

Try starting perennials from seed

When perusing spring seed catalogs, don't pass on perennials. These long-lived plants require a bit more commitment than annuals, but provide pleasure year after year.

"Annuals are essentially programmed to rush, rush, rush," said Brooke Edmunds, horticulturist with Oregon State University's Extension Service. "They grow, flower and set seed within the first season and are gone. Most perennials put energy into growing a strong root system and foliage before flowering the following year, but then last much longer."

The same guidelines for starting annuals from seed apply to perennials, except that some varieties may need a period of chill, soaking, scratching, breaking or nicking of the seed coat. The back of seed packages will let you know if that's necessary.

Germination is a key time for all types of plants, according to OSU Extension horticulturist Weston Miller.



KYM POKORNY
Your Garden

"During this fragile time in the life of a plant, it's critical that seeds receive appropriate amounts of water, oxygen and light," he said. "At this point, starting seeds can become a balancing act."

To get seeds off to a good start, make sure the soil mixture is light and fluffy. Buy a product made for seeds, Miller advised, and never use soil dug from the yard, which is too dense and could contain fungi that cause the common disease called damping off. Once seedlings are infected, they wither and die.

In addition to using good quality growing medium, it's important to keep the soil from getting too wet or cold. For best results, grow

seedlings in an area kept above 65 degrees, Edmunds said. Moisten the soil before planting and then water with a spray bottle frequently but not to the point of saturation. When the seedlings come up, use a water dropper or even a turkey baster to water.

Keep seedlings in a south-facing window or use grow lights hung within 2 inches of the plant, raising them as they grow. If in a window, turn frequently so starts don't get leggy from leaning toward the light. Be sure to pinch out the smallest plants, leaving room for the strongest to thrive. Once substantial enough to plant outside, harden them off by taking outside for a few hours daily for a week.

"People may think that all seeds need to be started indoors," she said, "but many perennials, such as viola, blanket flower, black-eyed Susan and sea thrift, can be directly sowed into the garden and you can skip that

step altogether."

Besides being easy to seed outdoors, blanket flower (*Gaillardia aristata*) is a favorite of Edmunds because it blooms the first year and sports attractive seed heads for winter interest. Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) appeals because of its prolific nature and the variety of colors available, from sunny yellow to butterscotch to red. Among her other preferred perennials is the easy-to-grow, vibrantly colored penstemon (*Penstemon hartwegii*) that's irresistible to hummingbirds and the statuesque lupine (*Lupinus*).

Direct seeding perennials couldn't be easier. Follow package directions for planting depth and spacing and keep moist, Edmunds said. She suggested using a light fabric cover to keep moisture in.

For more information, check out Extension's guides to Producing Transplants at Home and Propagating Plants From Seed.

ENGAGEMENTS

Broadus-Keck

Hilary Broadus of Dallas and Ian Keck of Rickreall are planning a July wedding.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Tony and Jennifer Broadus of Dallas. Her fiancé is the son of Tom and Maggie Keck of Rickreall.



Hilary is a 2010 graduate of Dallas High School. She is attending George Fox University in Newberg, where she will graduate in April with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Hilary currently works as a barista at Union Block Coffee in McMinnville.

Ian is also a 2010 graduate of Dallas High School. He graduated in 2014 from Seattle University with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. Ian is currently employed as a research assistant at Oregon Health & Sciences University in Portland.

The wedding is set for July 18 at St. Philip Catholic Church in Dallas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The *Itemizer-Observer* publishes engagement, wedding, anniversary (in five-year increments starting with the 25th), birth, military and milestone birthday (90th, 95th, 100th, etc.) announcements for their community news value. The deadline for items to be submitted is Thursday at 4 p.m. for consideration in the following Wednesday's edition.

Announcement forms are available online at www.polkio.com or by visiting the *Itemizer-Observer* office at 147 SE Court St. in downtown Dallas.

Photographs may accompany engagement, wedding, anniversary and milestone birthday announcements. They should be submitted at the same time as the announcement.

Announcements, like all news printed in the *Itemizer-Observer*, are subject to editing for style, content and length. Due to space constraints, no publication date can be guaranteed.

We want to express our appreciation for the outpouring of love, caring and thoughtfulness in the loss of Bob, our husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

We are humbled by the number of people who have expressed their condolences, offered their support, attended the celebration of his life and made contributions in his name.

Thank you all and God bless you.
— The Van Elverdinghe Family

We would like to thank our community of origin for all of the support and comfort we have received through the loss of our son, Brett. The measure of love and generosity that has reached our hearts is astounding. May kindness return to you in the same beautiful way that it was given.

With deep appreciation,
Bob and Penny Norman and family.

MI TOWN

The calendar shows that we're closing in on the end of January, but the blue skies and moderate temperatures — at press time at least — are more in line with March or April.

Our recent rainstorms have taken their toll here and there, but so far (fingers crossed) we've had no snow or ice incidents here in MI Town or the surrounding area. There have been some frosty windshields of late, and a need to bundle up for early morning walks, but nothing we can't handle.

The Polk County Board of Commissioners hosted an interesting public meeting at the Monmouth Public Library on Jan. 21, where we were presented with infor-



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

mation about the need for funding for a public safety tax initiative.

Everyone was given the opportunity to express their thoughts — both pro and con — regarding this proposal. Funding from this bond would help fund the sheriff's and district attorney's offices and provide additional dollars to community corrections.

One of the greatest things about living in our country — and especially in MI Town

— is the opportunity to speak out on our concerns and share our ideas with others in an atmosphere where there is civil discourse and discussion, and that our concerns are heard by elected officials.

Valentine's Day will be here soon, and the Silverwood Strings are presenting a free concert Feb. 15 at 3 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church on the S-curves. Enjoy an afternoon of classical, sacred, pop and jazz music that will be followed by wonderful desserts and beverages. For tickets, contact Lyn Jobe at 503-551-3648 or via email to monmouth01jb@msn.com. You can reserve up to four tickets.

A fun and interesting group of women has been getting together at the Monmouth Senior Center every weekday morning at 7:30 for an hour or so of yoga, followed by coffee and conversation. We're always looking for new friends to share our class; just bring a yoga mat and your enthusiasm, and wear comfortable clothes. We're a hate-free, politics-free and fragrance-free bunch ... and the class is free, too.

If you prefer yoga later in the day, come to Yoga in the Hopyard at Rogue Ales on Wigrich Road on the last Wednesday of every month (this evening) at 6 p.m. Bring your yoga mat and have a great time. There is no cost for the class.

PEDEE NEWS

Sam Guida passed away early Thursday morning. They had come home from Oregon Health & Science University in Portland the week before with hospice services and support from family and friends.

Never losing his sense of humor, Sam called the time at home his "pre-wake," and loved, and was touched by, the visits, calls and emails by so many.

His wife, Judy, was so glad that they could honor his wishes of spending his last days at home enjoying companionship, love, humor and



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

the home that he designed and built.

Shawn and Trina Brotherton, their 8-year-old daughter Kalina and 5-year-old son Kindan spent their vacation with friends Fred and Karen of Corvallis at their time share in Nuevo Vallarta,

Mexico, north of Puerto Vallarta. They had the whole week from Jan. 9-16 to swim in the pool, lay and play on the beach, try amazing food at resort restaurants and — Trina's personal favorite — swim with the dolphins. Kalina liked the geckos.

As secretary of American Agri-Women (AAW), I attended an executive committee retreat with six other women from around the U.S. at the home of AAW president Sue McCrum Jan. 16-17. She and her husband Jay live on Penobscot Bay on

the Atlantic Ocean near Belfast, Maine.

It sounds crazy to meet in Maine in January, but that was an experience I've never had — and I loved it. The weather was very cold (8 degrees one day and 17 degrees the other), but clear and beautiful, their home warm, the lobsters and mussels delicious, the women amazing, and the meetings productive.

Interesting observation: people in freezing Maine seemed to wear hats as often as Oregonians carry their umbrellas.



MONEY TALKS

Deadline: Friday, Feb. 6
Publishes:
Wednesday, Feb. 18

SIZES AND PRICES

1/8 PAGE (4.917" x 2.5")	\$69
1/4 PAGE (4.917" x 5.083")	\$132
1/2 PAGE (10" x 5.083") (4.917" x 10.292")	\$242
FULL PAGE (10" x 10.292")	\$473
Prime Location BACK PAGE	\$552



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Friday and Saturday Jan 30 - Jan 31

MORTDECAI (Digital) (R)	(11:45 4:40)	9:30
THEORY OF EVERYTHING (Digital) (PG13)	(2:00)	7:00
WHIPLASH (Digital) (R)	(12:05 2:25 4:50)	7:20 9:40
IMITATION GAME (Digital) (PG13)	(11:35 2:00 4:35)	7:10 9:40
PROJECT ALMANAC (Digital) (PG13)	(12:00 2:30 5:00)	7:30 9:45
AMERICAN SNIPER (Digital) (R)	(12:45 3:45)	6:45 9:35
BOY NEXT DOOR (Digital) (R)	(1:00 3:05 5:20)	7:45 9:50
PADDINGTON (Digital) (PG)	(1:05 3:10 5:25)	7:35 9:35
DISNEY'S STRANGE MAGIC (Digital) (PG)	(11:40 2:05 4:25)	6:50
TAKEN 3 (Digital) (PG13)		9:00

Sunday February 1

MORTDECAI (Digital) (R)	(11:45 4:40)	
THEORY OF EVERYTHING (Digital) (PG13)	(2:00)	7:00
WHIPLASH (Digital) (R)	(12:05 2:25 4:50)	7:20
IMITATION GAME (Digital) (PG13)	(11:35 2:00 4:35)	7:10
PROJECT ALMANAC (Digital) (PG13)	(12:00 2:30 5:00)	7:30
AMERICAN SNIPER (Digital) (R)	(12:45 3:45)	6:45
BOY NEXT DOOR (Digital) (R)	(1:00 3:05 5:20)	7:45
PADDINGTON (Digital) (PG)	(1:05 3:10 5:25)	7:35
DISNEY'S STRANGE MAGIC (Digital) (PG)	(11:40 2:05 4:25)	6:50

Monday through Thursday Feb 2 - Feb 5

MORTDECAI (Digital) (R)	(4:40)	
THEORY OF EVERYTHING (Digital) (PG13)	(2:00)	7:00
WHIPLASH (Digital) (R)	(2:25 4:50)	7:20
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