

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Completing the Kyōdō Garden



A beautiful large pinus thunbergii from Bentwood Tree Nursery, (see [December newsletter](#)) is coming to adorn Kyodo Garden. We temporarily placed a maple tree in the garden box knowing we were being gifted this pine.

So, next time you stroll through Main City Park, stop at the Kyodo Garden and notice not only our newest garden plant, but that the City also replaced the red barn door with a really nice, remote-controlled metal roll-up door.

When the weather gets nicer, we will paint the door with a stylized kanji of Kyōdō, and the words, cooperation,



PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

*Winter cedar bough
Now decorated with rain
Over a wet bench*

collaboration, and community. *That's who we are!*



Stylized kanji of the word Kyōdō



Hopping Into the Year of the Rabbit

by Mary Dickson

As with so many things Japanese, zodiac animals, a set of calendar symbols, were imported from ancient China. According to the National Gallery of Art website, "A Japanese zodiac animal came to be linked to specific character traits, which were thought to influence the personality of anyone born in its year. For instance, those born in the Year of the Rabbit are thought to be creative. The Japanese word for rabbit is *usagi* and the recent years of birth are 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, and 2011. Attributes of someone born in one of these years are popularity, elegance, sincerity, and reserve."

What does it mean that 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit? And what kind of rabbit? This year is the year of the Water Rabbit (*mizu no tou*), also known as the Black Rabbit. Why black? In Chinese traditional culture, the color of water is actually black. Water also means fortune, calm, and harmony. Rabbits are also said to be associated with luck too. Depending on what website you visit, you can find a variety of meanings. "In Japan, rabbits represent fortune, moving forward, and cleverness, and they are also messengers

for the *kami* (gods)." At [MyPandit.com](https://www.mypandit.com), you can find descriptions of the Water Rabbit's influence on characteristics, horoscope compatibility, love and relationship, career, and health.

Not only do the zodiac signs identify personality characteristics for someone born under a certain sign, but the belief is that the animal for the year predicts attributes of the year. In 2022, we had the Year of the Tiger, and, according to the **Japan Times**, "we can expect an abrupt change of pace, saying goodbye to the tiger and hello to the milder rabbit. Both anatomically and behaviorally, tigers and rabbits could hardly be more different.

This year is the year of the Water Rabbit (mizu no tou), also known as the Black Rabbit.

This special rabbit comes only every 60 years. (The last time the Water Rabbit visited was 1963.) It feels especially meaningful and auspicious that the *mizu no tou* lands on our 60th anniversary. Since Tsuru Island is surrounded by "black water," perhaps *mizu no tou* is watching over the garden as we move forward.



Many people collect small figures of the 12 zodiac animals such as those pictured.



GARDEN TIP

February is a traditional time to prune roses. The primary objectives are: removing dead wood, pruning branches to provide good airflow through the bush and pruning stems down to provide a sturdy stem for new growth buds.

Each type of rose takes a different mode of trimming so I recommend checking [Heirloomroses.com](https://www.heirloomroses.com) for their pruning guide.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

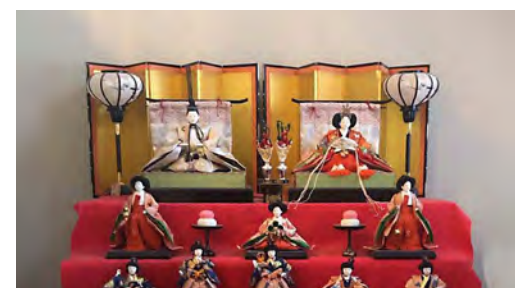
Construction Partner



The main design element in the Resource Center's remodel is the install of two large sliders and a moon window. Without any hesitation, Armadas Exterior, located in Gresham, has answered our call for help.

We're already blown away with their customer service, and they haven't even started the work yet!

Hino Dolls



The Gresham Japanese Garden has been gifted by Machiko Watanabe a set of Hino dolls. They were gifted to her by her parents forty years ago.

Usually displayed on Girl's Day, March 3rd, Hina dolls represent the imperial family. The top of the platforms represent the emperor and the empress trickling down to the ministers.

All About Junipers

Junipers are a useful category of plant. They're evergreen and belong to the plant order Pinales, and the genus *Juniperus*. They are slow growers, and they come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes offering a landscape designer a lot of options to choose from. If you have a choice, look for a variety that doesn't have as many tiny awls (needles) to prick your skin. These awls make junipers so painful to prune.

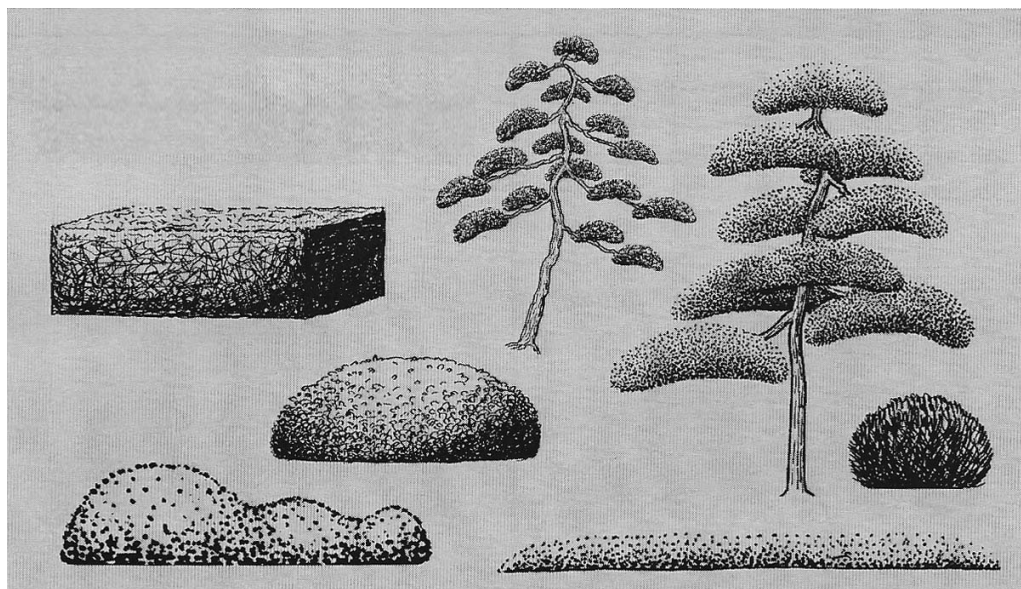
HOW TO PRUNE

The simplest answer to pruning junipers is, "remove the deadwood." How do you tell if a branch is dead? As we instruct our horticulture students, if there is any green on its tip, then the branch is alive. When you cut the branch, and inside it's all brown, it's dead. In the case of a juniper, if a branch has no needles on it, it's dead.

Junipers are very prickly and the sheer volume of deadwood inside the interior makes the deadwooding difficult. Snippers should be sufficient for removing the deadwood inside the interior. If you have course branches, you'll need your Felco pruners. And, for branches larger than your thumb, you may need loppers or a saw.

The good news is that once deadwooding is done *correctly*, there will be little deadwood next year, and the year after.

The worse thing you can do is shear your junipers. A healthy juniper tree can be divided into two sections: The brown woody part near the trunk, and the fresh, green foliage at the tips of each branchlet. If you make a heading cut anywhere in the brown section, no new buds will sprout there. If you make a heading cut in the green foliage, the branch might sprout new buds, but it will turn brown. And it could also die, so don't shear.



DON'T LEAVE STUBS

What does that mean? It means you need to carefully select the branches you want to prune whereby no branch is headed back to a stub. The problem with stubs is that they will automatically become deadwood that can attract debris, pests, and other problems. All juniper branches should be cut back to a branch junction, and the cut should be made so that no stub remains.

The simplest answer to pruning junipers is to remove the deadwood.

WHEN TO PRUNE

Technically, as long as the temperature isn't below freezing, you can prune at any time of year. Pruning when it's below freezing can seriously damage or even kill the plant.

Now to early spring is best before the tender new growth forms. It's healthier for the plant and will look better as the new growth sprouts. Avoid pruning in the fall, since this can increase the chance of winter damage through the open cuts.

NATIVE JUNIPERS

There are three juniper plants native to the Pacific Northwest: *Juniperus occidentalis* (Western juniper), *Juniperus communis* (Common juniper) and the *Juniperus scopulorum* (Rocky Mountain juniper.)

The *Juniperus communis* is one of the most medicinal in the Juniper family, with high therapeutic potential for the treatment of diseases in human and animals. The plant is rich in aromatic oils, invert sugars, resins, catechin, organic acid, terpenic acids, leucoanthocyanidin, alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, gums, lignins, wax, etc. Although they require little care, they are a great drain on surrounding water supply, using up to 40 gallons of water, if available, on a hot summer day. This is why in many areas the juniper is considered invasive.

Juniper berries found on the female trees are used quite often in the production of gin. However, a **New York Times** article states: "Of the roughly 40 species of juniper, a small number are poisonous and a majority have bitter fruits. Only a few yield edible berries (actually modified cones) and only one is routinely used for flavoring and the production of gin."

Pruning Program - 'Fundamentals of Pruning'

It's not too late to sign up for 'Fundamentals of Pruning' course. If you think you're beyond this first course, you'll be pleasantly surprised. Instructor Lincoln Proud will put your mind to work asking questions like; "Why are you pruning in the first place?" What aspects of (basic) plant biology should we be aware of? What tools are available, and how should we use them? What cuts should we make?

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

LINCOLN PROUD, INSTRUCTOR:



Lincoln has a wide background in horticultural and garden experience that spans many styles and climates. His formal training took place at Longwood Gardens where he completed the Professional Gardener training program. Since then he has studied in Japan and worked at many gardens including the Portland Japanese Garden, a private estate in Texas, as well as the Boyce Thompson Southwest Arboretum and Wallace Desert Garden in Arizona. Most recently Lincoln is involved at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden and now the Gresham Japanese Garden.

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.

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/>

Win a One-Week Vacation to Cabo San Lucas

Purchasing a \$20 raffle ticket will give you the chance to win a vacation at Cabo San Lucas, or any Pueblo Bonito Resort. Includes a Junior Suite with two queen beds, kitchenette, and a living space. Use before the end of November with no extra fees. Does not include airline tickets. *Yes, the Garden is still fundraising to remodel the Resource Center!* More details and to purchase at: <https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/>. Tickets will be mailed to you.



\$2,100 VALUE

Win a one-week vacation to Cabo San Lucas
Includes a Junior Suite (2 Qn beds) in Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach Resorts
\$20 a ticket (Value \$2,100)
Airline not included. Drawing March 11, 2023.
Up to 500 tickets sold. Details on back.

FRIENDS OF Gresham Japanese Garden

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