

# Life in the Valley



## Spring into these floral scenes

Elizabeth Mguyen, of Portland, sits on a bench in a tulip field during Tulip Fest at the Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm in Woodburn. The farm's annual festival runs daily from March 23 to April 30. BRENT DRINKUT/STATESMAN JOURNAL

### 15 gardens in Salem area open to public, best times to visit

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Just when we thought gray and green took over nature's palette, spring paints the scene with crocus, daffodils, tulips and camellias. Now that splashes of purple, red, yellow and pink are starting to pop up around the Willamette Valley, a sunny day at a local garden sounds like a lovely way to welcome the season.

The Salem area is home to several gardens that can be visited throughout the year. Here's where to go and when the best time to visit each garden is.

#### Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm

**What:** Tulip farm in Woodburn.  
**Best time to visit:** You'll want to go during the farm's annual festival, which runs daily March 23-April 30, though the website's field report says the best color will hit after the first of April. Celebrating the blooming period of the company's 40 acres of tulips, the festival features food, kids activities, an Easter egg hunt, wine tasting, wagon rides, hot air balloon rides and more. Admission is \$5.

**Where:** 33814 S Meridian Road, Woodburn

#### Bush's Pasture Park Rose Garden

**What:** This compact rose garden next to Bush House Museum features two collections, the hybrid tea and floribunda roses and the tarter old rose collection. It also includes a picture-perfect gazebo. The garden is free and open year round.

**Best time to visit:** May and June

**Where:** West of the Bush House Museum at 600 Mission St. SE, Salem

**Note:** There are six new interpretive kiosks at Bush's Pasture Park. Their locations can be found in a brochure available in a rack near the kiosk at the Bush Barn parking lot.

#### Rhododendron Hillside Garden

**What:** Paths meander through a hillside at Bush's Pasture Park featuring about 130 varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas, as well as 300-plus varieties of companion plants.

**Best time to visit:** Mid-March through May

**Where:** South end of Bush's Pasture Park, just north of the intersection of Leffelle and Winter streets

#### Gaiety Hollow

**What:** The home garden of his-

toric landscapers Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver, the first women landscapers to open a practice in the Pacific Northwest, is open to the public 1 to 4 p.m. on the second Sunday and third Saturday of the month March through September (\$5 for ages 16 and older). Guided tours happen at 10:30 a.m. the fourth Saturday of the month March through September.

**Best time to go:** The garden is only open to the public March through September. April and May are especially beautiful because of the flowering shrubs such as the camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas.

**Where:** 545 Mission St. SE, Salem

**More:** Gaiety Hollow makes National Register of Historic Places

**More:** Lord and Schryver Conservancy purchases Gaiety Hollow

#### Deepwood Estates

**What:** Also designed by Lord and Schryver, the formal gardens are free and open dawn to dusk. There also is a natural area that is tended to, a border garden and a greenhouse visitors can check out for free. Guided tours of the gardens are 11 a.m. the first Friday of the month April through September (\$5 for those 16 and older).

**Best time to visit:** Spring puts on a lovely show at Deepwood, including the annual takeover of the native lilies erythroniums around the estate in late March to early April, but the garden is designed to have year-round appeal.

**Where:** 1116 Mission St. SE, Salem

#### Cecil and Molly Smith Rhododendron Garden

**What:** Cecil Smith, a rhododendron hybridizer, created this garden. If you want to see different varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas, this is your spot, with more than 600 varieties of the two shrubs. The natural woodland setting also has other shrubs, trees, wildflowers and bulbs, including cyclamen, trillium, erythronium and narcissus, and visitors can purchase plants to take home, too.

**Best time to visit:** The garden opens April 7 and is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through May, except for Memorial Day Weekend. Admission is \$3. Tours are available for groups of 10 or more if scheduled in advance.

**Where:** 5065 Raybell Road, St. Paul

#### Willamette University gardens

**What:** There are three free public gardens at Willamette University: The Martha Springer Botanical Garden, located behind Sparks Center; the Sesquicentennial Rose Garden, across State Street from the Oregon Capitol; and The Germaine Fuller Japanese Garden south of the Art Building at State and Winter streets. The Martha Springer Botanical Garden has 12 areas, including a butterfly garden, herb garden, alpine rock garden, theme borders and Oregon native

areas.

**Where:** Willamette University, 12th Street, Salem

#### The Oregon Garden

**What:** This 80-acre botanical garden has more than 20 specialty gardens including a Children's Garden with a Hobbit home, a Sensory Garden and a Pet-Friendly Garden. Speaking of pets, they are always allowed at The Oregon Garden.

**Best time to visit:** The garden is open year round with something of interest in every season. The garden offers a complimentary narrated tram tour April through October. Admission is \$8 to \$12 for adults depending on the season. On April 21, the garden is free for Earth Day, which will feature exhibitors, activities and entertainment.

**Where:** 879 W Main St., Silverton

#### Sebright Gardens

**What:** This Salem business sells more than 900 hostas, six of which they introduced themselves, and other shade plants on its website, sebrightgardens.com. You can see a selection of the company's plants in their 4 acres of display gardens. Some plants, including unusual perennials, are available for sale.

**Best time to visit:** The garden is free and open daily March 31 through Oct. 28. Mid April to mid June is the peak bloom time.

**Where:** 7185 Lakeside Drive NE, Salem

#### Schreiner's Iris Gardens

**What:** This 10-acre display garden for the Salem iris grower is filled with more than 500 named irises and companion plants.

**Best time to visit:** You'll want to go during bloom season, which features a flower show, gift shop and plant sale May 11-31. Parking is \$5 a car. The garden will host an artist fair May 26-28 as part of a Memorial Day Weekend festival that also will feature wine and spirit tasting, demonstrations and annual chicken barbecue.

**Where:** 3625 Quinaby Road NE, Salem

#### Brooks Gardens Peonies

**What:** This peony grower raises hundreds of varieties of the spring favorite that are shipped across the United States. From May 1 through mid June, the business opens its gardens to the public for free. In addition to 35 acres of peony fields featuring 180 varieties of the flower, there's also a 3-acre strolling garden containing thousands of bearded iris varieties and hundreds of varieties of peonies. Spring visitors also can purchase plants and bouquets and visit the cut-flower display that is open free to the public 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

**Best time to visit:** The garden is open to the public May 1 through mid June. Mid May to early June is peak bloom season.

**Where:** 6219 Topaz St. NE, Brooks

#### Adelman Peony Gardens

**What:** This peony grower (peonyparadise.com) has more than 25 acres of peonies, featuring nearly 500 varieties. Visitors can check out the free display garden of peonies in a landscape setting and walk the fields 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily during spring bloom, April 28-June 17. Cut flowers and peony plants are for sale.

**Best time to visit:** Middle to the end of May

**Where:** 5690 Brooklake Road NE, Salem

#### Marion Demonstration Garden

**What:** Probably best known for hosting the annual Master Gardener's plant sale (this year, it's May 4-5 at the Oregon State Fairgrounds), this garden is tended to by the Marion County Master Gardeners. The collection of gardens fills an acre and a half, showcasing themes such as veggies, a mini orchard, herbs, annuals, natives and drought-tolerant plants. It is free and open to the public year round.

**Best time to visit:** Master Gardeners usually are in the garden 9 a.m. to noon Mondays. Feel free to chat and ask questions.

**Where:** Behind the parking lot of the county Health and Services building at 3180 Center St. in Salem

#### Inspiration Garden at Mountain Fir Park

**What:** Like the Marion Demonstration Garden in Salem, this Independence garden is a place for Master Gardeners to show off their skill and for the public to learn from the masters and gain inspiration for their own garden. The free demonstration gardens, open dawn to dusk daily on 7 acres on the east side of Ash Creek, feature nearly 20 themed areas including Asian, pollinator, vegetable and sedum gardens.

**Best time to visit:** With a garden dedicated to winter-interest plants, there's always something to see, but June through September is when you'll see the most blooms. See the garden's list of what's in season when at [bit.ly/2FMY471](http://bit.ly/2FMY471).

**Where:** 799 F St., Independence

#### Dancing Oaks Nursery

**What:** This Monmouth nursery that grows and sells unusual trees, shrubs and perennials features a 2.5-acre display garden with plants from all over the world. It's open Tuesdays-Sundays March through October.

**Best time to visit:** Early spring features thousands of bulbs including a variety of daffodils, but there is always something in season at the display garden during the open season, March through October.

**Where:** 17900 Priem Road, Monmouth