

First Thursday's in the Soest Garden
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April 7th, 2005

*Spring Maintenance -
Tips and Techniques*

- I – Introductions
- II – Brief Introduction to the Soest Garden
- III – Tools
- IV – Spring maintenance tips
- V – References
- VI – Question & answer time

III – Tools

CP = City Peoples, LV=Lee Valley online, SH = Smith & Hawkin

1. Felco #2 pruners
Price: \$63.69 CP, \$35.00 LV, \$35.20 sale at SH
2. Hori-Hori knife
Price: \$30.99 CP, \$19.95 LV
3. Hand rake
Price: \$10.99 CP
4. Pruning scissors (grape scissors)
Price: \$19.95 (gardeningshop.com)
5. Hedge Shears
Price: \$69.99 CP, \$20-\$30 LV
6. Gloves
Price: \$5.99 CP, \$6.95 LV
7. Kneepads or knee pad
Price: \$2.99 foam pad, \$26.49 nice kneepads CP

OTHER:

Sharpening & cleaning - services vs. do it yourself
Arm band for “pruner’s elbow”
Apron
Hat
Sunblock
Water
Notebook/calendar
Digital camera

IV – Spring Maintenance Tips

General Tasks

1. Clean-up
Cutting back
Dividing
Staking
Sweeping
2. Weeding
Mulching
3. Slug control
Aphid control

Plant Specific Tasks

Bed 1

Bergenia

Deadleaf, deadhead

Bed 2

Hakonechloa macra ‘Aureola’ (Japanese forest grass or Japanese meadow grass)

Divide

Imperata cylindrica ‘Red Baron’ (Japanese blood grass)

Bed 3

Pulmonaria ‘Roy Davidson’ (Lungwort)

Cut back after bloom

Bed 4

Heuchera micrantha ‘Palace Purple’

Cut back and deadleaf

Bed 5

Artemisia ‘Powis Castle’ (Wormwood)

Cut back in late winter

Caryopteris x clandonensis ‘Worcester Gold’ (Bluebeard)

Bed 6

Grasses:

Cut back in late winter

Stipa gigantea (Giant Feather Grass)

Miscanthus sinensis ‘Gracillimus’

Calamagrostis acutiflora ‘Karl Foerster’ (Feather reed grass)

Helictotrichon sempervirens (Blue oat grass), *Festuca*’s (Fescues)

Rake

South Slope –

Cornus sericea ‘Flaviramea’ (Yellow-twig dogwood)

Coppice in late winter

Bed 7

Gaura lindheimeri (Gaura)

Cut back to control height

Polystichum munitum (Sword fern)

Cut back last years fronds

Bed 8

Narcissus (daffodils)

After bloom – deadhead flowers

21 days after done blooming cut to the ground or Tie back

V - References and Resources

Books:

Disabato-Aust, Tracy. *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*.
Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 1999

Beck, Alison & Marianne Binetti. *Perennials for Washington and Oregon*.
Lone Pine Gardening, Renton, Washington, 2000

Dunn, Terri; Morris, Cisco. *Selecting, Growing and Combining Outstanding Perennials, Northwestern Edition*, Cool Springs Press, Nashville, Tennessee, 2004

Websites:

Elisabeth C. Miller Library - www.millerlibrary.org

Northwest Perennial Alliance – www.northwestperennialalliance.org

Great Plant Picks - www.greatplantpicks.org

Gardens To Visit:

Bellevue Botanical Garden, 425.452.2750 - www.bellevuebotanical.org

E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust, 206.362.0933 - www.dunngardens.org

Seattle Tilth Gardens, 206.633.0451 - www.seattletilth.org

Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden, 206.362.8612 - www.millergarden.org

If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.

Cicero

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