somewhat rough textured. In the spring, the fiddleheads are pale silver and covered with tiny hairs. The story is that Christmas fern was so named because its pinnae (leaflets) resemble Santa's boot. I don't think so. Frankly, as a longtime shoe aficionado, this does not look like a Ferragamo to me! My theory is that the fern was a) originally noticed at Christmas due to its dark green color, or b) used in Christmas decorations. So much for that Christmas boot!

Southern lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina asplenoides*) is a real winner. Native to the southeastern United States, it has pale green erect, delicate fronds of sixteen to thirty-six inches long with dark red stipes (stems). Although lady fern is deciduous (loses its leaves during the winter), it is a fast grower and spreads vigorously. In shady, dry woodlands or sunny, moist open areas, this is a fern that deserves to be in every garden.

They don't get any easier than cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*). Named for its cinnamon-colored fertile fronds, this deciduous fern grows from a crown that rests slightly above the surface of the soil. The robust, dark green fronds are thirty to sixty inches tall and thrive in sun or shade. A native of North America, cinnamon fern has a hairy stipe that is often stripped by hummingbirds for use in their nests.

No garden would be complete without the autumn fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora*). Its arching triangular fronds are eighteen to twenty-four inches tall and very showy. Although dark green when mature, the young foliage is glossy gold, bronze, and copper, resembling autumn leaves. Native to Japan and China, this fern is evergreen and remains erect all winter. I knew nothing about the autumn fern when I first included it in my garden. When the new growth emerged, I was convinced that it was "off" colored because I had not cared for it properly. Out came my pruners; off went the

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emerging fronds! Live and learn!

I hope this information will spark your interest in ferns. Rarely have I gotten as much satisfaction from a plant as I have from my ferns, all forty-two varieties. Ferns only look as if they would be difficult to cultivate; most of them are among the easiest plants you'll ever grow. Paired with lungwort (*Pulmonaria*), foamflower (*Tiarella*), columbine (*Aquilegia*), and other native wildflowers, ferns will provide that lush, almost tropical, look to your garden. Try them. You'll be glad you did. ☺

Keeping the Spirit Alive

by **Tom Pratt**, *greenhouse manager*

Congratulations. You've made it through the holiday season. Now a question about your holiday flowers: how are they holding up?

It's so unfortunate to see our beautiful holiday flowers fade before their time. Our homes have been wonderfully graced with holiday plants and for whatever reason(s) they often decline too early in life. I'd like to pass on some information that should help you care for your beautiful flowers.

Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*)

By far our most popular flower for the holiday season, the poinsettia has grown in quantity, variety, and color with each season. Back in the early 1960s the poinsettia was very leggy and difficult to grow indoors. Today the poinsettia is

much easier to grow and handle in the home. The average poinsettia should be nice and colorful for two to six months.

I've listed below some cultural guidelines that will extend the life of your poinsettia. It's best to water the soil thoroughly when soil surface becomes dry. Keep your poinsettia in bright light where temperatures stay between sixty and seventy degrees. As the bracts age they will become a muddy-green color. Once the poinsettias fade most people will discard them to the compost pile; however, with a little trim and some extra care poinsettias can be recycled. Prune back branches to about eight inches in height. Once the weather stays above fifty degrees outside you can place your poinsettia outdoors and grow it as a foliage plant. To get it to flower again, keep it out of artificial light at night after October first. The bracts should start to color around the first of November.

Christmas Cactus (*Zygocactus truncatus*)

The Christmas cactus has beauty and grace unlike any other holiday flower. From bud initiation to full flower, the cactus has a charm of its own. The best environment for your cactus is an east facing window shaded from direct sun. Try to keep the temperatures between fifty-five and seventy degrees. While it is flowering, treat it like any other houseplant—water well, then let it dry out some to the touch. If your cactus is happy, it should bloom through mid-January. After flowering, the plant will want rest until the first of April. Keep it where it can receive temperatures around fifty-five degrees. Watering should be minimal, about once every two weeks. From April until mid-September, keep it on the dry side and cool until flower buds form, around November first. Bring it into an east window and enjoy holiday color again.

Cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum*)

One of the most popular winter-flowering pot plants, cyclamen is easy for some to grow and almost impossible for many others. If there is one major key to cyclamen success in your house, it would be cool temperature. Fifty to sixty degrees is ideal. Bright light is good, but keep it away from direct sunlight. Another common downfall with cyclamen is



POINSETTIAS GRACE THE GREENHOUSE.

overwatering. All plant growth comes out of a tuber. Too often homeowners will overwater, and the tuber will begin to rot. It's best to water the soil thoroughly and then allow soil to dry somewhat. Try to keep water off the foliage and crown to keep a healthy tuber.

When happy, cyclamen will bloom for several months. As the bloom cycle drops off, reduce water and stop feeding. Place the pot on its side in a cool spot and keep it dry till mid-summer. Then repot the tuber with fresh soil, burying the tuber to half its depth. Place the pot in a cool spot and start its normal water cycle.

Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum* hybrids)

Amaryllis is considered an indoor bulb, simply for the fact that the amaryllis cannot tolerate frost. Amaryllis while in flower is a thing of beauty. Keep the flower in medium to bright light out of direct sun, keep the soil moist at all times, and feed with liquid fertilizer every other watering. As the flowers fade, cut off the flower stalk and continue to care for it as usual, treating it as a foliage plant. In August place the bulb in a cool location, like the garage or basement, and stop watering. The bulb needs ten weeks of dormancy to develop a new flower bulb. Around the beginning of November take the bulb out and replant it in fresh soil. Start watering it again and place the bulb in a bright, warm spot to initiate flowering.

Paperwhites (*Narcissus papyraceae*)

Paperwhites are garden-type bulbs that are normally planted outside in warmer climates; however, forcing or artificially chilling them will allow them to grow and develop during the holiday season. When forced, they go through a similar growth cycle as if they were growing outdoors. For best growth keep the bulbs in bright light in a location where the temperature is between sixty and seventy degrees. The soil needs to be kept moist at all times. Rotate the bulb pot on occasion to keep growth uniform. Apply a liquid fertilizer about every third watering. Once the flowers fade, cut off the flower stalks and continue care of the foliage until it too fades. Paperwhites do not repeat very well from year to year; therefore, the recommendation for nice showy flowers each season is to start with fresh bulbs. ☺



A Little of Reynolds For Your Home: Grapes

by **Camilla Wilcox**, curator of education

The Fruit, Cut Flower and Nicer Vegetable Garden as designed by Thomas Sears for Mrs. Reynolds in 1921 was full, as the name implies, of flowers and decorative food plants as distinguished from field crops, such as corn. This space, close to two acres in size, was organized into a complex design that incorporated over one hundred and fifty varieties of plants including espalier and dwarf fruit trees, strawberries, rhubarb, gooseberries, roses, gladioli, dahlias, tulips, lilies, cosmos, poppies, and grapes. This is the first in a series of articles in The Gardener's Journal that will appear in this and future issues highlighting the plants of this garden.

Twenty varieties of grapes, covering a long period of ripening and a wide range of color and flavor, both bunch grapes and muscadines, grew trained against the post and rail fences that surrounded the plots of the Fruit, Cut Flower and Nicer Vegetable Garden. Several of the grape vines still in the garden today were probably installed under the direction of Thomas Sears and Mrs. Reynolds. Grapes on the plan are listed below. Some of the varieties are still available commercially; several are recommended for culture in North Carolina by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service.

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Volunteers

Education volunteers led groups of students from local schools on walks through the gardens, greenhouses, and woods.

Trish Baynham
Lib Brandon
Barbara Bryant
Janne Copeland
Joanne Crandall
Diane Crichlow
Helga Dinovi
Pam Faino
Lucy Fasano
Ginny Gunn
Jess Hines
Pat Jacques
Billye Keith Jones
Mike LaVoie
Cynthia Leonard
Peggy Lyle
Heather McCleery
Rachel Murphy
Dina Nieuwenhuis
Jim Nottke
Ellen Reynolds
Jane Rogers
Carole Romano
Judy Scurry
Roberta Smith
Beverly West

Tuesday Gardening Series speakers
Experts in the fields of horticulture and science shared their expertise through programs that are presented free of charge each week from September through November and February through April.

Joyce Adams
Sue Andrews
Rick Benfield
Dr. Denise Blume
Greg Bogard
Ken Crouse
Bill Gould
Bill Green
Joyce Green
Jaye Green
Margie Imus
Charles Isaacs
Pat Jacques
Fred Johnson
Craig Mauney
Janice Nicholson
Jonathan Parsons

Curator of orchids
Greg Bogard

Young Naturalists volunteers led children and provided other assistance for two week-long summer programs.

Kay Bergery
Lucy Fasano
Barbara Kendrick
Caton Lovett

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

It's Pruning Time

by **John Kiger**, assistant director

YOUNG NATURALISTS VOLUNTEERS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Dina Nieuwenhuis
Jim Nottke
Katie Poe
Ellen Reynolds
Jane Rogers
Kaitlin Westmoreland
Kelly Wood

Vegetable garden volunteers
helped plant and maintain the
vegetable gardens.

Marjorie Asel
Dick Brennamann
Jennifer Cannino
Lynne Finney
Sally Gamble
Barbara Griffin
Joe Grigg
Pat Lackey
Bertie Leonardi
Eleanor Leverenz
Helene Mockov
Betsy Nottke
Sophia Rothberger-Kraal
Beverly West
Karen Wilson

The Twin City Garden Club funded
new steps for the woodland
wildflower garden. Members
provide ongoing maintenance of
the garden.

Andy Thomason organized Boy Scouts
in Troop 918, Pfafftown Christian
Church, to clean up an area of the
nature trail as his Eagle project.

Boxwoods

A 1996 *Gardeners Journal* issue featured an article entitled "Returning the Boxwoods to Their Rightful Role in the Border." The purpose of this article was to inform you of the pruning techniques of the English boxwoods at Reynolda Gardens. As you may remember, we pruned them at the request of the landscape architect who wished to recreate the formal look of the original garden.

Not long after that pruning was completed, a visitor from England informed me of another pruning technique her gardener used on her English boxwoods. She referred to it as pillowing. Being a little skeptical, I asked, "What exactly is pillowing?" Fortunately, she had pictures, and what I saw was simply outstanding. Pillowing is basically a form of pruning or thinning of English boxwood.

If you're like me, you like to try new and interesting things in the landscape. If this technique sounds interesting to you, begin by surveying the plant. If you step back and notice, you'll see that mature English boxwood takes on a cloud-like appearance (see photo below). Irregularities in the



lengths of branches and twigs create small valleys that meander throughout the plant. The area where these valleys occur is where you want to prune. Reach inside and snap away twigs, following the contours of the valleys. You should not create wide gaps in the surface of the plant—the newly pruned contour should not exceed two inches in width. In other words, notice how the plant looks dark where two mounds meet. What you're trying to do is further define these recessed areas. It is beneficial to the health of the plant to do

some sort of thinning since it promotes new growth. This method will not hurt the plant and, if you don't like the new look, it will grow back quickly. Pillowing is considered a light pruning and can be performed at most any time of the year. If a more drastic pruning is needed, the American Boxwood Society recommends doing that in early winter.

Crepe myrtles

Creating interest in the landscape is something everyone desires. Achieving this is easy with a little effort and knowing when to prune. For example, since crepe myrtles flower on new wood, February is the correct time to prune them. They may be pruned using methods used for shrub pruning; that is, it is not necessary to try to cut branches back to collars as you would for trees. In multistemmed plants, cuts should vary in height so the plant doesn't send up new growth of equal length. Even if you're trying to control the height of a large-growing plant, pruning should emphasize the natural form of the crepe myrtle. The natural growth of any shrub is irregular—you never see "doorknob" shrubs growing in nature.

Azaleas

As common as azaleas are, I still hear "I pruned my azaleas last fall, and they didn't bloom at all this spring. Why?" After flowering, azaleas begin to form new buds for next spring. It is recommended that pruning be performed immediately after flowering to reduce bud loss. By late summer the plant has produced the flowers for next year. A few of my favorite early-blooming varieties of azaleas are 'Coral Bells', 'Delaware Valley' (a white form was used in the 1917 Sears design), and 'Hershey's Red'; for mid-season 'G.G. Gerbing', 'Pink Camellia', and 'George Tabor'; and for late season 'Gumpo', 'Pleasant White', and 'Harris Purple'. These can be found at most nurseries. When you choose azaleas at the nursery, be sure to ask about the mature height and width. If you choose the right size azalea for your space, pruning is unnecessary.

Other pruning you can do in February:

Prune dead wood and suckers from fruit trees and camellias (after flowering). Cut back butterfly bush and ornamental grasses such as pampas, cut back liriope and mondo grass. ☺

Many of us have bunch grapes and/or muscadines and know that the pruning techniques of these plants differ. Pruning of grapevines must be performed each year in order to avoid alternate fruit bearing years. Although pruning is not difficult to do, when you look at the intertwining mass from last year's growth, you may scratch your head and wonder, "Where do I start?"

Before I go any further, let me introduce you to a few technical terms I will use:

- ☉ *Cordon* is basically the arm or branch of the plant growing off the trunk.
- ☉ *Spur* refers to the canes, which grow from the cordon.
- ☉ *Buds* are where new growth forms and is attached to the spur.

Both bunch and muscadine grapes can be pruned in February. Pruning techniques depend on how your grapes are growing. If you have them trained on a trellis or fence, these directions will help you prune the vines for maximum fruit production. If the vine is growing in a mass on an arbor system, simply do selective pruning by reaching through and cutting to maintain the vines within the desired boundaries.

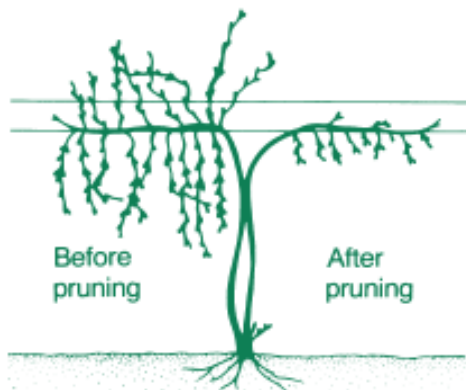
For bunch grapes as well as muscadines, the best way to start pruning is to trim all the old spurs, staying twelve to sixteen inches away from the cordon. (This is the only pruning similarity between the two plants). Doing this will allow you a good perspective of the plant so that proper cuts can be achieved.

Bunch grapes

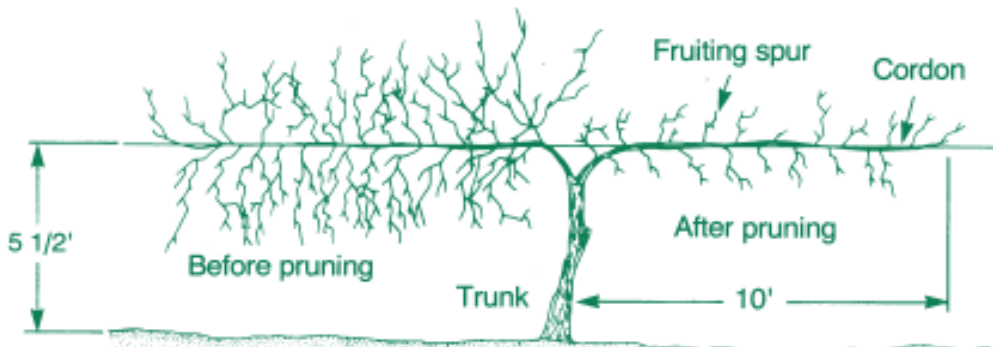
Prune all spurs to four buds, leaving approximately four to six inches between spurs. It is also recommended that spurs be grown or trained in a downward fashion from the cordon. Spurs growing from the top of the cordon have a tendency to break when loaded with fruit.

Muscadines

For maximum results, retain twenty two-bud spurs for every ten feet of cordon. Due to the growth habit of muscadines, spur orientation (up or down), is irrelevant. ☉



COMPLETED BILATERAL CORDON TRAINING SYSTEM FOR GRAPES. *LEFT:* HIGH-WIRE SYSTEM FOR USE WITH AMERICAN BUNCH VARIETIES. SPURS ARE TRAINED DOWNWARD. SPURS SHOULD BE PRUNED TO FOUR BUDS AND SPACED FOUR TO SIX INCHES APART ALONG THE CORDON. *BELOW:* SYSTEM FOR MUSCADINE VARIETIES. ESSENTIALLY A HIGH-WIRE SYSTEM, BUT THE GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE GRAPES PREVENTS TRAINING SPURS IN A DOWNWARD DIRECTION. ABOUT TWENTY TWO-BUD SPURS SHOULD BE RETAINED FOR EACH 10-FOOT CORDON; THE SPUR ORIENTATION IS UNIMPORTANT. (ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY NORTH CAROLINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE.)



Awards...

Reynolda Gardens received two awards in the fall of 1999.

The Community Appearance Commission of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County awarded the Community Appearance Commission Award for 1999-2000 to Wake Forest University's Reynolda Gardens Restoration Project. The commission granted the award "for visionary leadership over time through the maintenance and restoration of Reynolda Gardens, recreating and preserving a community treasure for the continued delight and education of the public."

In celebration of its organization's centennial, the American Association of Landscape Architects awarded the ASLA Centennial Medallion to 362 sites across the United States that are determined "to have inspired their communities, created a sense of serenity, and contributed to our culture." Reynolda Gardens was one of ten sites in North Carolina to receive this prestigious award.

...and Recognition

In addition, the restoration of the formal gardens will be featured in the National Park Service's online publication *Currents*. The article chronicles the history of the gardens, the philosophy behind the restoration, the restoration process, and the educational importance of the garden. The article was written by Dale Jaeger, whose firm The Jaeger Company directed the restoration. The Web address for *Currents* Cultural Landscape, A Program of the National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative is www2.cr.nps.gov/hli/currents/ ☉

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Bunch grapes

Early varieties of bunch grapes were selected seedlings of the native *Vitis lambrusca*, also known as the fox grape.



HEIRLOOM GRAPES AT REYNOLDA



GARDEN MAGAZINE, FEBRUARY 1923

“IN THE AVERAGE GARDEN AS WELL AS ON THE MARKET THE SEASON FOR GRAPES IS UNREASONABLY SHORT. WHILE NO STRIKING NEW SORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO CORRECT THE TROUBLE, THE PRESENT PRACTICE OF GROWING ONLY CONCORD AND CATAWBA IN THE GREAT MAJORITY OF GARDENS AND COMMERCIAL VINEYARDS GIVES A FALSE IMPRESSION OF THE POSSIBILITIES. TWENTY YEARS AGO MORE VARIETIES OF GRAPES WERE GROWN THAN IN NURSERIES TO-DAY. COMMERCIAL GRAPE GROWERS DISCARDED MANY OF THE EARLIER AND LATER SORTS BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT BE HANDLED AS CHEAPLY AS CONCORD, WITH THE RESULT THAT NUMEROUS FANCY AND DELICIOUS SORTS CAN HARDLY BE PURCHASED AT ALL NOW.”
“LENGTHENING THE SEASON OF FRUITS”—J. R. MATTERN, *GARDEN MAGAZINE*, FEBRUARY 1923

Black: ‘Worden’, ‘Campbell’s’, ‘Moore’s Early’

In the 1920s ‘Worden’ and ‘Concord’ were the most frequently grown grapes for juice. ‘Worden’, with a taste similar to ‘Concord’, ripens a little earlier than ‘Concord’, thus extending the period for harvesting grapes for juice. The 1919 retail price list for the J. Van Lindley Nursery in Pomona, N.C., one of the suppliers for Reynolda plants, lists ‘Campbell’s’ as a “standard bunch variety.” ‘Moore’s Early’ was included in a discussion of the most often cultivated grapes of the northern part of the South in L. H. Bailey’s 1936 *Cyclopedia of Horticulture*. (Others included in this discussion that are listed on the 1921 Sears plan are ‘Niagara’, ‘Diamond’, and ‘Worden’.)

Red: ‘Delaware’, ‘Catawba’, ‘Brighton’, ‘Lutie’, ‘Lindley’, ‘Salem’

‘Delaware’ is recommended by the Cooperative Extension Service for our area. Its small red fruit in small clusters ripens mid-season. ‘Catawba’ produces large grapes with an unusual sweet and tangy flavor. ‘Lutie’, an early red, was included in the Lindley Nursery list of standard bunch grapes. ‘Lindley’, another early red, was not included in this list but was believed by L. H. Bailey to have good keeping qualities, a general all-purpose grape. ‘Salem’ was listed as Roger’s hybrid number 53 in the Detroit Seed Company Seed Catalog of 1870.

White: ‘Niagara’ and ‘Winchell’

‘Niagara’ is recommended by the Cooperative Extension Service for our area. A seedling of ‘Concord’ discovered in 1872, it has become a leading variety. ‘Winchell’ was also known as ‘Green Mountain’.

Purple: ‘Concord’ and ‘Brilliant’

Although ‘Concord’ is not recommended for Piedmont

gardeners by some experts, it often grows well in this area and is worth a try if you like the taste. It is the leading juice grape. ‘Brilliant’ was listed in the 1918 *Garden Guide: The Amateur Gardener’s Handbook* as one of the “good Northern black varieties.”

Yellow: ‘Diamond’

The 1923 February issue of *Garden Magazine* listed ‘Diamond’ along with several others, including ‘Delaware’, ‘Brighton’, ‘Winchell’, and ‘Lindley’ among “the earliest ripening high quality sorts.”

Muscadine

The muscadine grape, native to the South, is a vigorous grower. The early varieties were selected seedlings of the native grape *V. rotundifolia*, also known as Southern fox grape or bull grape. Many are not self-pollinating, so it is often necessary to grow a grape such as ‘Carlos’ (bronze) or ‘Nesbitt’ (black) as a pollen source.

Black: ‘Flowers’, ‘James’, ‘Memory’, ‘Mish’, and ‘Thomas’

‘Thomas’ and ‘Scuppernong’ are widely grown in North Carolina. The others were listed in the 1977 edition of *Wyman’s Garden Encyclopedia* as well-known varieties. ‘Mish’ was considered a good wine grape and ‘Flowers’, very productive.

Bronze: ‘Scuppernong’

One of the oldest varieties in cultivation, it has been cultivated for at least two centuries. ☺



POST AND RAIL FENCES SUPPORTED GRAPEVINES, ESPALIER FRUIT TREES, AND OTHER VINES.

And a little more of Reynolda for your home: Two special irises

by **Preston Stockton**, director

The iris belongs to a family of plants that is very popular in this country for its beautiful flowers in spring and early summer. The plant is named after the goddess 'Iris', the Greek messenger of the gods whose rainbow spanned the gap between heaven and earth. It is often called the rainbow flower. From ancient times it has stood as a symbol of power and majesty. The Egyptians placed it on the brow of the sphinx and the scepter of their kings. The three petals symbolized faith, wisdom, and valor. The *Iris* genus is incredibly diverse. Their natural habitats range from sea level swamps to alpine meadows. Their underground storage organs vary from bulbs to rhizomes.

Thomas Sears used five species of irises at Reynolda to great effect. The April blooming Dutch iris (*I. xiphium* cultivars) and the June blooming Spanish iris (*I. xiphium*) grow around the lion's head fountain. The May blooming *Iris x germanica* var. *Florentina* and June blooming Siberian iris were placed in the Pink and White garden. In late June the Japanese iris (*I. ensata*) is in bloom near the fountain. Three months of beautiful and variable flowers are provided by this one genus. All of the irises grown at Reynolda are beautiful, but I have found two to be especially interesting.

Japanese water iris

The Japanese water iris is an incredibly beautiful iris with large flat heads on slender stems. We grow the variety 'Henry's White' here at Reynolda because it is a close match with the one named on the original design, but there is a large variety of color—from white to blue, lavender, orchid, rose, deep violet, and purple—with various patterns of veining from which modern gardeners can choose. The most dramatic aspect of the flower is the very large size. The natural habitat for this group is the wet grasslands throughout Japan, Manchuria, Northern China, Korea, and

Siberia. They have long been cultivated in Japan as an ornamental. In 1694 it was recorded that eight cultivars were grown. By the first half of the nineteenth century there were hundreds, including the first double.

The wild Japanese iris has flowers with pendant, thin falls and erect standards, but cultivation has resulted in wider falls held almost horizontal. Traditionally there are three flower shapes that correspond to the area in Japan where they were developed.

- The Isle flower resembles the wild flower with drooping falls and narrow petals. It is usually pastel.
- The Edo flower is more horizontal and may be single or double. The falls do not overlap and have a triangular shape.
- The Higo cultivars have the largest flowers, up to twelve inches. They were jealously guarded by the Japanese and were not available to the West until after 1914. These are the most popular today. The flowers are single or double and have horizontal falls that are broad and overlap. Modern tetraploid cultivars have large flowers with thicker petals and more intense coloring.

Despite their dramatic beauty, they are not difficult to grow. They basically need a slightly acidic soil (pH of 5.5 – 6.5) and plenty of water while forming flower buds and while in bloom. They will not tolerate lime or very dry soil. Many growers place them next to ponds or streams, but you must be careful that their crowns are not covered by water for long periods of time, especially in the winter.

Most Japanese iris cultivars grow thirty to thirty-nine inches tall when in flower. The flowers are usually five to nine inches across, but some may exceed twelve inches. Plants are generally free of pests, although the dreaded aphid may be a problem in early spring. A shot of insecticidal soap once or twice should take care of them.

Unlike other irises that can tolerate years of overcrowding, Japanese iris should be divided every three to five years or they will lose vigor and eventually die. This is one reason that old varieties have not persisted as well as others and are hard to find. Plants should be divided after blooming or in the fall. The soil should be

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JAPANESE WATER IRIS



Spanish Iris

PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY BY
REYNOLDA GARDENS OF
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Communications about Gardens development should be addressed to Preston Stockton. Correspondence concerning *The Gardener's Journal* should be addressed to Camilla Wilcox, editor.

Photographs by Ken Bennett, Preston Stockton, and Ellen Reynolds.

A calendar of events is published separately in January and September.

Layout by David Fyten

For a list of sources for plants mentioned in *The Gardener's Journal*, please send a SASE to Reynolda Gardens, 100 Reynolda Village, Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

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enriched with compost or other organic matter. These need more fertilizer than most irises, so a dressing of a complete fertilizer in the spring will ensure good growth and flowering.

Iris x germanica var. *Florentina*

Iris x germanica var. *Florentina* is a form of bearded iris that has been grown for centuries. It has a white flower with a slight lavender tint and bright yellow on the falls. It, along with *I. x germanica* and *I. pallida*, have been grown commercially in Italy and southern Europe for a product called orris root.

In ancient Rome and Greece orris root was used in perfumery and for medicinal uses. The principal

use of the dried root today is in perfumery. Oil of orris, obtained by distilling powdered orris root, has an intense smell of fresh violets. The fragrant constituent of oil of orris is a ketone named Irone. Orris root also has the power of strengthening the odor of other fragrances and is used as a fixative in perfumes, powders, and potpourri.

This iris is easily grown in our area. Just like the bearded irises so common in today's garden, it grows from fleshy rhizomes that are planted with one-third of the rhizome above ground



JAPANESE IRISES AT FOUNTAIN IN REYNOLDA GARDENS.

exposed to the sun. It needs full sun but will grow in partial shade. Soil should be well drained with a nearly neutral pH. Good drainage is especially important in the winter. Plants should be divided every three to five years for maximum bloom. This should be done in August when the plant is dormant.

The iris borer can be a serious pest in this area. The larvae tunnel in the rhizomes, which causes physical damage and opens the rhizomes to bacterial soft rot. Infected rhizomes should be dug up and destroyed. Aphids and thrips can cause damage to flowers and leaves and should be sprayed with insecticides. ☺



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