

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



We're Halfway to Our Goal



Our hearts are full, and our bank account is bigger. We have raised \$25,500 out of the project's projected cost of \$50,000!

The online auction kicked off with the in-person event, taking place on a day we got a bunch of snow. We were happy it didn't deter people from joining us.

If there's a positive about Covid, it's the acceptance of online auctions. In-person auctions require a ton of effort and upfront costs, but with Covid, not only have software developers figured it out, people are much more

accepting of shopping online. We are grateful to everyone who participated and to our generous community donors!

As we look ahead to raise the next \$25,000, we'll be selling raffle tickets to vacation destinations, and hopefully another auction and a springtime event at the Garden.



PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

雪ちるや一本草のひよろひよると
yuki chiru ya ippon kusa no hyoro-hyoro to
snow falling—one blade of grass, trembling
— Issa 1925

Sponsors are the backbone of a fundraiser!



The Secrets to Successful Gardens

Experienced Japanese gardeners would all say that proper maintenance is the key to a beautiful Japanese garden. One of the essential maintenance tasks is pruning.

Tree pruning is a task that can go on for decades. It's also one of the most complicated and difficult to master. If a tree has been neglected, or has never been pruned, it will most likely be dense with crossing branches and wild growth in every direction. Deciduous trees in particular often become too dense. Keeping the interior airy and sunny, lessens insect and deadwood problems.

Correct some of the most important problems and then stop. Patiently wait until next year to tackle other problems.



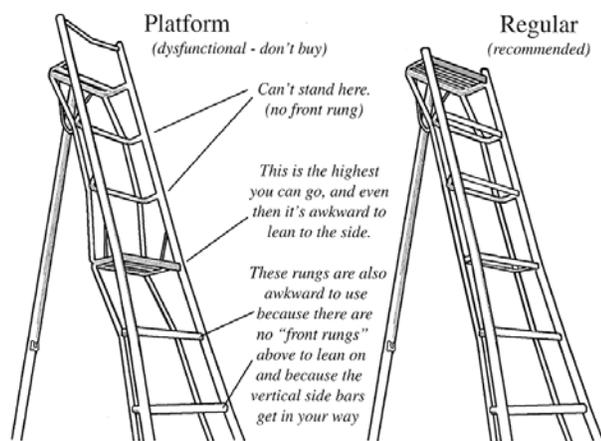
The key to a good pruner is exercising patience. Devise a three-year plan. There should be short, medium and long-term goals to achieve the desired results.

What is the purpose? Is the tree the focal point or a background plant? What can be pruned now? How much can you prune now? Aesthetics plays a role in this plan, but the health of the tree should be your highest priority.

Severe pruning should be avoided at all costs, especially if the tree is under stress from such factors as drought, extreme sun or shade conditions, soil compaction, or transplanting. Pruning frequently and moderately is better than pruning dramatically once a year. Remember, patience is a virtue!

Pruning should improve and enhance the plant; it should never harm and usually shouldn't be noticeable.

This is best accomplished by respecting the basic habit and branching patterns of the tree or shrub.



Platform tripod ladder versus a regular tripod ladder

What is the natural shape of the tree; Upright, spreading, weeping? Prune to the natural growth and expected reaction of the tree. One arborist told GJG, "don't try and defy the natural growth habit of the tree, because the tree is always going to win."

And last, sharp, high-quality tools are essential for good results. Bypass shears, snippers or scissors, lopper, saw, and an extended pruner are your best friends. Also, investing in a safe, quality, regular tripod ladder will save time and make climbing easier.

Source: Sukiya Living - 2015



GARDEN REDESIGN Questions to Consider

Layers: Can I use a trellis or pergola to extend vegetation higher?

Sustainability: What native shrubs or flowers can I plant to help pollinators?

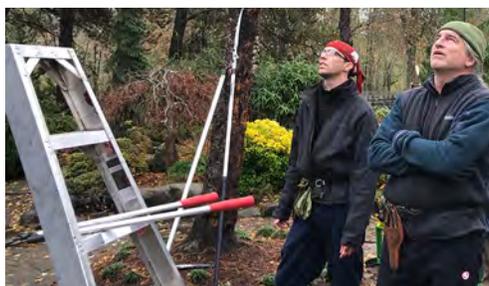
Soil nutrition: Should I begin a compost pile to help rejuvenate my soil?

Diversity and aesthetics: What plants would add seasonal colors and textures?

Spring: What seeds should I order to start indoors?

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer
and Organic Gardener

Pruning Help



Last month the Garden received some professional pruning services from the instructors who will be teaching our pruning classes (see back).

Who you don't see in this photo is Francheska. She's climbed 15 feet high into the pine tree. Bill and Lincoln are the eyes on the ground advising her on what limbs to cut.

Damage to the Shadehouse



The planted trees and shrubs survived the winter storm. Even the greenhouse came out of the storm with no damage. But, the shade house and plant inventory did not. The wind ripped off the shade cloth from its frame and threw plants around like they were skipping stones.

Our volunteers will have plenty of work to come back to in the new year.

Oshogatsu Rings in the New Year in Japan

by Mary Dickson

Imagine you are in Japan in December. Toward the end of the month, you will clean your house thoroughly and pay off your debts. You may go back to your home town. Starting on New Year's Eve, schools and businesses will close for several days, up to two weeks.



Prior to the festivities on New Year's Eve, you would send *nengajo* to your friends. These special cards make the Japanese postal system very busy, striving to deliver millions of them

on New Year's Day.

From late December through the 31st, you would say to your friends, *yoi otoshi-o*. From January 1, your say, *akemashite omedeto gozaimasu*. Both mean "Happy New Year" and "Congratulations for the New Year" which is beginning.



You might also make (or buy) *kadomatsu* decoration made of bamboo, pine, and plum branches. These materials represent longevity, prosperity,

and sturdiness. The Garden wraps its entrance pillars with *kadomatsu*. Other decorations include *kagami-mochi* (a rice cake) and *shimekazari* (New Year's wreath).

On New Year's Eve, you will hear *joya no kane*, Buddhist temple bells being rung 108 times, symbolizing the number of desires people have, like anger and jealousy, and their relationship to human suffering. The bell-ringing cleanses your heart, mind, and soul for the year ahead.

If you were at Tokyo Disney, you could watch the fireworks display. You would find a stand and have a cup of *toshikoshi* soba, long buckwheat noodles which represent long life and prosperity.

You might catch a couple of hours of



Huge bell being rung by the priests just before midnight on December 31, 2010, when I celebrated New Year's in Tokyo.

sleep, but you'd better get up in time for *hatsuhinode*, watching the first sunrise of the New Year, a time for reflection and praying for good fortune and happiness.



Here's the throng of people when I participated in hatsumode on January 1, 2011.

Though Japan is not religious in the same way as the US, many people observe *hatsumode*, the first shrine visit. Here you would make wishes for the new year, offer prayers, and buy lucky charms. The atmosphere around shrines is festive, with food booths and souvenirs reflecting the zodiac sign for the year. In 2023, it is the rabbit.



Corn Stand

Even with a snack of corn, all this celebrating will make you hungry. You can look forward to *osechi ryori*, traditional foods for the holiday, each of which is



Osechi ryori, traditional foods for the holiday.

symbolic. This tradition started in the Heian Era, between 794 and 1185. You will eat this meal, considered the most important meal of the year in Japan, with special chopsticks called *iwai-bashi*.

In addition to all this symbolism, New Year's in Japan has many fun aspects. Children look forward to *otoshidama*, envelopes containing cash that they get from relatives.

A really fun tradition is fukubukoro, bags that you buy in stores without knowing what's in them

A really fun tradition is *fukubukoro*, bags that you buy in stores without knowing what's in them. They contain leftover goods the store wants to get rid of. You are always guaranteed that the value is significantly higher than what you pay, and some stores include very high-value items such as plane tickets to Hawaii. When someone opens a *fukubukoro* of high value, a loud cheer goes up in the crowd.

No matter how you celebrate New Year's, the Gresham Japanese Garden wishes you health and happiness in 2023. *Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu!*



Aesthetic Pruning Program - Winter Schedule

Fundamentals of Pruning, Zoom: Thursday, February 9th, 6:00-8:00pm

LINCOLN PROUD, INSTRUCTOR: See website for bio.

In the Fundamentals of Pruning course students will cover more than just how to make cuts and shape plants within the landscape. Topics discussed will range from why we prune, what tools should be used, and even some basic plant biology—all of which form the foundation and provide the necessary background knowledge needed to prune woody plants correctly. After covering these synergistic topics, the instructor will discuss how to approach a variety of plants found in landscapes.

Fundamentals of Pruning Course Recap, Onsite: Saturday, February 11th, 12:30-1:30pm

This is an optional one-hour Course Recap to the Fundamentals of Pruning course.

Introduction to Aesthetic Pruning Approach, Zoom: Thursday, March 9th, 6:00-8:00pm

MARYANN LEWIS, INSTRUCTOR: See website for bio.

Learn to apply the aesthetic pruning approach to trees and shrubs in your garden, including how to assess your tree, identify the role it will play in your garden, and develop a pruning plan to achieve your goals.

Introduction to Aesthetic Pruning Approach Course Recap, Onsite: Saturday, March 11th, 12:30-1:30pm

This is an optional one-hour Course Recap to the Introduction to Aesthetic Pruning Approach course.

Assessing and Pruning in an Overgrown Landscape, Zoom: Thursday, April 13th, 6:00-8:00pm

FRANCHESKA SNYDER, INSTRUCTOR: See website for bio.

Managing an overgrown landscape can be overwhelming. How do you even start? Learn ways to gracefully bring your landscape back into a scaled composition.

Assessing and Pruning in an Overgrown Landscape Course Recap, Onsite: Saturday, April 15th, 12:30-1:30pm

This is an optional one-hour Course Recap to the Assessing and Pruning in an Overgrown Landscape course

Pruning Workshop at Vanport International, Onsite: Saturday, May 6th, 9am-3pm

In addition to the Zoom classes and onsite Recaps, GJG is offering a hands-on all-day workshop in May. The workshop will be limited to 12 participants with two instructors for an optimal learning experience.

COSTS

Pruning Course (Zoom): \$45 ea. | **Course Recap (Onsite):** \$20 ea. | **All-day Workshop (Onsite):** \$100

Register and Pay at: <https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/happenings/pruning-program/>

Upcoming Workshops

IKEBANA FOR THE SEASON

Tuesday, January 10, 1:00-2:30pm

NANA BELLERUD, INSTRUCTOR



Nana Bellerud will use plant material that resonates for the season. She will cover the basic concept, techniques, tools and equipment, and plant care. Participants will make 1 basic style and 1 freestyle with emphasis on the seasonal theme. The cost includes all material. **Cost: \$45**

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/happenings/ikebana-for-every-season/>

THE ART OF BONSAI

Third Thursday and Saturday, 1-3:00pm

MARK VOSSBRINK, INSTRUCTOR

Learn bonsai techniques and concepts from instructor Mark Vossbrink. A different project is introduced each month. Bring pruners or snippers and pliers to class. The cost includes all material. **Cost: \$35**

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/product/art-of-bonsai/>