

# Fall is fabulous for planting trees

When trees get dressed with the colors of fall, it's time to go shopping.

"If you're specifically interested in fall color, it will soon be the time to start looking," said Neil Bell, a horticulturist with Oregon State University's Extension Service. "There are already some trees starting to display color."

First, though, Bell recommends doing some research. Walk around neighborhoods, parks and public gardens to get ideas. If you can't identify the trees you like, snap good photos, pick up several leaves or ask the owner for a cutting. Take them to the nursery or to your local OSU Extension office for identification. You can also cut out pictures from magazines and flip through garden books to find possibilities.

But wait, you're not done. After filtering down your favorites, be absolutely sure about size, soil and sun requirements, Bell said. You don't want to be stuck with a 60-foot tree where a 30-foot tree should have gone.

"The biggest problem people have," he said, "is that a tree gets too large, and then they are forced to prune just to reduce the size of the tree, which can often look horrible. I see it all the time."

Topping – or cutting off the tips of trees – is especially undesirable. It introduces the possibility of disease and gives pests more access. Topping also encourages weaker growth and alters the shape.

"It disfigures the tree," Bell said. "That's my main objection."

Before buying, also find out if the tree needs sun or some shade and if it requires irrigation in summer. Most do, according to Bell. And most want sun, although vine maple, katsura, paperbark maple and 'Eddie's White Wonder' dogwood don't mind some



**KYM POKORNY**  
Your Garden

shade.

Fall is an ideal time for planting, Bell added. Soil is warmer than in spring, so roots get a good head start. The weather is cool so trees are under less stress. Rains will start soon and reduce the need for watering.

"All in all, fall is the perfect time to select and plant a tree," he said. "Wait for the leaves to start changing color and go for it."

Here are Neil Bell's recommendations for trees with excellent fall color:

**Red maple (Acer rubrum):** A common tree, but for good reason. Not much beats the vibrant scarlet color this maple displays in autumn. Make sure you've got room for it though; red maples grow quickly and eventually reach 60 feet tall and 25 to 35 feet wide. At that size, it makes a great shade tree.

**Big-leaf maple (Acer macrophyllum):** An impressive tree all around, big-leaf maple stirs up attention when its 12-inch leaves transform into a rich yellow, sometimes tinged with orange. A large tree up to 50 feet at maturity, this West Coast native is not appropriate as a street tree or in small gardens. However, if you can find it, 'Seattle Sentinel' is a much smaller, narrower alternative, 15 feet tall and 5 feet wide.

**Vine maple (Acer circinatum):** Native to the Northwest, vine maple really comes into its own in fall when the foliage lights up in lively shades of red and orange. A useful small tree up to 15 feet that often grows with multiple trunks. Good for the east side of the Cascades. Not suitable for full sun.



OSU EXTENSION/for the Itemizer-Observer

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**Paperbark maple (Acer griseum):** Unmistakable cinnamon-colored peeling bark and glowing orange-red fall color make this slow-growing, small tree (25 feet eventually) a much-loved specimen in any size garden. Prefers a partially shady exposure.

**'Raywood' ash (Fraxinus oxycarpa):** Big and bold, this tree grows 60 to 70 feet tall and almost as wide, which is a consideration when deciding where and if to plant it. But if you've got the space, you'll be happy with its striking claret-colored fall foliage and the equally appealing texture of the lance-shaped leaves.

**Katsura (Cercidiphyllum japonicum):** The unmistakable heart-shaped leaves emerge purple in the spring and seem to turn buttery yellow overnight in autumn. Falling leaves smell wonderfully like burnt sugar. The form is tall – up to 60 feet – and rounded, just how you think a tree should be.

**Sourwood (Oxydendrum arboreum):** A little-known, but deserving tree that has the unusual feature of sending out long streamers of fragrant, white flowers in fall just as the foliage turns

to heady shades of red, orange and purple. At 25 to 30 feet tall, sourwood fits nicely into a small garden.

**'Eddie's White Wonder' dogwood (Cornus kousa):** A spectacular cultivar of Korean dogwood that is blanketed in large, white star-shaped flowers in spring and strawberry red color in fall. Its 20-foot stature makes it ideal for small spaces. Other kousa dogwoods are outstanding as well, most turning a deep crimson-purple in autumn.

**Persian ironwood (Parrotia persica):** Another smaller tree (25 feet tall and 30 feet wide), ironwood is bathed in every color of the sunset in fall and has the bonus of gray and beige exfoliating bark. An easy tree to grow that handles parking strip situations nicely.

**'Wild Fire' black gum (Nyssa sylvatica):** While the straight species of black gum can be a bit weedy, newer cultivars such as 'Wild Fire' don't go to seed. Glossy green leaves emerge a deep red in spring and end the season with a spectacular show of orange, yellow, scarlet and purple. Has a nice pyramidal shape and grows up to 20 feet.

## BIRTHS

### Barba-Perry

Aaliyah Miah Barba-Perry was born to Jake Perry and Aracelia Barba of Independence at 3:50 a.m. on Sept. 30 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

She weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 19.75 inches long.

Aaliyah joins Lexy, 15, and Ashley, 9. Grandparents are Silvano and Maria Barba, of Independence; and Jeremiah and Patty Perry, of Pendleton. Great-grandparent is Elfreda Tucker, of Pendleton.

## PEDEE NEWS

Bob and Lynda Schnekenburger's daughter, Chandra Chapman, moved back home to live in the apartment they had built for her after a fire had consumed the house they had almost finished remodeling during the last 20 years. She has been employed at Child Protective Services in Eugene for the past three years and was able to transfer to the Albany office some weeks ago. Now she will be closer to family. Her sisters, Megan Ciprian and Dena Morford, live in Albany and Philomath respectively.

On the last Saturday in September, Mike McDowell's family threw a party at the Dallas City Park for his 70th birthday. The potluck lunch was put on by daughter Ginger Owens and friend Gisele Morales and was supposed to be a surprise but wasn't. Many friends and co-workers came, as well as son Chris and his wife, Christine, and son Eric and grandson Keelin.

The Luckiamute Valley Charter School at Pedee went to Tony Diaz's farm for a field trip where they got to see the growing crops and pick tomatoes, green beans, peppers, dill, and garlic to can as a fundraiser. They are selling applesauce, pear sauce, pear butter, and pickled green beans for \$10 per jar. "You can eat it fresh out of the jar or cook it in something else" is their selling point. Tony's produce stand is on Kings Valley



**ARLENE KOVASH**  
Columnist

Highway at Bridgeport Road.

The Pedee Church youth group is going bowling on Sunday evening. If you are in high school and you'd like to join them, contact Diana Barnhart at 541-929-4111 or tdbarnhart@aol.com. On Oct. 4, Pedee Church sponsored a cider-making party for the community and 25 people showed up and pressed enough apples to make 50 gallons of cider. It was so successful that they'll invite you all again next year. A big thank you to a neighbor who let them pick several bags of apples.

The Woods family at the corner of Kings Valley Highway and Pedee Creek Road has an impressive Halloween display that son John and his family put up, both inside and outside of the house. It will be lit every night until Halloween and is fun to see.

It's almost time for Dancing Oaks Nursery on Maple Grove Road to go into winter mode. Their last day of regular retail hours is Oct. 31. However, if you would like to visit the nursery during the winter, don't hesitate to call them at 503-838-6058 to make an appointment. All purchases are 20 percent off until Oct. 31, by the way.

## MI TOWN

What fun it was to open the I-O last Wednesday morning and see all the great pictures of happy kids enjoying fall sports and learning so many good things about teamwork and activity. For those of us whose grandchildren are mostly in or have finished college and are out on their own, it's a joy to see that youth sports continue in MI Town and all our Polk County communities. Reading about these programs and attending the occasional game reinforces our thoughts that the majority of youth are involved in healthy activities and not sitting around glued to their electronic devices every waking hour of every day. We see people of all ages (full disclosure: including me) texting, reading email and talking on cellphones frequently, but most parents



**PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER**  
Columnist

have managed to raise happy and well-adjusted children with a balance of studies, sports and play.

Mark your calendars for the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce's first Discover MI Town event on Saturday. You'll get an opportunity to visit businesses in both communities, receive discounts and be entered into drawings for prizes. Just park your car or walk to either Riverview Park (Independence) or Main Street Park (Monmouth) where shuttle

service will be available from noon until 5 p.m. Tickets on Saturday are \$25 per person or \$15 with Western Oregon University student ID, or you can save \$5 by ordering them online at www.miccor.org before midnight on Friday. See you there.

With our backyard gardens nearly finished for this year, it was enjoyable to read Kym Pokorny's column about saving and preserving seeds. Both the peas and green beans (courtesy of the Monmouth Library's seed lending) provided us with an abundance of good veggies, so I am going to try to save their seeds for next year. Many years ago, I knew a dear friend who had saved and preserved corn for many years, and it was something we all looked forward to every summer. Kym

also suggested saving tomato seeds, but that's way above my gardening pay grade. I'll continue to buy tomato plants from the Master Gardeners next spring.

The Monmouth Senior Center soup and pie sale last Thursday was one of the best ever, and if you missed it — you'll have to wait until springtime. It was a gorgeous autumn day with picture-postcard weather. Hungry folks from all around the area enjoyed a variety of wonderful homemade soups and pies, while meeting and greeting friends and neighbors. Congratulations and best wishes to all the hard-working volunteers who give many hours of their time and energy as a labor of love to our community senior center.

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Friday & Saturday October 23 - 24			
CRIMSON PEAK (Digital) (R)	(1:50 4:35)	7:20	9:55
STEVE JOBS (Digital) (R)	(2:00 4:40)	7:10	9:45
LAST WITCH HUNTER (Digital) (PG13)	(12:00 2:30 5:00)	7:25	9:50
<b>PARANORMAL ACTIVITY:</b>			
THE GHOST DIMENSION (Digital 2D) (R)	(12:45 5:15)	7:30	
<b>PARANORMAL ACTIVITY:</b>			
THE GHOST DIMENSION (NEC Dolby 3D) (R)	(3:00)	9:40	
THE MARTIAN (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(12:20 3:25)	6:35	9:30
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS (Digital) (PG)	(11:15 4:00)	6:45	9:25
BRIDGE OF SPIES (Digital) (PG13)	(12:20 3:25)	6:30	9:25
GOOSEBUMPS (Digital 2D) (PG)	(11:45 2:05 4:35)	7:05	9:30
Sunday October 25			
CRIMSON PEAK (Digital) (R)	(1:50 4:35)	7:20	
STEVE JOBS (Digital) (R)	(2:00 4:40)	7:10	
LAST WITCH HUNTER (Digital) (PG13)	(12:00 2:30 5:00)	7:25	
<b>PARANORMAL ACTIVITY:</b>			
THE GHOST DIMENSION (Digital 2D) (R)	(12:45 5:15)	7:30	
<b>PARANORMAL ACTIVITY:</b>			
THE GHOST DIMENSION (NEC Dolby 3D) (R)	(3:00)		
THE MARTIAN (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(12:20 3:25)	6:35	
JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS (Digital) (PG)	(11:15 4:00)	6:45	
BRIDGE OF SPIES (Digital) (PG13)	(12:20 3:25)	6:30	
GOOSEBUMPS (Digital 2D) (PG)	(11:45 2:05 4:35)	7:05	
Monday - Thursday October 20 - 23			
CRIMSON PEAK (Digital) (R)	(1:50 4:35)	7:20	
STEVE JOBS (Digital) (R)	(2:00 4:40)	7:10	
LAST WITCH HUNTER (Digital) (PG13)	(2:30 5:00)	7:25	
<b>PARANORMAL ACTIVITY:</b>			
THE GHOST DIMENSION (Digital 2D) (R)	(12:45 5:15)	7:30	
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