



the Urban Scion Post

a publication of the Seattle Tree Fruit Society,
chapter of the Western Cascade Fruit Society

President's Letter

Hope everyone is doing well. I've harvested rhubarb, honeyberries, and a few Salmonberries so far this season. How about you?

We are anticipating the lifting, hopefully, of some of the social distancing regulations, to enable us to finally schedule a club event. On June 13th – 10:00 to about 1:00 – we plan to have a work party at the Magnuson Park Demonstration Orchard. We will take all the necessary actions to keep everyone safe. We'll have hand sanitizer, extra masks and gloves, and plenty of refreshments. For those of you who are not quite ready for this sort of activity, you can still participate on your own. We will make an assessment on the day of the work party, and take note of what else needs to be done. Then, we will allow anyone interested to “adopt” a tree, or a task, and work on it at their convenience.

We are also discussing a long-term project to rejuvenate the orchard. This will entail adding some trees and shrubs, replacing some, and adding signage. If you have any ideas concerning what species of cultivars should be added, please let us know.

Because of our public health restrictions, we haven't been able to assemble since our February meeting. We normally don't meet during the summer. But, we will do our best to schedule some kind of event soon – a tour or a demonstration – to bring us back together. Hopefully, restrictions will be lifted in time to commence with our regular meeting schedule, starting in September. If you have any ideas for summer events, please pass them along to us.

I'll discuss another potential project that has come our way. Last year, Alexander Eppler, a musician, priest, flute maker and fruit hobbyist, passed away. Many of you remember that Alexander hosted a tour of his property in West Seattle several years ago, showing us his collection of Cornelian Cherry trees. A few members of our club expressed an interest in inventorying his trees, to determine if there were any rare cultivars in his collection. Our initial research led us to author (and scientist) Lee Reich, then to John Holzwart of Wisconsin. John, known as “Little John,” is a fruit hobbyist, among other things (like all of us) who has become somewhat of a Cornelian Cherry expert. He told us that he thought Alexander may have had four very unique cultivars in his collection, including one (‘Abanos’) that was almost black. We are going to investigate whether or not we might be able to identify these purported trees in Alexander's collection, then take cuttings from them. From what I've read, summer is the best time to take these cuttings. If you take a look at Little John's website (www.cornus-mas.com), scroll down to the bottom and click on “Descriptions of Known Cultivars.” What will come up is a 66 page document that describes over 100 cultivars of all shapes and colors. I'm sure most of you are just as obsessive as I am when it comes to this kind of information. This will keep you occupied for a while.

I have been pleased with our new format for the Urban Scion Post. It is great to see all those color photos! Thanks to Laure Jansen, and the newsletter contributors, for this development.

Yours truly, *Mike Ewanciw*

Urban Scion Post

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On the cover

“Portola” strawberries in the raised bed at Vashon Fruit Club's Sunrise orchard. *Photo: Laure Jansen*

June 2020

by Marilyn Tilbury

Almost the whole month of April was dry. In May we experienced many sunny days, a blessing for those of us sheltering-in-place. Will we be able to escape June Gloom? At least the sun now sets after 9 PM and the summer solstice is coming soon.

If you grafted new fruit trees or purchased new plants this spring, be sensitive to their moisture needs. Horticulturists say it takes 3 years for them to become established in their new homes. Trees on dwarfing rootstock will always need supplemental water in our dry Mediterranean summers since their wimpy roots are unable to forage very far for water.

Did you deploy mason bees this spring? It's time to remove their nests and store them in a safe place until harvesting the mature cocoons in September. Store the nests with holes facing up so that developing larvae can be in contact with their food supply. Our nests are stored on the top shelf of a bookcase, safely away from any monodontomeris wasps or Houdini flies which destroy the bee larvae. Nests may be stored in a garage too if screened from these parasitic insects and mice.

Honeyberries have ripened (try picking these a tad early for best flavor). Pollinators are working over cultivated blackberry and raspberry blooms, and strawberries are sizing up. Have you noticed how quickly apple fruitlets are growing? Try to finish thinning and protecting them from apple maggots and codling moths just as soon as possible.

To convince yourself that apple maggots are infesting your apples, purchase a couple Red Delicious apples, skewer them with a cut up wire coat hanger and apply a coat of Tangle-Trap sticky coating. Place them at eye level on the sunny side of your tree. Unless you are very lucky,

you will soon see the picture wing flies stuck on them. It's important to buy Red Delicious apples since that cultivar is one of their favorites.

This may be a big year for insect pests. Quite a few sweet cherries in our yard have been catfaced by stink bugs (they do not bother pie cherries). Unlike us, stink bugs prefer to feed on cherries in early May while the fruit is small, green and hard as a rock. The resulting damage renders the fruit inedible.



So far many, many codling moths have been trapped in our pheromone trap. Nice weather at dusk has provided them with lots of flight hours plus codling moth pressure last year was high. This is why it's so important to remove all unprotected applets now and deny both apple maggots and codling moths of ovipositioning sites in your yard to reduce next year's pests.

Some apple cultivars are susceptible to powdery mildew on new foliage at limb terminals. The terminal bud and leaves will die but the fungus will quickly produce conidia spores and release them

into the air all summer whenever it rains. Some folks carry a bag with them while thinning and carefully remove the mildewed tissue. Other folks look at the death of the terminal bud as a form of tree pruning and ignore the mildew. Generally the disease is not serious enough to justify the 3 sprays of fungicide needed in spring to control it.

Seen any Asian giant hornets? They keep getting into the news, don't they? A specimen was found in Langley BC on May 15 and another near Blaine WA on May 29. It's doubtful that we will encounter this new apex insect predator this far south, at least not this year. If you *should* see a likely specimen, carefully get a photo and sent it to WSDA for confirmation. Google "wsda asian hornet" and click on Reported Sighting.



BOTANICAL ALCHEMY

Turning Strawberries into Roses

By Laure Jansen

Many of the home-grown fruits in the northern hemisphere are taxonomically in the rose family: apple, pear, medlar, cherry, plum, loquat, almond, cane and bramble berries. Also in this family, which is quite large, are a number of common flowering shrubs, such as cotoneaster, cinquefoil and trees: rowan and hawthorn amongst others.

Before the era of gene-splicing and GMO, botanists were hybridizing plants in the old fashion way. Probably any number of interesting interspecies and intergeneric plants have been created as science experiments, and then lost to the tides of time. Interestingly, one can create intergeneric hybrids of some plants in the rose family. Aronia can be crossed with mountain ash, creating an intergeneric hybrid called Sorbaronia. From our grafting experience, we also know that certain members of the rose family can be grafted to each other and actually grow: medlar onto apple, loquat onto quince., pear onto hawthorn.

Enter the “mad scientist” with the crazy idea to create a strawberry with a bright red blossom. Who knows whence came the idea that crossing a red-flowering marsh cinquefoil with a white-flowering strawberry might result in something interesting? Unfortunately, I have been unable to find any historical record yet of the details of the development of the original hybrid pink-flowered strawberry.

What we do know is that a cherry-red-blossom hybrid of

the garden strawberry (*F. xananassa*) and marsh cinquefoil, called “Lipstock”, was released in 1966. Although the blooms were strikingly colorful, it had a number of undesirable traits. The blossom color is apparently not dependable, and it can be very irregular in its blooming periods.

“Pink Panda”, also known as “Frel”, was developed in an effort to create an ornamental strawberry with a longer blooming period, from a subspecies of the garden strawberry *F. grandiflora* crossed with the marsh cinquefoil, which once again provided the blossom color genetics. This hybrid was supposedly created in 1971, but patented in the US in 1991.

“Pink Panda” was then used as a basis for developing other cultivars with stronger color. “Gerald Straley” is a seedling of “Pink Panda” with bright red blossoms, developed at Heronswood Botanical Garden in Kingston, Washington. “Franor”, also known as “Red Ruby” is a sport of “Pink Panda” with a stronger color, patented in 1998.

A decade went by with no new releases of pink-flowering strawberries, but progress was made decoding the complex genetics of the strawberry. The Institute of Cytology and Genetics of the Russian Academy of Science opened a new gene-bank in Siberia in 2012 to accu-



Berried Treasure Red



Ruby Ann



Just Add Cream



Florian



Roseberry



Rosalyn



Summer Breeze Rose



Tristan



Toscana



Tarpan



Gasana



Summer Breeze Pink

mutate pink-flowering strawberry germplasm and to pursue breeding of new varieties. Specifically, the aim is to select everbearing hybrids with strong ornamental characteristics, winter hardiness, high fruit yield, good taste and genetic stability under vegetative propagation

A Dutch company, ABZ Seeds, has been releasing new pink-flowering strawberries for the last decade. Development has concentrated on long flowering, fruiting and good flavor qualities. Their catalog gives the follow description:

*ABZ strawberry F1 hybrids are large fruited varieties of the species *Fragaria x ananassa*. All varieties are day-neutral and propagated by seed. Plant will bloom and bear fruit within 3 - 5 months from sowing. Fruit production will continue during whole summer into Autumn. One plant may produce 700 - 1500 grams of fruit during whole season. ABZ strawberries have a sweet and delicate flavor.*

Scientists in other countries are trying their hand at creating new pink-flowering strawberries as well. Agriculture and Agrifood Canada has developed two new day-neutral strawberries based on the “Pink Panda” genetics:

“Roseberry” and “Rosalyne”. Their breeding is complex, and achieved a much nicer fruit than that of “Pink Panda”. The Shenyang Agricultural University in China has released two new hybrids (“Kinuama” x “Pink Panda”) in 2010 that have stronger leaf spot resistance than their parent: “Pink Beauty” and “Pretty Beauty”.

In the U.S., the pink-flowering strawberry craze is going strong. In 2012, Syngenta Horticultural Services of Lisle, Illinois released “Fragoo”, another everbearing pink-blossom with small, edible berries. Thompson and Morgan have their own pink strawberry, “Just Add Cream”. This little gem has masses of pink flowers, few runners, and “an intense perfume that you can both taste and smell, that evokes childhood memories of your first taste of a strawberry”. West Coast Seeds is offering “Hot Pink Berry Basket” which has large, deep red, full flavored fruit. Ball Horticultural parented “Berries Galore Rose”, and “Berries Galore Pink”, which you can buy from Burpee Seeds. These both bear fruit that is highly praised for its size and flavor, although I haven’t tasted them myself.

And finally, a unique multi-colored ornamental strawberry called “Rainbow Treasure”, with multi-hued, white, pink, and deep rose blooms, and large, sweet, fragrant berries is currently available from Territorial Seeds, Park Seeds and Superseeds.

PINK-BLOSSOM STRAWBERRIES

*The pink blossom gene originated in *Cinquofoile X*, which is also in the rose family. The hybridizer is noted in parentheses. AAFC=Agriculture and Agrifood Canada.*

Ornamental

- “Pink Panda” - *F. grandiflora X Comarum palustre*. Blossom is bright pink with a yellow center, dark green, glossy leaves. (Britain)
- “Lipstick” – *F. x ananassa X Comarum palustre*. Deep rose single blossom, light green foliage. Produces small amount of edible fruit. Short bloom season.

Day Neutral

- “Roseberry” – Pink blooms. Fruits are dark red, glossy, aromatic, sweet and slightly acidic (AAFC)
- “Rosalyne” – .very similar to Roseberry; blossoms lighter and fruit smaller (AAFC)

Everbearing:

- “Frisan” – Hot pink blossom; vigorous trailing habit. (ABZ Seeds)
- “Gasana” – Light pink blossom. (ABZ Seeds)
- “Inova Rose” –deep pink blossom, dark green foliage. Good size berry with hint of wild strawberry flavor. (Lareault)
- “Just Add Cream” – Light pink blossom
- “Merlan” - pink blossoms, early flowering, few runners (ABZ Seeds)
- “Roman Pink” – apple blossom flowers; aromatic fruit. (ABZ Seeds)
- “Summer Breeze Pink” - pink double blossom, sweet fruit (ABZ Seeds)
- “Summer Breeze Rose” - deep rose double blossoms, sweet fruit (ABZ Seeds)
- “Tarpan” – Light pink blossom. (ABZ Seeds)
- “Tristan” - deep rose blossom, early flowering, few runners (ABZ Seeds)

SUMMER PROPAGATION OF SOFTWOOD CUTTINGS

by Laure Jansen

Although many plants can be propagated from either hardwood or softwood cuttings, you may be most successful propagating certain types from softwood cuttings during the summer months. Cuttings can be taken from a specific part, depending on the plant, and planted in a soil-less medium with an optimum temperature of 70-75 degrees F, with or without rooting hormone. Humidity is important, so the cuttings may benefit from some enclosure such as a bell jar or plastic bag. Be certain to label your cuttings well if you are doing more than one cultivar. Propagating plants your self can be rewarding, allowing you to reproduce your favorite fruiting or flowering shrubs and trees. You can share the extras with your friends and neighbors, or even sell them.

The only really difficult part of propagating shrubs from softwood cuttings is knowing when a shrub's stems are ready to be cut. The stage of growth on a deciduous shrub that is most generally most suitable for propagation is not new growth, or hardened-off growth, but the point in between, called softwood. The stem-tip, which is new, green growth has a tendency to rot before producing roots. The hardened-off woody growth near the main branch may produce roots but often does not. That is why rooting dormant scionwood is so difficult: good scion wood is already hardened off.

For most types of deciduous shrubs, the best time to take cuttings is in June, July and sometimes August. Once August arrives, the new annual growth begins the process of hardening-off for winter protection. You can tell if a stem is mature enough by bending it and listening for a distinct snapping sound. The stem will bend but not break if it is too green; the stem may break but will not bend if it is hardened off.



Take your cuttings in the morning, as early as possible, before the sun has started drying out the leaves and stems. Don't take cuttings in very hot weather. Lateral shoots are the best, except as noted below for specific species. In general, you can make a cut below the second leaf on the lateral. Some species, like blueberries, like to have the "heel" piece of the main branch attached. A cutting should be between 3 and five inches in length. More length may result in the cutting drying out before the cutting can produce roots. Do not let the cuttings dry out; keep them in damp paper towels out of the sun until potting. Remove all the lower leaves, and also rough up the bark around the basal cut if you are using rooting hormone. Dip the cut end in water, and then in rooting hormone. The openings in the bark will collect the hormone powder. Be sure to pot up the cuttings immediately in an appropriate soil-less mix (recommendations noted below). Water the potted cutting from the bottom, and put the pot in a plastic bag, making sure that the cuttings do not touch the plastic. Water as necessary, but do not overwater. Within four to six weeks, most cuttings will have developed some roots.

Blackberry and Raspberry (*Rubus* spp)

Many species of *rubus* will send out runners under the ground, which will send up shoots the next season. These suckers are usually weeded out, but can be separated from the main plant to make new starts. This works best if you cut the root connected to the main plant without disturbing the plant, forcing it to developing its own sustaining roots.

For those species that do not reproduce by means of suckers (*R.armeniacus*, *R. ellipticus*, *R. fraxinifolius*, *R. glaucus*, *R. parviflorus*, *R. leucodermis*), you can cut leaf buds to propagate in a sheltered place, such as a greenhouse. The leaf buds of these two *rubus* species are very similar to the bud used in shield budding fruit trees. Retain the leaf together with the

bud in its axil and a small bit of attached bark and wood. Cut these “shields” between mid-July and mid-August, from the central part of the cane. Place them a rooting medium of clean, sharp sand sand or sand and peat, water regularly, and cover if necessary to maintain humidity Note that this method does not work well on red raspberries or purple raspberries that grow from suckers. This same method does work well on roses, mock orange, and gooseberry.

Blueberry (*Vaccinium spp*)

Highest average rootings of lowbush varieties is generally secured with heel cuttings, using short laterals taken in early June. Experiments with straight cuttings of highbush varieties (“Adams” and “Rubel”) give better results than did heel or mallet cuttings. Rooting medium german peat moss, sorbex used as a rooting stimulant and a 50-50 mixture of peat moss and acid sand, generally gives good results in most cases.

Fuzzy Kiwi (*Actinidia deliciosa*)

Kiwibob has promised to write a detailed article for publication later this summer on rooting kiwi cuttings, But in the meantime, here a a few general instructions.

Choose a softwood (green) twig of about ½ in diameter, about 5-8 inches in length. Snip the cuttings from the mother plant just below the leaf node. Leave a leaf on the top node, and remove the leaves from the lower nodes. Dip the basal (bottom) end of the cutting in a rooting hormone or talcum powder and plant it in a coarse medium or equal parts perlite and vermiculite. Keep it in a moist, warm environment and it should develop roots in six to eight weeks. Note that male kiwis don’t usually reproduce well from cuttings and are generally propagated by grafting. “Tamori” and “Matua” males may develop from cuttings; “Hayward” and most of the other females propagate readily from cuttings.

Hardy Kiwi (*Actinidia spp*)

Take cuttings in June or July. If you are pruning your kiwi vines during the summer, you can take the prunings of new, green wood, cut them down to about 6 inches in length. Remove all but the upper-most leaf. You can plant them in rooting medium, with or without rooting hormone. Or you can try putting them in a glass of water for several weeks. If they grow roots, then you can transplant them into 4-inch pots.

Cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*)

Cornus is picky about propagation. Hardwood cuttings have a low success rate. It is recommended to propagate this plant by semi-hardwood cuttings of the stem-tip, taken in the summer. Use a rooting hormone such as IBA talc at 1600 ppm.

Use intermittent mist. Roots should appear in 6 to 8 weeks.

Honeyberry (*Lonicera caerulea*)

These plants with edible berries are also know as haskap. You may have some success propagating haskap plants with softwood cuttings, in the same manner as cornelian cherry. However, a more successful method is to layer branches, pegging them down against the dirt for at least several months until they begin to root. The wetter the season, the more likely that the branches will develop good roots.

Elderberry (*Sambucus spp*)

Choose a soft, springy lateral branch that is just beginning to harden up and turn from green to brown. Cut the branch into 4- to 6-inch long segments; you may be able to get more than one cutting from the branch. Trim off all the leaves from the lower two-thirds of the cutting. Be sure to leave at least one set of leaves at the top.

Soak the cuttings in water for several hours or up to one day. Prepare planting medium by ombining one part peat moss to one part sand, add water until the soil is damp and crumbly, not soggy. Fill a 4-inch pot with the soil-less mix. Stick the cutting into the pot until the bottom third is underground. Place the pot in a plastic bag or fastern a bag over the top with a rubber bank, so that the plastic is not touching the cutting. Place the cutting in an area of bright but indirect light. Mist the cutting every few days as the soil dries out, and then replace the bag.

Sources:

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Strawberry Cultivars for Western Oregon and Washington

by Chad E. Finn, Bernadine C. Strik, and Patrick P. Moore. Oregon State University Extension Service, Bulletin EC 1618 • Revised April 2014.

The cultivated strawberry (*Fragaria* × *ananassa*), resulted from a cross between two wild strawberry species: *Fragaria virginiana* (meadow strawberry), which is native throughout much of North America, and *Fragaria chiloensis*, which is native to the Pacific coast of North and South America. Colonists in eastern North America sent the meadow strawberry, *F. virginiana*, back to Europe. A French spy, who was also a botanist, was monitoring the Spanish in Chile and brought plants of *F. chiloensis*, which had been improved greatly by native South Americans, back to Europe. By chance or design, the two species crossed, and the offspring became the cultivated strawberry we know today.

This publication briefly describes the main types of cultivated strawberries and gives recommendations for cultivars within each type that are adapted to conditions west of the Cascades.

June-Bearing Strawberries

The primary type of strawberry is the June-bearing strawberry. These cultivars are sometimes referred to as short-day strawberries because they initiate flower buds the previous summer/fall as the days become shorter. This type of strawberry is commonly grown in perennial matted rows, where runners are encouraged to root within the row each year to establish productive crowns for the following year.

Many California-developed June-bearing strawberry cultivars are available. However, many of these cultivars, including 'Camarosa', 'Chandler', 'Camino Real', 'Gaviota', 'Lassen', 'Tioga', 'Torrey', 'Tufts', and 'Ventana', are not good choices for the Pacific Northwest. The plants tend to be short lived, not very productive, and have poor fruit quality.

Everbearing Strawberries

As people noticed that some types of strawberries bore small fall crops in addition to a spring crop, breeders and hobbyists began selecting for this trait. The result was everbearing strawberries, such as 'Ft.

Laramie', 'Gem', 'Ogallala', 'Ozark Beauty', 'Quinault', and 'Rockhill'. Everbearing strawberries tend to have large spring and fall crops, with little fruit in between.

Day-Neutral Strawberries

In the 1970s, day-neutral (remontant) strawberries were developed at the University of California. Day-neutral strawberries flower throughout the growing season as long as temperatures are below 90° F. Periods of hot weather will cause a temporary gap in fruit production. Day-neutral strawberries do not produce as many runners as the other types, so they are usually grown commercially with plastic mulch in a hill system, where runners are removed to maintain individual plants. This type of strawberry can be grown in annual or perennial production systems.

Distinguishing between everbearing and day-neutral cultivars can be confusing for the home gardener. Day-neutral cultivars are "everbearing," whereas the old everbearing cultivars produce two distinct crops—one in the spring and one in the fall. Furthermore, both day-neutral and everbearing cultivars are usually sold as "everbearing" in retail nurseries.

Fragaria vesca (Alpine) Strawberries

Fragaria vesca (fraises des bois or woods strawberry) is also commonly found throughout the northern hemisphere. Many "alpine strawberries" have been developed from this species. Cultivars include 'Alpine', 'Baron Solemacher', and 'Ruegen'. Plants are moderately vigorous but have poor durability because they are highly susceptible to viruses (these cultivars often are used as virus indicators). Berries are small, with a bright red external color and pale internal color. They are soft, very aromatic, and have a mild flavor. Berries are suitable only for fresh use. Yields are low, and commercial value is limited.

June Bearing

"Honeoye" -Very early. Vigorous, poor durability, very susceptible to root rot. Medium to large size, bright red and glossy external color, pale red internal color, fair capping, firm, uniform conic shape, poor processed quality, good flavor. Low to medium yield. Fresh eating. Good for small farm or home garden.

"Sweet Sunrise" (U.S. PP pending) – Early. Vigorous, durable. Medium to large size, bright red and glossy external color, deep red internal color, good capping, uniform shape, excellent flavor and processed quality. High to very high yield. Fresh or frozen/preserves. Good for small farm or home garden.

"Hood" – Early. Vigorous, poor durability, sensitive to viruses. Medium to large size, bright red internal and external color, easy capping, medium firmness, uneven shape, good processed quality, excellent flavor. Medium yield. Fresh or frozen/preserves. Good for small farm or home garden.

"Puget Reliance" (U.S. PP 9,310) -Early to midseason. Vigorous, very good durability. Large to very large size, bright red external color, pale red to red internal color, glossy, attractive, good firmness but tender skin, uniform shape, good processed quality, good flavor. High yield. Fresh or frozen/preserves. Good for small farm or home garden.

"Valley Red"- Early to midseason. Vigorous, very good durability, tolerant to root rot. Large, consistent size from first to last pick, deep red external color, medium red internal color, very uniform, attractive shape, good firmness but tender skin, good processed quality, good flavor. High yield. Frozen/preserves. Good for small farm or home garden.

"Shuksan" – Midseason. Vigorous, good durability. Medium to large size, bright red external color, pale red to red internal color, poor capping, tough skin, variable shape, fair processed quality, very good flavor. Medium yield. Fresh eating. Good for small farm or home garden.

"Charm" (U.S. PP pending) – Midseason. Very vigorous, excellent durability. Medium size, bright red internal and external color, excellent capping, tender

skin, excellent processed quality, very good flavor. High to very high yield. Frozen/preserves. Good for small farm or home garden.

"Sweet Bliss" – Midseason. Vigorous, susceptible to Phytophthora crown rot. Medium to large size, bright red internal and external color, beautiful and glossy, symmetrical conic shape, tough skin, excellent flavor. Medium to high yield. Good for fresh eating (but processes well).

"Tillamook" – Midseason. Moderate vigor, excellent durability. Large to very large size, bright red external color, red internal color, caps well, very firm, moderately tough skin, very good processed quality, good flavor but bland if not fully ripe. High to very high yield. Fresh or frozen/preserves. Good for small farm or home garden.

"Totem" – Midseason. Vigorous, good durability. Medium to large size, bright red external and internal color, caps well, good firmness, tender skin, excellent processed quality, very good flavor. Medium to high yield. Frozen/preserves. Good for small farm or home garden.

"Sequoia" –Midseason. Moderate vigor. Can have large, dark red fruit with production extending over a longer season than most June-bearing cultivars. Medium yield. Fresh eating. Home garden only.

"Benton" – **"Mid to late season. Very vigorous, excellent durability.** Medium size, bright red external color, pale internal color, caps well, medium to firm, tender skin, poor frozen color and texture, excellent flavor. Medium to high yield. Fresh eating. Good for small farm or home garden.

"Rainier" - Mid to late season. Vigorous, good durability. Medium to large size, bright red internal and external color, poor capping, fair firmness, excellent quality, excellent flavor. Medium yield. Fresh eating. Good for small farm or home garden.

"Puget Crimson" (U.S. PP 22,781) - Very late season. Vigorous. First berries very large but size drops quickly, red external and internal color, fair capping, good firmness, uniform shape, excellent flavor. Medium to high yield. Fresh eating. Good for small farm or home gardens

Everbearing

“Quinault”— Moderate vigor, poor to fair durability. Medium size, bright red external and internal color, very soft, fair capping, fair flavor. Low to medium yield. Fresh eating. Good for small farm or home garden.

Day Neutral

“Albion”(U.S. PP 16,228) - Fair vigor, poor durability. Large size, light red external color, pale internal color, firm, good flavor. Medium to high yield. Fresh eating. Good for small farm or home garden.

“Mara des Bois” (U.S. PP 8,517) - Low vigor, poor durability. Small size, pale, soft, unique flavor that people either love or dislike. Low vigor. Fresh eating.

“Monterey” (U.S. PP 19,767) - Low vigor, poor durability. Large size, firm, light color, mild nontraditional flavor. Low to medium yield. Fresh eating.

“Tristar”— Vigorous, fair to good durability. Very small to medium size, glossy bright red external color, bright red internal color, good firmness, excellent flavor. Low yield. Fresh eating. Good for small farm or home garden.

“Tribute”—Vigorous, fair to good durability. Medium size, attractive, glossy bright red external color, bright red internal color, poor capping, very good flavor. Low yield. Fresh eating. Good for small farm or home garden.

“Seascape” (U.S. PP 7,614) - Moderate vigor, good durability, susceptible to verticillium wilt. Large, bright red external color, pale internal color, poor capping, firm, good flavor. Low to medium yield. Fresh eating. Good for small farm or home garden.



Puget Reliance
Photo: WSU Puyallup Extension

What if you find a cultivar that's not included here?

- Find out as much about it as you can:
- Is it June-bearing, everbearing, or day-neutral?
- Does the nursery's description indicate that it's susceptible to any diseases, such as root rot or viruses?
- What's the fruit like?

Remember: If you purchase a cultivar that is not on these lists, it probably hasn't been extensively tested in this region. It's best to try a few plants first and see how well they grow and how you like the fruit.

2012 Vashon Fruit Club Taste Trials

Strawberry	Score	Total
Honeyoye - Appearance-	3.93	10.54
Honeyoye - Texture	3.18	
Honeyoye - Flavor	3.44	
Albion - Appearance	3.81	11.25
Albion - Texture	3.71	
Albion - Flavor	3.73	
Albion 2-Appearance	3.45	10.01
Albion2 - Texture	3.20	
Albion2 - Flavor	3.37	
Seascape-Appearance	3.80	10.95
Seascape - Texture	3.63	
Seascape - Flavor	3.53	
Glooscap-Appearance	4.05	11.02
Glooscap-Texture	3.43	
Glooscap-Flavor	3.55	
Stolo - Appearance	3.02	8.93
Stolo - Texture	2.66	
Stolo - Flavor	3.25	
Allstar - Appearance	2.55	7.73
Allstar - Texture	2.78	
Allstar - Flavor	2.40	
Jewel - Appearance	4.12	10.05
Jewel - Texture	3.16	
Jewel - Flavor	2.77	
Puget Crimson - Appearance	3.37	10.90
Puget Crimson - Texture	3.47	
Puget Crimson - Flavor	4.06	
Chandler - Apperance	3.39	10.00
Chandler - Texture	3.02	
Chandler - Flavor	3.59	

HORTSENSE GUIDE TO MAJOR DISEASES AND PESTS OF STRAWBERRIES.

Problem (factsheet)	Type	Description
Common Leaf Spot	Disease	Common leaf spot is caused by a fungus that overwinters on old infected leaves. It produces abundant spores in lesions of infected leaves, and rain splashes them onto healthy tissue. Only young leaf tissue is susceptible to infecting, and long wet periods and warm temperatures encourage spread of the disease. Foliage symptoms start as dark purplish red spots, and eventually become grayish white. Developed spots are about a 1/10 inch in diameter, with a white center and reddish outline, and become scattered all over the leaf surface. Sometimes the whitish centers of spots fall out, leaving a hole in the leaf. Infections occur in moist weather and are most severe in spring and fall. "Olympus" and "Shuksan" cultivars are the most susceptible.
Gray Mold	Disease	Fruit rot is caused by a fungus which attacks many plants. Strawberry leaves, stems, flowers, and buds may be attacked, but the worst damage is to the fruit. The rot typically begins as a brownish, water-soaked spot on any portion of the fruit. Infection may occur at the stem end of the fruit, or where the fruit contacts diseased plant parts or the ground. The infection spreads quickly throughout the fruit. Infected berries often develop a powdery coating of brownish-gray fungal growth. Berries infected in the field may not show symptoms until they are in storage, where they quickly rot. Cool temperatures and moist conditions favor disease development. Spores are spread by wind and splashing water. The fungus overwinters in diseased plant debris.
Red Stele	Disease	Red stele is caused by a soil-infesting fungus. It is active in cool, wet weather. It attacks roots soon after fall rains begin and remains active through winter, spreading most rapidly where drainage is poor or in heavier soils. The core or stele of diseased roots has a reddish-pink tinge which gradually turns cinnamon-brown and finally black. The root's outer cortex stays white. Lateral roots are quickly destroyed, giving main roots a "rat tail" appearance. Slightly diseased plants show few above-ground symptoms. Severely diseased plants are stunted, foliage may turn bluish-green and eventually plants wilt and die.
Viruses	Disease	Crinkle virus, mottle virus, mild yellow-edge virus, and vein-banding virus commonly infect Pacific Northwest strawberry plants. They are transmitted by the common strawberry aphid, and can decrease vigor and yield. Usually, the only distinctive symptoms are dwarfing, leaf cupping, and yellowing. The "Hood" cultivar is the most sensitive. The Tomato ringspot virus, spread by the dagger nematode, can cause stunting and sometimes death. The Tobacco streak virus, which spreads naturally by unknown means, can also reduce vigor and yield.
Aphids	Insect	Aphids are small, soft-bodied, pear-shaped insects. They vary in color from yellow to green to brownish. Aphids on strawberries are typically found on the underside of leaves along veins and on new shoots and buds in the crown of the plant. Infested plants may be stunted, and leaves may be crinkled and deformed. Feeding aphids produce large amounts of honeydew, a sweet, sticky material which may attract honeydew-feeding ants or become covered with a dark growth of sooty mold. Honeydew and sooty mold can reduce the quality of fruit. Aphids can also transmit several virus diseases of strawberry.
Brown Marmorated Stinkbug	Insect	The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is an introduced pest species from Asia that is spreading quickly across the United States. Nymphs and adults feed on a wide variety of plant hosts. BMSB prefers to feed on fruit, seeds, and seed pods, but will also feed on stems and leaves of some hosts. BMSB damage may appear either as a sunken area or as a pinprick surrounded by a light discolored spot. Secondary damage from rot may occur at the feeding site. One or two generations of BMSB per year are expected in the Pacific Northwest. Adults overwinter in sheltered locations (including houses, where they can become a significant nuisance pest). In the spring, light green to white eggs are laid in groups of about 20 to 30 on the underside of leaves. For more information on BMSB identification, see FS079E, Pest Watch: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, available at https://pubs.wsu.edu/ .

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STANDING COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

- Orchard Committee - please volunteer
- Events Committee - please volunteer
- Programs Committee please volunteer

MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM

Seattle Tree Fruit Society

www.seattletreefruitsociety.com

A Chapter of the Western Cascade Fruit Society

www.wcfs.org

Name:

Phone:

Address:

City, State, ZIP:

Email address:

DUES (includes STFS and Western Cascade Fruit Society)

New Member – Regular Rate – \$25	_____
New Member – Limited Income or Student Rate – \$15	_____
Renewing – Regular Rate – \$25	_____
Renewing – Limited Income or Student Rate – \$15	_____
Optional: Donation to support fruit research (\$5 min)	+_____
Optional: Donation (other purpose) (\$5 min)	+_____

TOTAL _____

make checks payable to STFS., and mail with this form to:

**STFS, c/o Trent Elwing,
1035 Alaska Ave E, Port Orchard, WA 98366**

Our STFS club is run by and for our members - volunteers make things happen. If you would like to help, contact any Officer or Board member (see your newsletter) or email seattletreefruitsociety@gmail.com

from the Fruitful Kitchen:

Spring Avocado and Berry Salad

Ingredients

Ruby Red grapefruit
2 or 3 small limes, juiced
Pinch of sugar
Salt and pepper
¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
9 medium strawberries
2 large firm-ripe avocados
½ jalapeno, seeded, or not, finely sliced
½ teaspoon pink peppercorns, crushed lightly
Fresh cilantro leaves
A few fresh basil leaves torn, if you have some

Instructions

Peel and section the grapefruit, saving the juice. For the dressing, combine the juice with juice of 2 of the limes in a jar with the sugar, salt, pepper, and oil; shake to blend.

Slice the strawberries however you like. Slice the avocado and sprinkle with juice from the remaining lime.

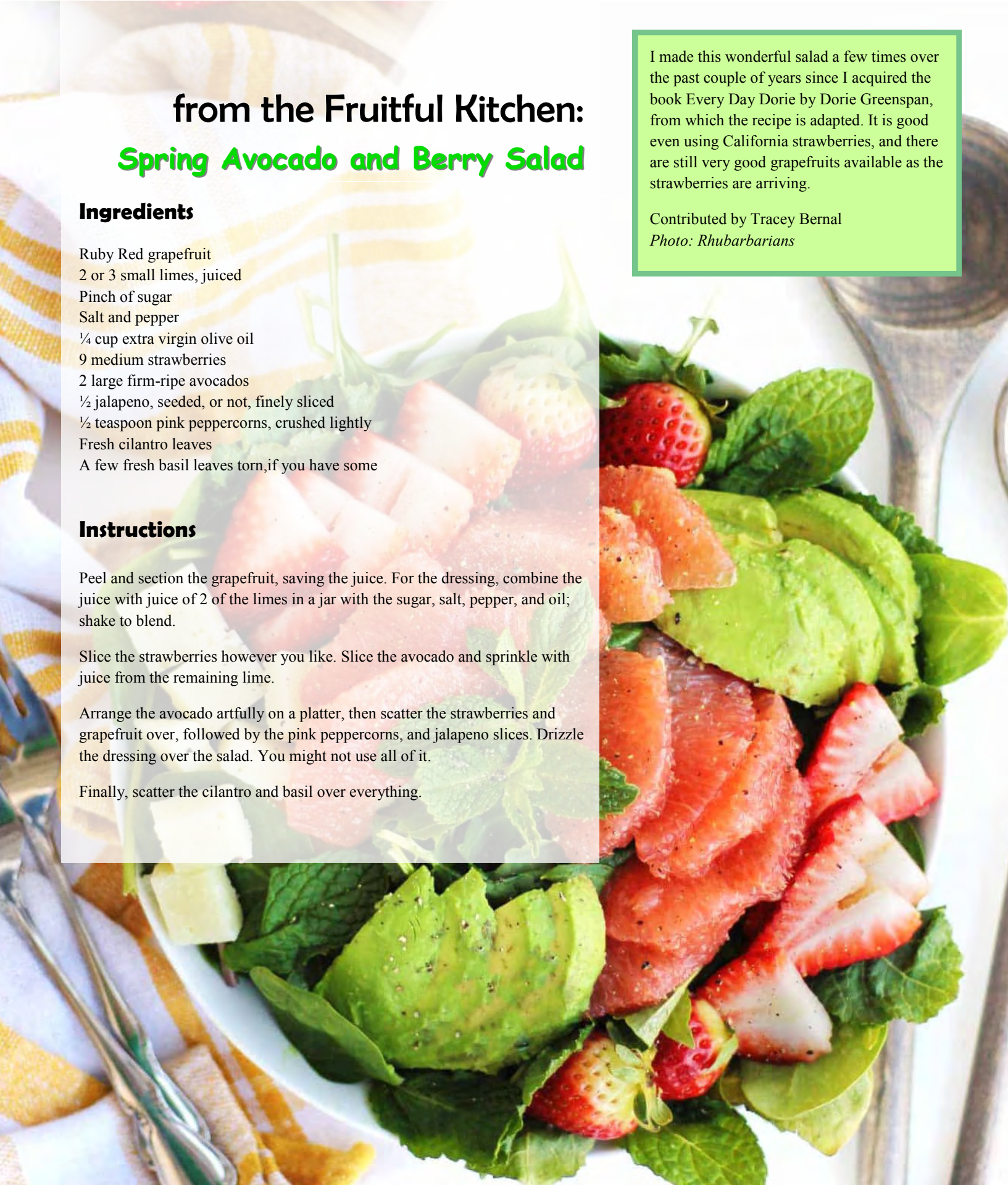
Arrange the avocado artfully on a platter, then scatter the strawberries and grapefruit over, followed by the pink peppercorns, and jalapeno slices. Drizzle the dressing over the salad. You might not use all of it.

Finally, scatter the cilantro and basil over everything.

I made this wonderful salad a few times over the past couple of years since I acquired the book *Every Day Dorie* by Dorie Greenspan, from which the recipe is adapted. It is good even using California strawberries, and there are still very good grapefruits available as the strawberries are arriving.

Contributed by Tracey Bernal

Photo: Rhubarbarians



Protect your Fruit: *Apple Maggot Barriers*

APPLE MAGGOT BARRIER ORDER FORM

Seattle Tree Fruit Society—A Chapter of the Western Cascade Fruit Society

Name:	Phone:	Date Rec'd _____ Date Mailed _____ Processed by- _____
Address:		
City, State, ZIP:		
Email address:		

We offer Maggot Barriers as part of our educational mission to promote and stimulate interest in growing fruit bearing trees, shrubs and vines in urban areas and to disseminate pertinent horticultural information to the public.

Maggot Barriers have proven highly effective in controlling apple maggot damage in home orchards in the Puget Sound area when used according to the instructions that come with each package. They may also reduce codling moth damage.

We offer two types: **REGULAR** for small/medium-sized fruit and **SUPER** for larger fruit.

To order, please complete this form. **Become a member and save \$5/pk**
(see website: www.seattletreefruit society.com)!

	Quantity (Packages)	Member Price	Nonmember Price	US FUNDS ONLY
REGULAR MB's		\$15/pk	\$20/pk	
288 per package	_____ X	_____	OR _____	= \$ _____
SUPER MB's (heavier thread)		\$10/pk	\$15/pk	
144 per package	_____ X	_____	OR _____	= \$ _____
		Shipping & Handling for 1-2 pkgs		= \$ 5.00
		Add \$5 S&H for each additional package		\$ _____
		TOTAL		\$ _____

Visit www.seattletreefruitsociety.com for membership and other information.

Mail order to:
STFS c/o Linda Sartnurak, 17504 – 155th Ave SE, Renton WA 98058-9064

Please complete the Shipping Label below:

From: Maggot Barriers – STFS
c/o Linda Sartnurak
17504 – 155th Ave SE
Renton WA 98058-9064

TO:

Name:

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STFS: Who Are We and What We Do

In this time of social disruption, we review our commitments of time, energy and money to ensure that our lives are organized in a way that promotes our personal goals in the most effective way. Let us use the opportunity to review the organization and goals of our organization.

Western Cascade Fruit Society, our parent organization, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The WCFS was founded in 1980 and is made up of chapters throughout Western Washington whose members are aspiring hobby orchardists and backyard fruit growers. Our primary objective is to bring together new and experienced fruit growers who will promote the science, cultivation and pleasure of growing fruit bearing trees, vines and plants in the home landscape. Local chapters disseminate information through education, fruit shows, orchard tours, meetings, workshops, and publications.

WCFS is the parent organization to nine affiliated chapters. WCFS publishes a quarterly BeeLine newsletter to inform members of events, tours, articles, and reports. Members receive automatic membership in WCFS after joining an affiliated Chapter. WCFS provides other member services, including a member forum, a chapter-wide event calendar, and a home for chapter sites. These can be found at www.wcfs.org.

Seattle Tree Fruit Society (STFS) is a chapter of WCFS, one of nine chapters in Western Washington. STFS brings together amateur growers – beginners to experts – from the Greater Seattle area who share an interest in growing fruit and nut trees, berries, kiwis, grapes, and other fruit. We offer information on adapted varieties, up-to-the-minute growing techniques, and share our own experiences growing fruit.

We meet each month from September to May, usually on a Saturday morning. Programs explore topics tailored to Western Washington growers, such as grafting, pruning, pest control, recommended varieties, nurseries, suppliers, home wine and cider making, and more.

STFS members receive both The Urban Scion Post, our monthly newsletter, and The BeeLine, an on-line quarterly from Western Cascade Fruit Society. Both feature a wide variety of useful articles about fruit, and announce upcoming events. Find us on [Facebook](#) and on our website www.seattletreefruitsociety.com.

The function of our STFS **membership** is to **be** the Seattle Tree Fruit Society. This is your organization. Please let us know what is most important to you. STFS can always do more! If there is a way that any of our members feel that STFS can be better, let us know. How can the board of directors be of further help to you as members? Please let board members know. And, some extent, the question is what can you, as a part of our organization, do to make STFS better, be it for your community, your local chapter, or for WCFS, our parent organization. Get involved. Remember, STFS is **you**.

Seattle Tree Fruit Society

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Seattle, WA 98070

E-mail: seattletreefruitsociety@gmail.com