



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Sheila Beveridge's mom plants several types of flowers in a plot of the garden drawing butterflies in the summer.

# THE FAMILY GARDENER

**Q: With the season changing, what are you doing in your garden?**

A: Adding nutrients to the soil for vegetables. Rock dust, harvest supreme, chicken manure. I'm going to use my worm bin castings this year, too. I'm trying to figure out where everything is going to go. I've already planted half of my garden space. Seems like there's never enough room for all of the seeds I want to plant!

**Q: What is your favorite plant?**

A: There's a plant for every purpose or occasion so choosing one as a favorite is difficult. The red curry squash comes to mind because of its beauty and utility. It can be like the star of the garden. It grows so swiftly creating a gorgeous wall of green, and the bright orange squash feeds more people than you might expect. Also my fava bean plants make me happy and even that creepy movie ("The Silence of the Lambs") can't ruin it for me.

**Q: What do you think will be your biggest challenge this year?**

A: Flea beetles! They eat so much of the foliage that the plant ends up looking lace-like. Oddly it doesn't seem to stop the plant from growing vegetables.

**Q: What part of your personality is reflected in your garden?**

A: A curiosity and love of nature. I like giving plants a try. I've tried peanuts, quinoa, corn salad, medicinal plants, various ground covers and vegetables I'd never seen before. There are so many great catalogs out there now it's making it easier to try something new!

**Q: Describe the pleasure you get from working in your garden.**

A: There's something about working in the garden that nothing else can fulfill. I love a good soil, and worms, and all the life that buzzes around. The satisfaction of choosing what I grow and watching it from seed to harvest is wonderful to eat and share. But I also love watching the various stages a plant goes through to its maturity. You learn a lot about individual types of plants and the relationship they have with other forms of life. Some plants



Q&A

with

Sheila Beveridge



Sheila Beveridge and her parents grow a mix of vegetables including a mesclun mix.

will suddenly draw in butterflies, or bees, or a spider that changes color. It's fun to see what color the flowers are of a cauliflower or that you never knew they could take up so much space! It's a process of continual learning and a communing and appreciation of nature. And it's always fun to talk about plants or soil with other gardeners and trade extra plants.

I enjoy time with family. I don't have room for a vegetable garden so I have to travel to my family's garden space. It's a family garden, and we enjoy it together.

**Q: Is there a book on gardening that you would recommend?**

A: "Growing Vegetables West of the Cascades," by Steve Solomon.

*Sheila Beveridge, a former massage therapist, is a real estate broker in Astoria.*



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