

# Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

## Seven Son Flower Tree

ISSUE 37 March 2013

*By Eva Soud*

(Heptacodium miconioides)



Seven Son Flower Tree grows 15 to 20 feet in height.



Foliage is strap-like.



Flower buds, seven per stem, give



Flowers are white and appear in late

August to September



Flowers are followed by pink calyxes in

September.



Fruit is purple and matures in fall surrounded by bright pink to red calyxes.



Bark is bronzed and peeling, standing out in winter.

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# Early Spring Garden Chores

“Imagine the possibilities!”

All of us are anxious to see bulbs sprouting, buds unfurling and color splashed throughout the garden. And yes, even though it is a bit early to get your hands in the dirt, there is plenty you can do to gear up for the gardening season.

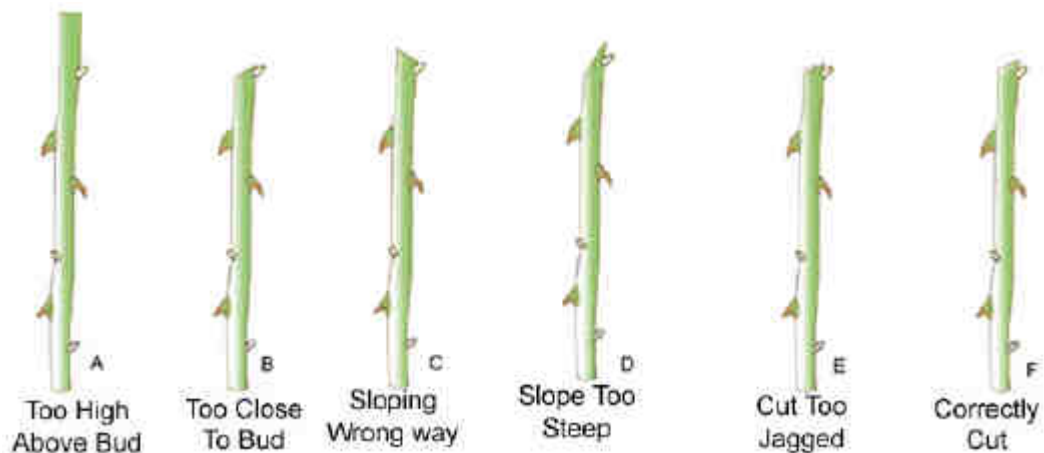
March is a great month for trimming and tidying. Now is when you should cut back your ornamental grasses.

Hand pruners do a good job on smaller clumps, but hedge trimmers are handy for larger clumps. Hold or tie the old growth with twine and cut the grass 4-6 inches from the ground. Compost the old growth and look for new, green shoots to appear in a few weeks.

Most roses appreciate a good pruning now, too. Consult a good rose book for the best methods to trim your type of rose since timing and methods vary widely with individual cultivars. Floribunda, hybrid tea, climbing, shrub and miniature roses all have different care guidelines.

Many trees and shrubs can be pruned in March, too. Fruit trees, evergreens, many deciduous trees, raspberry canes, grapevines and more can all be trimmed and shaped before new growth begins. Armed with good hand pruners, loppers and a pruning saw, you can tackle all but the biggest of jobs. One of your best tools is a good pruning book that will give you specific techniques for trimming the plants in your yard.

Don't forget your perennial beds. Start cutting back the plants that you left standing for winter interest. By now you've probably noticed the first green swirls of new growth on your 'Autumn Joy' sedum, so you can cut off the spent flowers. The birds have picked clean the seeds from your purple coneflower and liatris, so those attractive seed heads can get snipped off, too. As soon as the first leaves surface on your butterfly bush and bluebeard, you can prune them back as well to spur new growth and bountiful blooms.

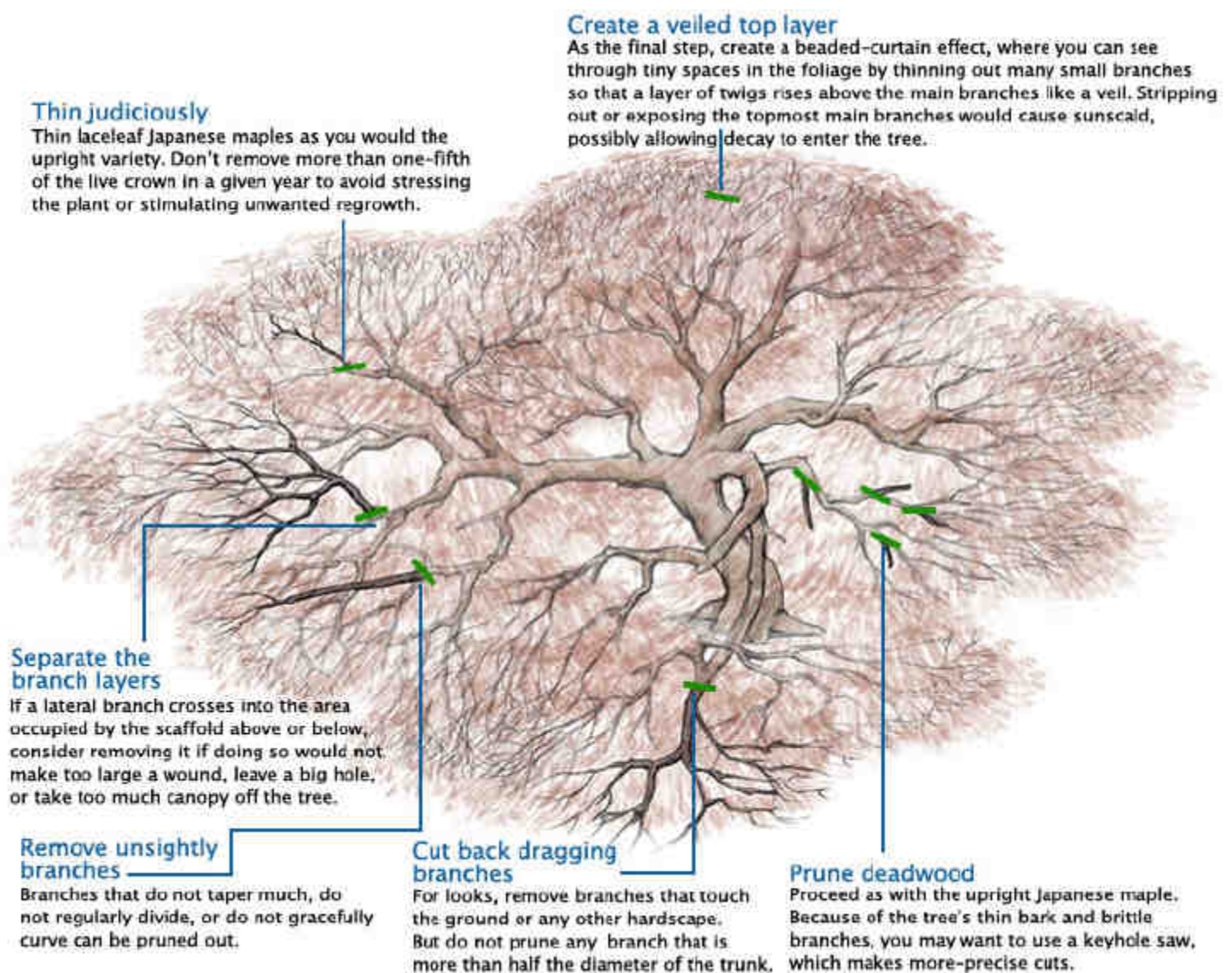




Get a jump on the season by edging and weeding your beds. By digging and teasing out weeds now when they are small, you save yourself countless hours of weeding in the summer heat. Cutting in a neat edge on your garden beds also slows weeds' progress and gives your landscape a neat, professional appearance.

Now is the time to start watering trees and shrubs that you planted in the fall. Newly planted trees and shrubs need supplemental watering for a full year to stay healthy, grow good roots and flower well. As soon as you see new leaves appear, start watering. A slow, steady watering is best. Try using a hose on a slow trickle or a soaker hose to water deeply and well.

A pre-season check is a great idea this time of the year. Are your garden tools ready for the busy gardening season? Check them and fix, sharpen or replace them as necessary. Take a stroll around your yard. Did rabbits, mice or deer damage any plants? Do any need to be repaired or replaced? Start a list for your garden center. Flip through your garden journal and start a list of "must do" projects. By the time your list is done, spring will be here.



# From the garden of Eva

## Easter Bunny Cheese Spread Recipe

### Ingredients

- 3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 2 packages (2-1/2 ounces each) thinly sliced deli beef
- 12 pimiento-stuffed olives, chopped
- 2 teaspoons dill weed
- 1 teaspoon prepared horseradish
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 3 green onions
- 6 miniature jelly beans
- 1 small carrot
- Fresh vegetables and/or crackers



### Directions

- In a bowl, combine the cream cheese, beef, olives, dill, horseradish and Worcestershire sauce. Finely chop two green onions; add to cream cheese mixture. On a large platter, form cheese mixture into a bunny shape. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight.
  - Insert jelly beans for bunny's eyes, nose and buttons. Cut carrot in half lengthwise; place cut side up above head for ears. Cut green portion of remaining onion into six 2-in.-long pieces; place next to nose for whiskers.
- Serve with vegetables and/or crackers. Yield: 4 cups.

Use carrots for his ears and mini jelly beans for the eyes, nose and buttons.

The cheesy spread has great flavor and is perfect for serving with crackers or veggies.

*Sienna Sunrise®*  
*Heavenly Bamboo*



'Sienna Sunrise' is a compact mid-height cultivar growing in a tight mound to about four feet. Intense fiery red new foliage cools to lush medium green in summer. Red highlights reappear in fall and winter. Clusters of small white summer flowers give way to bright orange-red winter fruit. Not a bamboo at all but a non-invasive relative of Mahonia, the Oregon grape. Nandinas are incredibly versatile and useful evergreen shrubs with great foliage interest. Full shade right up to full sun!  
Follow a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer before new growth begins in spring. For a tidy, neat appearance, shear annually to shape.

Botanical Name *Nandina domestica* 'Monfar'

Plant Type Shrubs

Plant Subtype EVERGREEN SMALL SHRUB/HEDGE

Foliage Color Multicolored

Light Needs Full Sun, Partial Sun

Water Needs Moderate

USDA Cold Hardiness Zones 6 - 11

Height 3—5 feet

Spread 1—2 feet

Habit Narrow, Compact

Special Uses Deer Resistant, Dramatic Foliage Color, Dwarf Plant, Easy Care, Tolerates Poor Soils,

Year-Round Interest

Landscape Uses Firescaping/Fire Wise, Hedges and Screens

Flower Color White

# How to Grow and Care for Peony Plants

The herbaceous Peony has been cultivated in home gardens for over 600 years.

Considering the beauty of the flower and the longevity of the plants,  
it's no wonder why they have long been a perennial favorite.

Peony clumps may survive for up to as long as 50 years,  
so it is advisable to prepare the growing site very thoroughly before planting.

Once established in the garden, Peony plants are reasonably free from maintenance and problems.



## Growing Requirements for Peony Plants

Peonies grow best in cool climates, because they will only bloom well if they experience a pronounced period of winter chilling.

Peonies grow and flower best in full sun, but will tolerate some light afternoon shade.

Peony plants are not overly fussy as to the soil, but they will definitely benefit from the addition of organic material and compost into the planting hole when they are set into the garden.

Other than that, they need good drainage and a soil pH that is close to neutral (pH 7.0) or at the most, only slightly acidic.

Peonies should be planted away from large trees or shrubs because they will have to compete for root space and nutrients, resulting in the size and the quantity of the flowers being reduced.

## Planting Peonies

Peony plants do not respond well to transplanting, so choose your planting location carefully.

The best time to plant peonies is in early fall. (early September until mid October are ideal) so they will have time to become established in the soil before winter.

Mature plants will reach a diameter of three feet or more and so it is important to give them enough room to grow and develop.

The planting hole should be at least 18 inches deep and about 18 inches in diameter.

At the bottom of the hole, add a 4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, pine bark, or well-aged manure. A half cup of a good plant food (10-6-4), bone meal or superphosphate should be mixed into this layer.

You should avoid adding fertilizer to the soil that will be in direct contact with the roots.

Fill the hole half way with a mix of garden soil and compost, and then set the root division in place with the eyes facing upward. Spread the roots outward and evenly.

Water thoroughly.

Make certain that the eyes will be no deeper than two inches when the planting is completed, or your Peony may fail to bloom.

If potted peonies are being planted, plant them at same level as they are growing in the pot.

After the division or plant is in place, work the soil in around the roots, finish filling the hole, and then water again.

If root divisions are planted in the spring, they may not bloom for up to two years. However, Peonies which are potted and already growing may bloom for you the first year when planted early enough in the spring.

## Feeding and Watering Your Peony Plants

Peonies should be fed in early spring and again halfway through the growing season. Cultivate a half cup of low nitrogen fertilizer (5-10-10) into the soil when new growth about 2 or 3 inches high.

Use care not to damage the roots, and try to keep the fertilizer from direct contact with them.

Over-fertilizing, especially with a high nitrogen plant food, results in weak stems and reduced flowering.

Peonies are particularly partial to potash, and will benefit from the incorporation of a couple cups of fireplace ash into the soil in early spring.

During the dry summer months, Peonies require regular, deep watering. A spring application of 2-4 inches of leafy, organic mulch will help to conserve the soil moisture and at the same time keep the soil cool and control weeds. This mulch must be removed and destroyed before winter and a new, fresh winter mulch of loose straw or evergreen boughs added, to help control disease.

Larger Peony flowers will be produced if the side buds on each stem are removed as soon as they are visible. The terminal bud on each stem tip is left intact.

To prevent the flowers from breaking or bending over during a strong wind or rain, provide a sturdy plant stake and tie the stem loosely to it with garden twine or strips of cloth.

Remove the flowers as soon as they fade to prevent seed development, which will use up needed food reserves, and effect next years bloom.

In the fall, after the foliage dies back, cut the stems back to three inches, remove and destroy them.

### Dividing Peony Clumps

Peonies should only be transplanted or divided when it becomes absolutely necessary.

An established and productive plant may not need dividing for ten to fifteen years or longer.

Carefully dig around and under the plant to avoid cutting off roots and remove the clump from the hole.

Remove all of the old foliage, and hose the dirt from the root cluster.

Carefully cut or pull apart the roots into sections, making sure there at least 3 or 4 growth eyes in each new section.

Trim away any soft or damaged spots with a sharp, clean knife. Dust the cut surfaces with a fungicide to discourage disease infection and rot.

Replant into a newly prepared area of the garden.

It is not a good idea to plant them in the same place where they were previously growing.



## Itoh Peony collection

Takara

Misaka

Keiko

Yumi



# Siam Ruby Banana

## Musa 'Siam Ruby'

. Every leaf of the Siam Ruby Banana appears to have a unique color pattern, some speckled with spots. other part green, some with green spots, some with red spots, and still others with green or red striping.



- Many of the first leaves that appear from the base of the Siam Ruby Bananas are green, but most of the leaves turn part red or deep red in a short time, due to the presence in the leaves of anthocyanin pigmentation.

The most spectacular red leaf variegated banana tree is the Siam Ruby Banana that was recently found growing as a mutation in Thailand, a country that was called Siam last century. Sometimes an offset Siam Ruby Banana will retain its all-green color and revert to the original parental form, but this is very rare.

The Siam Ruby appears to endlessly form offsets, especially the large 15 gallon plants, and therefore, this banana cultivar is especilly promising to appear rapidly in the nursery trade as a highly productive cultivar.



# Fairy Gardens

What is a fairy garden?

A fairy garden is a miniature garden complete with structures and actual living plants. It is designed to give your green thumb a place to tend year-round and to lure fairies and wish them good luck, to your home. It's a tiny space created and tended with love. The design and components are limited only by your imagination.

Your kit will include

Box for planting

A lid that becomes a saucer

Soil

Arbor with bench

Birdbath

Wheelbarrow

Tiny pebbles to form a path

Fairy dust

Plants

Design, planting and care instructions.



Join us for a Saturday workshop on creating your own fairy garden!

Pre-payment is required to reserve your space and fairy garden supplies. Call today 540-885-7342

April 13 or April 20 10:00 am to 12:00 PM