

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Making it Right

Have you walked down the touchstone paver walkway in Ebetsu Plaza and noticed, or should we say *'not noticed'* the names fading on some of the pavers?

Unfortunately, the original pavers had an aggregate in the cement, making them excessively hard to engrave. It compromised the integrity of the entire process. Over this past year, the engraving on these pavers has deteriorated, causing poor readability.

We fixed the problem in 2020 by changing paver manufacturer and the engraving method. In addition, in 2021

we added a black stain that is sprayed on the engraved areas to really make them pop—with a 40-year life span.

We can't thank our inaugural paver donors enough for giving us the confidence and support to build the endowment fund, and we have an obligation to you to right the wrong.

The original pavers are all being replaced...

The original pavers are all being replaced and recycled for other usage. You'll be able to walk the pathway again and read your or your loved one's name!



PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

枯山水

karesansui

Zen Garden

Purchasing a paver is considered a tax-deductible donation, and 100% of the proceeds is held in an Endowment Fund with Dino Rocha at Edward Jones.

Order yours today for \$125.00 — they're beautiful!



Pruning Nandina 'domestica'

Source: *Sukiya Living Magazine*

There are many varieties of nandina that can look good in your landscape. *Nandina domestica* is an evergreen shrub used as an accent in western Japanese gardens. It is not a bamboo of any sort, even though Westerners sometimes try and give it the ill-advised name of 'heavenly bamboo'. It is a useful shrub because it grows well in partially shady spots, (poorly in direct summer sun), offers a visual interest in each of the four seasons, and is a tough, adaptable plant.



Nandina domestica is normally maintained at a height of 6'-9', but the garden keeps its at 4'-6'. Stems grow straight up from the bottom. Although foliage will persist on old stems, flowers and berries will only appear on new

growth. One way to encourage berry production is to root prune the shrub around its perimeter with a sharp spade. If the stems becomes too long and leggy, or if the shrub becomes too crowded, prohibiting good air flow, the appearance can be improved by cutting some of the old stems back to the ground (See Fig 1). This type of pruning can be done in early spring. If you wait too long in the spring, you run the risk of cutting off the buds that produce the berries the following season.

Another pruning technique when the shrub becomes too tall for the space is to shorten the upper stems by cutting just above the petiole (See Fig 1). This is often done in the winter when the shrub is dormant and the red berries are harvested for ikebana arranging.

Little scientific research has been done

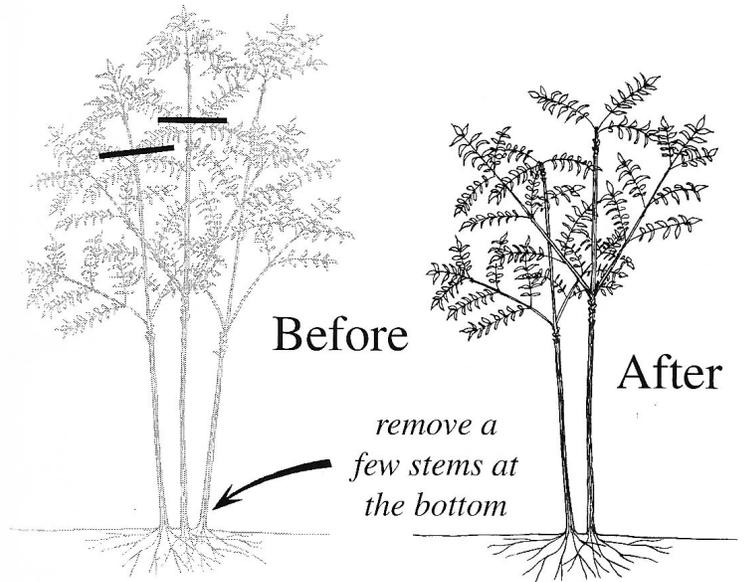


Fig 1 - Pruning

with nandinas, but it appears that too much nitrogen in the soil will result in more leaves and roots, but weaker fall color and fewer berries. Feeding nandinas used tea leaves sometimes makes the fruit brighter in color. Moist humus in the soil also helps to improve berry color and the dark shine on the leaves.

The GJG uses nandina varieties on Tsuru Island for their winter color. Watch [Ask Jims! Fall Color video](#) for usage of *nandina domestica* and *nandina firepower*.



GARDENER'S TIP

March is a good time to plant cold crops such as kale, cauliflower, Brussel sprouts, broccoli, sweet peas, and cabbage. As the weather warms, plants will appreciate nutrient supplements, the more organic the better.

Your lawn would appreciate aeration and reseedling in the bare spots too. Monitor for slugs and set out mason bees to help with spring pollination.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer

Reader Board



Post your messages at Gresham Japanese Garden's Community Reader Board located at the farthest end of Main City Park.

Tag the Garden



Don't produce enough cans to bother with a Bottle Drop account? Or, maybe you just like us. Either way, we'd be thrilled to accept the redemption from your bottles and cans.

Drop us an email, and we'll arrange to get you a couple of our labeled bags. Easy peasy and thank you!

info@greshamjapanesegarden.com

Hina Matsuri, Spring Festival, Celebrates Girls

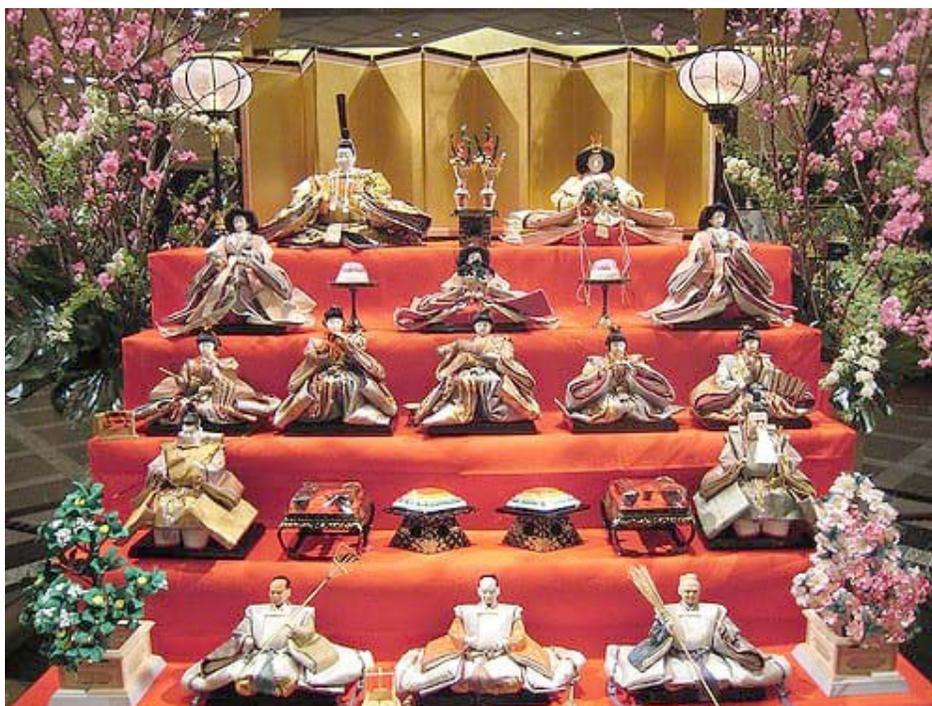
by Mary Dickson

Japanese people love festivals that celebrate historical events, special people, or local customs. March 3rd is Hina Matsuri, known for many years as “Girl’s Day.” It’s also called “Doll’s Day” because of the elaborate doll sets that decorate homes where a daughter lives. Families pray for their health, prosperity, and good fortune.

Hina Matsuri is one of five *sekku* (seasonal festivals). Each includes special foods and decorations, just like our holidays. Unlike many public festivals throughout Japan, Hina Matsuri is more family-oriented, especially honoring the girls in the family. Hina Matsuri doll sets are often passed down through the generations, but parents or grandparents sometimes purchase a new set before a girl’s first festival. The dolls can be very simple, but are often in a complex set, with intricate costumes. They are dressed like court nobles from the Heian period (AD 794-1185).

According to Danny Tiang, writing on the Bokksu.com blog, people celebrated a similar festival where they prayed for good fortune. They placed straw or paper dolls on a raft and pushed them down the river, as they believed the dolls would carry away evil spirits and calamity. During the Edo Period (1603-1868), people began displaying these dolls in their homes.

Danny explains, “The ornate dolls are



Typical Hina Matsuri doll sets

arranged in a tiered order on a red carpet or platform called a *hinadan*.

Two dolls known as the *dairi-bina* sit at the top, and represent the Emperor and Empress. For many families, this is the only tier displayed, but there can be up to 6 tiers. On the next platform sit three *san-nin kanjo*, or court ladies. Musicians of the court or *gon-nin bayashi* sit on the third tier, with each of them holding a different musical instrument.

On the fourth platform sit two ministers, or *daijin* featuring a table with gifts for the couple. They may also be known as the couple’s bodyguards.

Three helpers or *shicho* sit on the fifth

level, and they are usually depicted as different types of drinkers. One cries while another laughs, and the third sits in anger. There may also be a mandarin orange tree or sakura tree on this level. The bottom platforms display various household items.

Certain tiers, figurine placement, accessories, and number may vary according to familial or regional traditions. This ornate display is usually featured in one’s home beginning in February and taken down quickly on March 3rd.” According to Japanese tradition, leaving the dolls up for too long will hurt a daughter’s chances of getting married.

Celebrate O-Hanami with Us

Hanami means “flower watching” in Japanese. The practice of O-Hanami is many centuries old and a long-standing Japanese tradition of welcoming spring. People come together, drink and eat together, and enjoy themselves under the beautiful flower blossoms.

In 2018, the GJG planted 12 Akebo-

no cherry trees in Ebetsu Plaza and Ambleside Annex. Last year’s prime viewing time was the first week in April.

*Oregon Koto-Kai playing
Tuesday, April 5th
12pm-12:30pm*

To celebrate O-Hanami this year, GJG has invited Oregon Koto-Kai to play



Tuesday, April 5th, from 12pm-12:30pm in the Plaza. Bring a lunch, sit underneath the blossoming boughs of the cherry trees, relax to the sounds of Japanese harps, and enjoy.

Learning from Nature in the Garden

by Jim Buck

When you venture into a old growth forest, look at the flora nearest the ground, what do you notice? You rarely see a mass of the same type of plant. There might be sword ferns, but they are mixed with Oregon grape, vancouveria, salmonberry, thimbleberry, bunchberry and a host of other species.

The plants look healthy and they seem to stay vigorous year after year. While there are slugs and other predators in the forest, these plants do not look ravaged, as many of the plants in our gardens do. One of the reasons is that we put our scrumptious veggies like lettuce in groups or rows that serve as a magnet for predators.

If gardeners adopted the characteristics of the natural forest, their garden plants would tend to grow better. Predators

wouldn't easily find veggies scattered among other plants that they don't like as well, or next to herbs with aromas that discourage predators.

We used to think plants competed for the same nutrients in the soil, but scientists are finding that plants often share nutrients with each other below the surface of the soil. They collaborate and engage in a give and take through soil networks that are filled with fungi and bacteria that aid the process.

This is also the reason you want to rejuvenate soils with organic matter like compost and manure and employ cover crops. When you learn that each teaspoon of soil has 5,000 bacteria, which doesn't count larger organisms also present, you understand how much activity is occurring underground.

One subject in the organic gardening



Jim Buck, Organic Gardener

class will be companion planting: what vegetables don't grow well together and which ones do. See how to register below for my "Organic Gardening Fundamentals" class.

2022 Spring Classes - Free



SPRING PRUNING TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

**Saturday, March 19, 1-2:30pm
IN PERSON**

Jim Card, Garden Director, will cover techniques of pruning with a focus on aesthetic pruning. He will demonstrate pruning techniques on shrubs and trees in the Garden.

He will also cover:

- Basics of aesthetic pruning
- Plant groupings
- Feeding and mulching
- Tool maintenance

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/class-registration/>



ORGANIC GARDENING FUNDAMENTALS

**Monday, April 4 - 6:30-8pm IN PERSON
Wed, April 6 - 6:30-8pm ON ZOOM**

Jim Buck, an avid organic gardener since childhood, has a strong interest in native plants and their uses by indigenous tribes. In this class, Jim will cover how to improve your garden's health and our environment by growing organically. The class will include soil preparation, planting succession tips, companion planting, avoiding diseases, different types of composting, and elements of permaculture.

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/class-registration/>



POLLINATORS FOR YOUR YARD

**Saturday, May 21, 1-2:30pm
IN PERSON**

Join Deb Peters in the Garden's greenhouse for a discussion on native host plants for butterflies and how to create a pollinator yard.

Learn where and how to plant milkweed and other pollinators to attract butterflies and other pollinators. Learn about keeping mason bees, too.

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/class-registration/>