



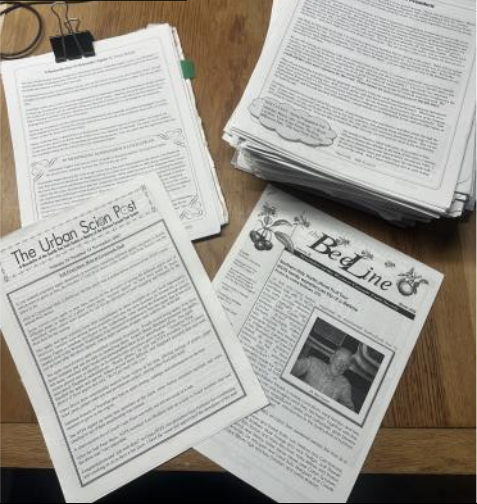
Fragrantly Fixing N₂

the Urban Scion Post

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

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The burden of knowledge in a printed format

archived issues per request.

What is the oldest printed USP newsletter you retain and reference? My oldest is USP 25 11 2007 Nov edited by Jack Pedigo and published by Mike Mowrer.

I also have some old printed WCFS BeeLines dating back to 2007/2008. Hopefully sometime soon, a new WCFS editor will step forward and BeeLine production will resume after the current hiatus dating back to spring 2021.

Back in 2007, I probably would have overlooked an article on goumis or Cornelian cherries not knowing what they were or knowing then that someday soon I'd have quite a few of the former and 3 of the latter but wanting more.

Diseases and pests make cherry growing in the PNW challenging. Why not just give up and instead grow disease/pest-free plants producing cherry-like fruits?

Candidate #1: *Cornus mas*. I have a red star variety recently plugged after digging two holes as well as two unknown varieties given to me by Kiwibob who grew both from seeds obtained from fruit that Sam Benowitz brought to a STFS fall fruit show. Thanks, Kiwibob and Sam. All three trees fruited last fall, but the two seedlings produced a deeper red, smaller, tastier fruit than the more commercial red star. If you have *Cornus mas* and want to exchange fruit for growing seedlings, please email me (treling@gmail.com). More on *Cornus mas* and the individual instrumental in bringing it to the PNW in several archived articles written by longtime STFS member and perennial big-time newsletter contributor Tracey Bernal. Thanks, Tracey.

Candidate #2: goumis. Read all about in the archived article written by longtime STFS member Mark Lee and frequent newsletter contributor on the following page. Thanks, Mark.

Topping the marquee for this newsletter is a roundup of archived USP strawberry articles most likely all written by longtime STFS member Laure Jansen. Thanks, Laure. Which reminds me of the strawberry bed I still want to level, mound and plant still this year. Upcoming events:

*Sat May 13th 10 AM to noon - in-person @ STFS demo orchard in Magnuson Park - spring maintenance led by longtime STFS members Ruth Callard and Sandy Bowman. Thx, U 2.

*Sat May 20th 10 AM to noon - remotely via zoom only - STFS member meeting featuring Melinda McBride talk on Hugelkulture followed by 2nd quarter STFS Board meeting. Thx, M.

5/7/23 Message from the Editor

It's April/May in the PNW with so many enjoyable "get dirt-y" tasks to do outside for the backyard orchardist and gardeners. (Hence the challenge getting this newsletter out to STFS members.) What to wisely do as well as how and when might be addressed in past articles penned by your STFS co-members and published in past USP newsletters.

If you're relatively new to STFS, you might be cursed/blessed by no past printed USP newsletters. The last printed USP newsletter was the March 2020 issue after which the initial confusion about COVID-19 modes of transmission shut down print shops pushing STFS to issue USPs in electronic form. Copies of all electronic USPs from April 2020 to present are available to all at the [STFS Join webpage](#).

Obtaining pre-April 2020 printed or digitized USPs is a bit more challenging. Thankfully the UW [Elisabeth C. Miller Library \(washington.edu\)](#) has kept an archive of the USP publication since 1992 and will provide ar-

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On the cover

Goumi Sweet Scarlet blooming 30 Apr 2023 Port Orchard. From Raintree Nursery: [Goumi Sweet Scarlet — Raintree Nursery](#): This Ukrainian variety was selected for fruit production by Kyiv Botanic Garden. Goumi fixes nitrogen that it will share with neighbors, so it's great as a hedgerow plant as well as in an area that will support its round, upright and rustic shape. Many soft yellow, bell-shaped flowers in April are intensely fragrant and great bee forage, too! Be ready to enjoy loads of nutritious, tasty scarlet berries from this hardy bush! Very versatile - will grow and fruit in sun or shade, but fruit production is better with more sun. Disease resistant, and no known pests bother this rugged bush.

Growing Goumi in Edmonds

**by Mark Lee originally part of
USP 30 05 2012 May**

Goumi is uncommon the Seattle area, and deserves to be grown more. I grow a variety of Goumi called Sweet Scarlet which was selected in Kiev, Ukraine at the Main Botanic Garden. This variety was imported and introduced by One Green World Nursery in Oregon. Jim Gilbert is the owner of this nursery, and his catalog is full of plants that he has introduced from around the world. I mail ordered one Goumi plant in 2009 from his nursery.



The latin name of Goumi is *Elaeagnus multiflora*. It is native to the Russian Far East, China and Japan. Other names for Goumi are Gumi, Natsugumi, or Cherry Silverberry.

The plants are actinorhizal, growing in symbiosis with the actinobacterium Frankia in the soil. These bacteria fix atmospheric nitrogen, making it available in usable form for the host plant, and indirectly for other nearby plants.

Goumi berries are great fresh, nibbled right off the bush. They also make a delicious jam. I couldn't find any data to back this up, but many online authors claim that Goumi, like many other *Elaeagnus* species, are extremely nutritious, containing not only vitamin C and beta carotene, but the rare (rare in plants) and the vital fatty acid, Omega 3. The claims go on to say the fruits contain ridiculously high amounts of lycopene, a proven cancer fighting agent, anywhere from 17x to 3000x the level found in tomatoes. The seed is also edible, and contains a high amount of protein. A couple of authors claim the seed tastes like a peanut. I have not had enough fruit yet to eat the seed. The precious few seeds that I collect go toward growing new seedlings.

The bees love this plant in the spring. It is loaded with pollen and nectar. It is ready for harvest in late July/early August. Look out for the squirrels. They ate my whole harvest this year except for about 10 berries that I sampled early. No diseases – just squirrels.



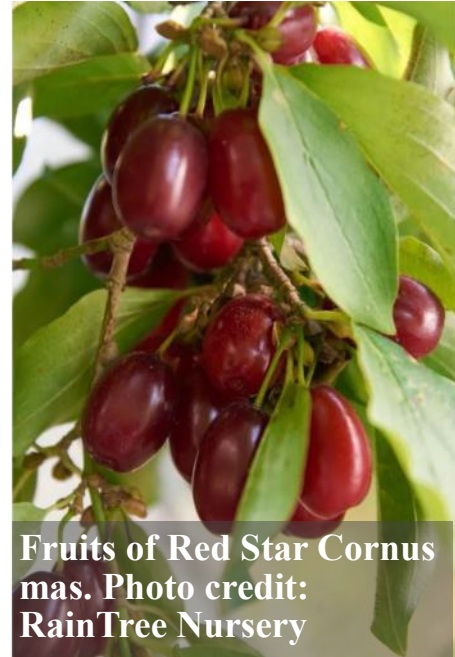
In my opinion, the best use of Goumi is in the making of wine. I have grown a similar *Elaeagnus* species called Autumn Oleaster that is ready for harvest in the fall. I once fermented my entire 2-cup harvest into a single-bottle batch of wine. It came out like a golden-colored white wine. In a blind side-by-side taste test, it was preferred over a California Chardonnay.

It takes about four years to come into production. The plant takes the form of a bush. Mine is growing in the shade and is only three feet tall. It would probably do better with more sun. I want many more bushes of Goumi, so I am experimenting with different ways of propagation including rooting cuttings in a cloning machine and air layering. I also have one seedling, with hopefully more seedlings on the way.

Cornelian Cherry by Tracey Bernal

originally in USP 27 07 2009 Jul

If you're thinking of trying something new in your garden in a way of an attractive tree or shrub that is one of the earliest to flower in late winter, consider the many beautiful cultivars of the Cornelian Cherry: the fruit of *Cornus mas* is known to have been enjoyed by humans for over 6000 years. It is a native of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and is a species of Dogwood, with its typical leaf venation. Blooming before the leaves emerge, it appears to be covered with tiny yellow clouds, brightening up the too-long winter garden-scape. Many cultivars exhibit beautiful fall color, and a couple of variegated leaf types (I have 'Variegata' in my backyard plantings) will stand out in the mixed border summer through fall.



Fruits of Red Star *Cornus mas*. Photo credit: RainTree Nursery

Cornelian Cherry, although seen most often as ornamental, is a long-lived, productive plant, and can be grown as a 12 foot to 15 foot tall specimen tree or shrub. It is tolerant of most soil types but needs a full or mostly sunny site for best fruiting. Two varieties will ensure better fruit production. It is hardy to zone 8, but the flower buds are said to be hearty only to colder parts of zone 5, which might explain why after our cold winter one of my trees did not flower. Very high in vitamin C, the longish, teardrop shaped fruit is most often deep red in color but also is available in many other shades. It ripens summer through fall, and the flavor is best if left to hang on the fruit as long as possible for a more concentrated flavor and sweetness. It is easiest to harvest by shaking the branches (perhaps over a tablecloth or sheet?) and collecting the fruit from the ground.



Potted Red Star *Cornus mas* waiting to be planted until big buried rock was discovered where tree was to be plugged. 22 Apr 2023 Port Orchard.

All parts of the tree are used in various folk remedies throughout its areas of origin. In Russia, interestingly, the fruit is believed to have the ability to leach radioactivity from the body.

Raintree Nursery and One Green World offer several cultivars selected for fruit quality and flavor. Some names are Black Plum, Yellow Fruited, Kazenlak. I can verify that even the less tasty varieties can make a delicious jam for tarts or for adding to ice cream, or a syrup to flavor beverages: when cooked with a little sugar, the flavor is transformed to something indescribably and mouth-puckeringly delicious, similar to the way I experienced the difference between raw and cooked apricots. *Cornus mas* is considered to be the Turkish national fruit, and is used there to make a popular fruit drink and into preserves. In the Ukraine, it is made into preserves, wine, liqueur, and dried. In a certain Eastside park that is thickly planted with *Cornus mas*, Eastern European immigrants have been gleaning the fruit; I have been known to do the same, as my trees are not yet in full productive mode. Tracey Bernal, editor

A Remembrance of Aleksander Eppler by Tracey Bernal originally part of USP 37 05 2019 May

The fruit world recently lost a wonderfully interesting character Aleksander Eppler, *Cornus mas* aficionado. I had the privilege of spending time with him some years ago at the conclusion of a garden opening at his West Seattle home one summer evening.

I mentioned to him that I love finding culinary uses for the fruit of *Cornus mas*, aka Cornelian Cherry. He had brought out some homemade preserves and liqueur he had concocted from his fruit, to share with the tour attendees.



Photo credit:
Woodworker's Journal

I said that I often saw *Cornus mas* used inappropriately in landscapes where the fruit became an annual nuisance to clean up, in particular at a townhouse community in West Seattle. I had bicycled to his place for the tour of his orchard of *Cornus mas*; He offered to bring my bike and me home so I could show him the location of the heavy-fruited Cornelian cherries, which he was exceedingly interested in, even though he was constantly propagating new *Cornus mas* trees at his place.

In his car we packed my bike and his beloved Dachshund (who reputedly had killed and dragged out of the brush behind his home a full grown coyote), and off we went to look at the residential street with a Cornelian Cherry in the tiny front yard of each home.



Photo credit:
Woodworker's Journal

When I told him how I admired the Lee Reich book "Uncommon Fruits for Every Garden", he laughed and claimed to have given Lee Reich much of the *Cornus mas* material for that book. He clearly was an authority on the tree, but beyond that, a fascinating and entertaining person. I am very glad I had the opportunity that summer evening to hang out for a brief time with Aleksander Eppler.

More on Aleksander Eppler's instrument and music making at: [Woodworker's Journal](#) article **ALEXANDER EPPLER: MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC – AND INSTRUMENTS**

In memoriam: Aleksander Illitch Eppler

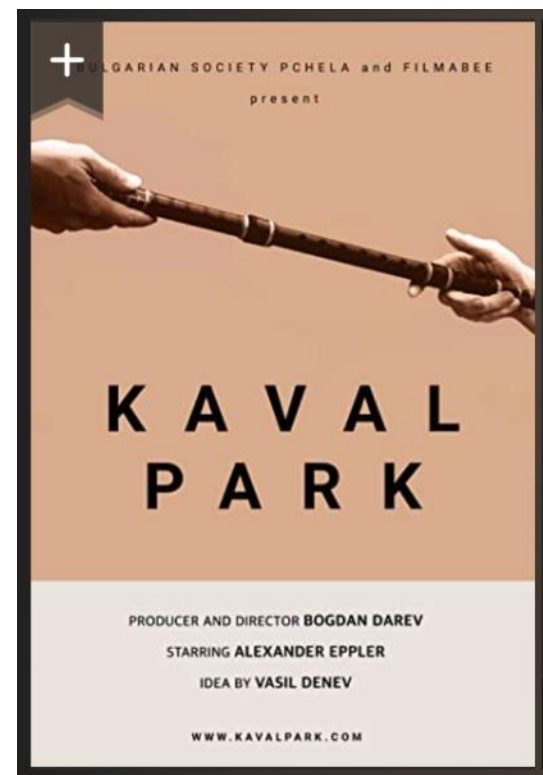
Aleksander Eppler was born in 1955 in Seattle to Bulgarian parents: Ilya and Nina Eppler. He passed away suddenly on June 6th, 2019 at the age of 65.

Aleksander began playing the viola at age seven, but a few years later found his life interest in the Bulgarian folk flute known as the kaval. He began working in a violin shop in Seattle in 1969, doing restoration work but soon discovered a preference for making instruments. While studying music at the Bulgarian State Conservatory for ten years, he learned to play the cimbalom, the balalaika and kaval, as well as studying the historical construction techniques of the kaval and cimbalom. When he returned to Seattle, he opened an instrument workshop specializing in construction of these instruments. His choice of exotic woods included Cornelian cherry, mountain mahogany, oyster wood, kingwood, partridge wood, African blackwood, cocuswood, snakewood, and mopane. In addition to performing and building instruments, Aleksander enjoyed some fame as a conductor and composer. He made numerous symphonic performances, and his recordings are on the Rounder label.

In 2017 a filmmaker, [Bogdan Darev](#), began a project to document the amazing life of virtuoso Aleksander Eppler and his love affair with the kaval. Aleksander learned the authentic craft of making kavals from the renowned Thracian master Slavi Ivanov (Tonev) during his education in Bulgaria. This film, "[Kaval Park](#)", was funded by the local Bulgarian community as well as by a successful Indiegogo campaign.



Photo credit:
[Woodworker's Journal](#)



Screening of [Kaval Park](#) in Seattle May 21st, 2023 The Beacon Cinema

[Kaval Park \(Seattle, May 21st\)](#)

100 min, Bulgarian with English subtitles. Find out more about the world tour and film

at www.kavalpark.com

Date & Time Sun, May 21 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM PDT

Location The Beacon Cinema 4405 Rainier Avenue South Seattle, WA 98118

[View address](#)

\$15.00

Welcome to our third and final showing of "Kaval Park" for Seattle. Our second showing in January sold out so we strongly recommend buying tickets in advance. Only 20 tickets remain!



Vintage Strawberry Jam Session



GROWING STRAWBERRIES originally part of USP 30 05 2012 May

For simplicity strawberry cultivars can be separated into two types. Type one is June-bearing, which sets its flower buds in August and September, blooming and fruiting the following year in a three-week period during June and July. The June-bearing varieties are known for their exceptional fruit quality: sweetness, complexity of flavor and beautiful red color. They bear fruit only once each year, and yields are high: you'll have loads of berries.

The second type includes both ever-bearing and day-neutral varieties. These are slightly different, but most nurseries don't make a distinction. Ever-bearing refers to varieties that focus their production in June and again in October. Day-neutrals produce fruit throughout the season, though yields decline in the heat of late summer. For the home gardener, considering ever-bearing and day-neutrals as one category works well. Basically, you'll harvest berries all season long, enjoying fresh strawberries for a good four months. Several of these cultivars are good for freezing and preserves, so you can gradually take care of this work over the summer. In terms of quality, the ever-bearing and day-neutral berries can't quite match the succulence of the very best June-bearers. But they aren't far off the mark, and you get to eat them all summer.

Not sure what kind of strawberries you have? June Bearing or Ever bearing? Notice the number of times per year the strawberries develop and ripen. June-bearing strawberries ripen only once in the spring or early summer with a large crop of strawberries. Everbearing strawberries ripen twice during the growing season, in the spring and in the autumn, but these harvests are smaller than that of the June bearing variety. Check the size of the mature berries. June-bearing strawberries tend to be larger than everbearing strawberries. Examine the way the strawberries grow. June-bearing strawberries produce dense runners from the parent plants. Ever bearing strawberry plants do not spread energetically through runners, making these compact strawberries a better choice for small growing areas.

Day-neutral strawberries will have flower buds regardless of day length. Day neutral strawberries produce flower buds and fruit regardless of the day length. To get a good crop the first year, commercial growers at Raintree Nursery in Morton, WA recommend, planting day neutral strawberries by April 15th. Single crop strawberries produce one large set of fruit, usually in June in the Northwest. Strawberries are considered fruiting perennials. June-bearing plants are called single crop, while plants that have a second small crop in summer are called everbearing. Both can be planted at the same time.

Planting a strawberry bed: Select certified disease-free plants from a good nursery. Strawberries are herbaceous perennials that typically exhaust themselves after 4 or 5 years. Buy new plants at that point, rather than taking runners from an old plant—they often are diseased. Strawberries need well-drained soil that receives sun all day.



Vintage Strawberry Jam Session



Fertilizer for strawberries should be balanced. If the fertilizer is applied correctly, it really doesn't matter whether the fertilizer is a 5-5-5, a 10-10-10, a 15-15-15, etc., just as long as the numbers are all the same. If you have 5-5-5 fertilizer, you will need 1/8 cup (30 milliliters) of fertilizer for every strawberry plant per application. If you are using a "slow-release" fertilizer (one that dissolves slowly in the soil) then it is acceptable to simply spread the fertilizer evenly over the ground, being careful to keep the chemicals off of the plants' leaves. Otherwise, put 1 pint (500 milliliters) of water in a bucket for every plant that you have, then stir in the fertilizer for the plants until it dissolves. Sprinkle this mixture evenly over the ground, being careful not to spill it on the leaves of the plants. Fertilize the strawberries once in the spring, just after the last frost, and one more time following the last harvest of the year.

Strawberry plants must have water during the growing season - an inch per week is the baseline. Do not let them experience stress from lack of water. Hoe often to keep weeds at bay. Weeds rob your berries of nutrition and water.

Pacific Strawberries from USP 30 05 2012 May

When you purchase strawberries for a home garden, your choice will probably be dictated by what is available locally, but they can also be purchased from mail-order nurseries. Strawberries are sold either actively growing or as dormant root systems called crowns. The buried descriptions can be mouth watering, but the best plan is to choose first from varieties that are well adapted to our growing conditions.

BENTON: A June-bearing cultivar, named after Benton County where Oregon State University is located in Corvallis, Oregon. Fruit is very bright, has excellent keeping quality, is conic in shape, and has good flavor. Fruit is medium to large in size and is recommended for all parts of the Pacific Northwest. Benton appears to have excellent winter heartiness and excellent fruit quality with vigorous growth. The upright habit makes Benson a good bet for home gardeners as well as the commercial grower. It is more drought resistant than Rainier. Virus tolerant. Also tolerant to red stele. Ripens late.

HOOD: A favorite fresh-eating variety with extremely sweet creamy flesh. Bears large fruit in early June. Good for preserves. Is highly susceptible to viruses.

PUGET RELIANCE: A June bearing variety that produces earlier than other types. Plenty of large, juicy fruits perfect for canning, jams and eating out of hand. This strawberry was developed in Washington state and is patented by Patrick Moore in Puyallup, WA.

PUGET SUMMER: Sweet flavor, similar to Hood, but later ripening. Low rate of fruit rot.

RAINIER: This strawberry is a full sibling of the Shuksan strawberry plant. It is a late-season, cultivar with good-flavored, large fruit. Yields are intermediate. Rainier is not suited for the processing market as it does not cap well but makes a good addition for local fresh sales. It is tolerant to powdery mildew and red stele.



Vintage Strawberry Jam Session



SHUKSAN: A popular Oregon variety, a standard of the industry. This June bearing strawberry produces consistently heavy crops of dark red, flavorful berries. Eaten fresh or frozen this berry makes a wonderful treat anytime of the year. Released in 1970. Very winter Hardy.

TOTEM: The most widely planted cultivar in the Skagit Valley, grown mainly for processing. Good flavor quality, color and yields. Growth habit is upright, holding fruits off the ground, which minimizes fruit rot. Early producer.

QUINAULT: From British Columbia, soft fruit, good flavor, best for fresh eating, not good for freezing. Produces lots of runners which fruit prolifically. Extraordinary virus resistance. Large June and small fall crop.

SEASCAPE: Super-early, everbearing variety developed by UC Davis. Extremely high yielding, incredibly sweet and wonderfully large berries are as close to they come to perfect. Plants are resistant to viruses and are easy to grow as they do well in a variety of growing conditions.

TRIBUTE: Delicious but tiny fruit; flavor superior to Quinault. Starts fruiting after Tristar but has a long harvest season.

TRISTAR: Everbearing variety with a long harvest. Good for container or strawberry jar planting. Firm, attractive medium-size berries with good eating quality from June to October.

The Marshall Strawberry in USP 27 12 2009 Dec

Strawberries moved west with the pioneers and were reportedly grown near Vancouver, Washington at the Hudson Bay Post by 1836. After 1860, strawberries were widely grown in many parts of the country. In 1846, Henderson Luelling traveled with his family from Iowa to Oregon by wagon train with two extra wagon loads of fruit and nut trees and berry plants. Luelling's plants thrived in the fertile Willamette Valley. In 1850 he opened a nursery in Milwaukie, Oregon. By 1870, he was advertising the Wilson variety of strawberries, which had been developed by James Wilson of New York, but were more suited to the Oregon climate. This variety helped establish the emerging strawberry industry in the Northwest.

Around 1880 the Clarks Seedling variety, a chance seedling found in the Mt. Tabor area of east Portland, became the first commercial strawberry variety because of its excellent shipping quality. Strawberries were grown primarily in the Hood River valley and were shipped by Southern Pacific Railroad across the country. The railroad helped farmers form shipping unions which enabled them to grow and ship almost double the amount of berries.

In the 1920s, the Marshall variety of strawberry was grown extensively in Washington, Oregon, and California. These were very large berries with an exceptional taste and firmness. Many, who have eaten them, hail Marshalls as "the finest eating strawberry". Marshall berries were important in the Oregon strawberry industry as they were the first berry that was processed by freezing. Marshalls continued to be grown well into the 1960s.

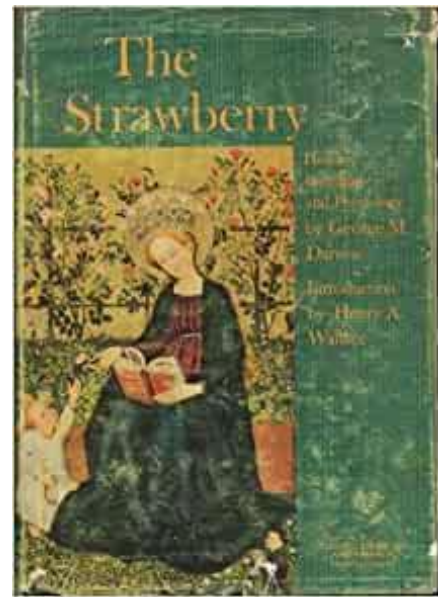


Vintage Strawberry Jam Session



Marshall, a chance seedling, was found in 1890 by Marshall F. Elwell of Marshfield Hills, which is just south of Boston, Mass. and was introduced in 1893. Though less hardy than many varieties, it was hearty enough to be widely, but not heavily, grown in northern states from 1900 to 1910. Then it was found to be adapted to the milder climate of western Washington, Oregon, and California, where it became the dominant variety; from about 1905 to 1945 in California, and from 1905 to about 1958 in Oregon and Washington. In the 1940s it was replaced in California by the larger, more productive and less virus-susceptible variety Shasta, and in Oregon and Washington in the 1950s by the hardier, more virus-tolerant, and more productive variety Northwest. The Marshall berry had the undesirable quality of a short harvest - 2 to 4 weeks for the entire fruiting season.

As the Marshall is large leafed, relatively large-fruited, deep red, and of high flavor, its parents would have been varieties with these characteristics, and Marshall could hardly have then a cross with the wild Virginian. The varieties grown in the late 19th century which might have been parents of Marshall are now lost. Among the likely parents of Marshall would be President Wilder and Bubach. Bubach, itself of unknown parentage, was like Marshall in being soft, irregular in shape, large and of high flavor, but its color was light red. President Wilder (Hovey x La Constante) was large, somewhat conical, bright scarlet with light flesh, sweet, and of high flavor also. Marshall remained important for so long because of its high flavor and its suitability for freezing and preserving. The berries became mushy after freezing but held their flavor and their deep red color. While it was important in the development of the great freezing industry of Oregon and Washington, its soft flesh, average productivity and virus-susceptibility limited its commercial value. Fortunately, Marshall has entered into the ancestry of several other varieties: Northwest, Robinson, Catskill and many the varieties grown in California such as Shasta, Lassen, Siletz, Goldsmith, Solana, Tioga, Fresno and Torrey.



Source: [G.M. Darrow, The Strawberry: History, Breeding and Physiology. Varieties of N. America, 1900 to 1950](#)

The Ultimate Strawberry by Laurie Jansen from USP 37 05 2019 May

People obsessed with fruit ("fruities") often mention the "Marshall" cultivar of strawberry, since it originated in the Pacific Northwest. People obsessed with food ("foodies") discuss the flavor of various obscure cultivars of alpine strawberries, such as "[Mara de Bois](#)" and "[Mignonette](#)". The number of strawberries cultivars is mind-boggling, although many have dropped into obscurity, obsolescence and even extinction due to lack of disease resistance and poor shipping characteristics.



Vintage Strawberry Jam Session

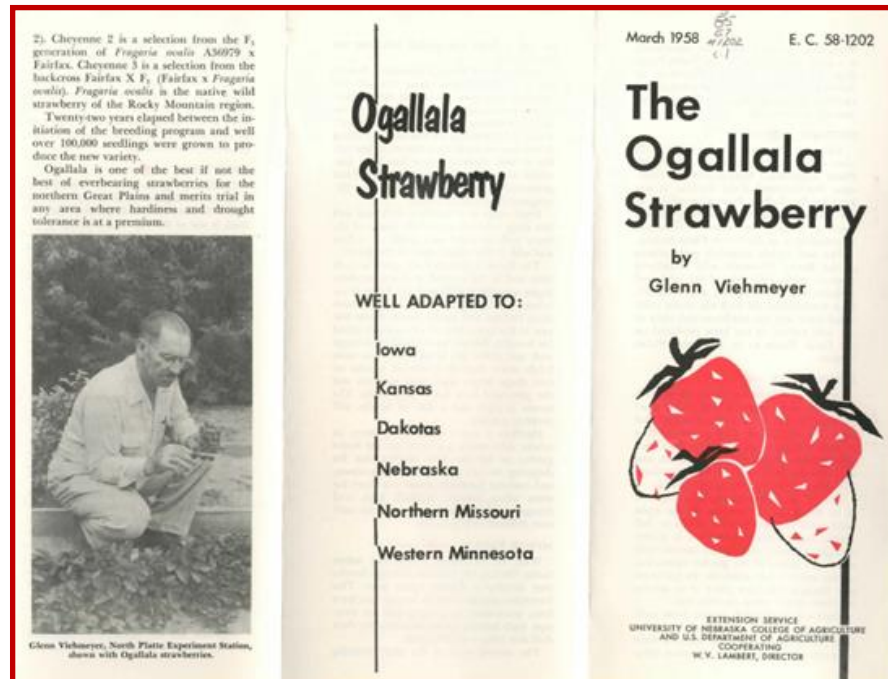


In the early 20th century, many strawberries were commercially grown in east King County. Some of the most popular were "Marshall", "Clark", and "Ettersburg-121". The Marshall produced a very sweet berry. It was excellent for eating fresh, but the high sugar content made it soften and spoil more quickly than other varieties. The Marshall had a shelf life of only one or two days and could not be shipped long distances unless frozen. The Clark berry was much firmer and was the superior berry for commercial farmers who wanted to transport their product across the state or along the coast. The Ettersburg-121 variety was a cross of the Marshall and Clark varieties, developed by Albert Etter. It was extremely productive, one acre of plants yielding 400 to 500 crates of berries. By 1910, Ettersburg-121 had become the leading variety in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, because its firm flesh, high color, and strong flavor produced excellent canned preserves. Henry Fisher, the owner of a Kirkland canning company, introduced this variety to the eastside in 1923.

I recently found a wonderful, information-dense website called strawberry-plants.org which attempts to list all the strawberry cultivars currently known (or grown). It has an education component, explaining the difference between the three types of garden strawberries: June-bearing, Ever-bearing, and Day-neutral and categorizes them by season: Early, Mid or Late. Most wonderful for those of us obsessed with information ("info-junkies"), the cultivar list included the hybridizer, location and release date.

Varieties that are currently of interest to growers in the PNW:

Ogallala was developed by the North Platte Experiment Station and the Cheyenne Horticultural Field Station. It is a cross of *Fragaria ovalis* and cultivated varieties Fairfax, Midland, and Rockhill. Ogallala produces big, husky plants with abundant dark green foliage that protects fruit and flowers from bird damage, hot winds, and unseasonable frost. It is very drought tolerant and should survive the minimum injury in the garden where irrigation water is not available. Fruit size is medium to large; fruit color is a brilliant dark red and this deep color reaches to the center of the berry with no paler color. The flavor is exceptionally good in fresh fruit and in the canned or frozen product. Sugar content is high, and the berry is excellent for eating out of hand. The aroma is high, and a dish of berries will perfume a room.





Vintage Strawberry Jam Session



Charm, developed by [OSU Corvallis](#), is an early, high quality, June-bearing type that is tough and vigorous with a high yield. The fruit is very sweet, with thick skin, but is also a good processing type.

Sweet Sunrise is another new strawberry developed by [OSU Corvallis](#). It is a full-flavor berry, a bit tart, but a little sugar allows the flavor to come through. It's a more open plant than Charm, making it easy to pick.

Dickens is a new release from [Cornell's berry breeding program](#), from berry breeder Courtney Weber. It is a traditional June bearing strawberry with high yields and bright red fruit that continues bearing late into the season. The berries are firm, so they hold well on the plant and in the container. Dickens is found to be tolerant to root rot and other common diseases.

Another new June-bearing berry from OSU, Mary's Peak, also has a big canopy and large fruit. Large fruit ripens late, firm berries with excellent flavor. Upright plants are very productive. Good for fresh eating or processing. This is available from [Cloud Mountain Farm Center](#).

Sources:

[Bellevue's Berries: Marshall, Clark and Ettersburg-121 | Heritage Corner | Bellevue Reporter EC58-1202 The Ogallala Strawberry \(unl.edu\)](#)

STRAWBERRY SOIL—Like most garden plants, strawberries prefer a loam soil, a soil type made-up of roughly equal amounts of clay (i.e. microscopic particle size material); sand (small grain size); and silt, or organic material (i.e., compost, manure, straw).

The organic material provides most of the nutrients for the plants; helps the soil retain air spaces (which allow roots to spread more easily); acts as a spongy material to hold water for the plants; and adds slight acidity to the soil (strawberry plants prefer a slightly acidic soil). The clay also slows water loss, as well as acts as a glue to make the parts of the soil stick to each other (thereby reducing soil erosion from rain and wind). The sand allows excess water drainage from the soil, and also makes it easier for roots to grow and spread. While a standard loam soil (i.e. equal parts sand, clay, and organic matter) is acceptable for strawberries, a 30% clay, 30% organic matter, and 40% sand blend is actually closer to the perfect strawberry soil mix.

MAINTAINING STRAWBERRY BEDS—Strawberries are often characterized as fussy, needy plants. They are actually one of the easier plants to grow. They are very tolerant of both heat and cold, heavy rainfall and brief periods of drought. In fact, it is because of their ability to thrive in any condition that certain varieties need a somewhat strict adherence to routine maintenance to keep them from becoming unruly. While the maintenance needs to happen within a certain time frame, it's all very easy, taking minimal time to complete!



Vintage Strawberry Jam Session



SOIL TESTING—Do a soil test after the final harvest. Strawberries grow best in slightly acid soil with a pH of 6.0 - 6.5. Test your soil at the end of the harvest. If you need to make your soil more acidic, add a phosphorus rich fertilizer. Since strawberries are also fond of potassium, look for a fertilizer that is high in the last two digits, like Doctor Earth Bud and Bloom Booster.

CUTTING BACK—After the last harvest, all varieties of strawberries should be cut back to a height of two inches. How you cut depends on the planting method you're using. Start by weeding the bed! Whichever cutting method you use, rake away the cut leaves and compost them, if your plants are disease-free.

June-bearers are often planted with the "matted row" method, and the runners spread all over the bed. If planted on the ground, it's easy to cut the plants back with a lawn mower set high enough to leave two inches of stems above the crowns. Matted rows in a raised bed should be cut back by hand. Popular row widths on the ground, for easy picking, are 18 inches to 24 inches, with 24 inches paths between the rows. By the time of harvest the rows will have runners making them wider than 24 inches. Narrow the row to a pickable size again by hoeing the runners from the edges, reducing the row to about 12 inches across. Or if the mother plants in the center of the row are declining in vigor, hoe out the center of the row and leave two rows of daughter plants on the edges. After you hoe, pull out the least healthy plants, leave five or six robust plants for each square foot. Hilling is a popular growing method for Everbearing and Day Neutral strawberries. You will not have as many runners to deal with here. Use garden scissors or shears to cut the plants back to two inches above the crowns.

RENOVATING EXISTING BEDS—When growing June-bearing strawberries in the ground, the basic method for renovation is:

- 1) Within a week after the final harvest, mow or hand-cut the plants to 1 inch above the crowns.
- 2) Thin the rows to around 8 inches wide.
- 3) Fertilize with 1/2 to 1 pound of 10-10-10 per 100 square feet.
- 4) As runners grow, allow them to root freely to create rows no more than two feet wide. Alternatively, you can keep them thinned to five to six plants per square foot.
- 5) Continue watering with an inch of water a week, and continue weeding.
- 6) Mulch the plants after the first few frosts but before the temperature reaches 20 degrees Fahrenheit. This is generally mid to late November, depending on your region.
- 7) When finished with the shears, the beds will look pretty ugly but you'll be rewarded for your bravery in doing this to your plants next spring!

To prepare for the inevitability that a strawberry bed has a limited life of production (generally three to five years), start a new bed each fall, deviating from traditional methods for establishing a strawberry bed. Use runners from your healthiest plants. Typically, new plants are put in the ground in the spring, the first flowers are removed as they appear, and the following year is the first strawberry harvest. Putting your plants in the ground in the fall will give your plants an opportunity to begin de

veloping buds for a harvest the following spring. Instead of waiting a whole year for berries, your weight is reduced to 1 winter season.

BeeLine Editor still needed after long vacancy

BeeLine editor assembles the quarterly newsletter from other authors' articles. The 9 WCFS chapters are expected to provide content. BeeLine editor also needs to find additional content from other publications like Good Fruit Grower. Ideally, the new BeeLine editor is proficient with Microsoft Publisher which is similar to PowerPoint and other Office software. Past BeeLine editions are available for review at the WCFS website (www.WCFS.org) under the "Resources" tab. Marilyn Couture, former BeeLine editor, emailed on 6/12/21 that BeeLine editor activities are rewarding and educational to all. Marilyn offered some initial mentoring for the new editor. Interested? Contact Ron (email ronweston09@comcast.net) or Marilyn(email marilyncouture1@gmail.com) directly. Past editors have volunteered their time, but with the position still open now for many months, WCFS representatives may realize that a nominal stipend may be necessary to fill this position. You won't know if you don't ask.

BeeLine

& Still Needed NOW: WCFS Treasurer

Longtime WCFS Treasurer, Jerry Gehrke, had hoped to retire from this volunteer position effective January 2023, but a replacement hasn't been found yet. WCFS doesn't have the luxury of going without a WCFS Treasurer. Jerry will coach any potential replacement candidate on what the job entails and see that she or he is equipped with the knowledge to succeed. For now, it is imperative that WCFS find the person for Jerry to mentor. Interested? Or know of someone who might be? Please contact Ron Weston, WCFS President, directly via email (ronweston09@comcast.net) ASAP.

Vintage Strawberry Jam Recipe

Rose Vanilla bean Strawberry Jam recipe from USP 30 05 2012 May

7 lbs of strawberries washed & halved
petals from 2 roses
1 Tablespoon of rose water
1 vanilla bean sliced and scoped
juice from 2 lemons
2 Cups of sugar
2 Cups of water
1/2 package of Pomona's natural pectin

- 1) Combine all ingredients except for lemon juice and pectin.
- 2) Bring to boil and simmer for 1-2 hours.
- 3) Remove from heat.
- 4) Add lemon juice and stir.
- 5) Add pectin according to box directions.
- 6) Ladle into sterilized jars and process.



STFS: Who Are We & What We Do

Western Cascade Fruit Society (WCFS), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in 1980 & is made up of nine Western Washington chapters, including STFS, full of helpful hobby orchardists & backyard fruit growers.

STFS members receive automatic membership in WCFS. WCFS publishes a quarterly BeeLine electronic newsletter to inform members of events, tours, articles & reports. WCFS provides other member services, including an online member forum, an online chapter-wide event calendar & an online home for chapter sites. See www.wcfs.org.

Seattle Tree Fruit Society (STFS) is a chapter of WCFS. The purposes of STFS are listed in Article II of STFS By-laws amended & restated as of 18 January 2014:

STFS will bring together people ...

- 1) to promote & stimulate interest in growing fruit bearing trees, shrubs & vines in urban areas,
- 2) to encourage propagation of desirable fruit varieties suited to the local climate,
- 3) to disseminate pertinent horticultural information to its members & the general public through the use of fruit shows, orchard tours, meetings, seminars, workshops, publications & other media,
- 4) to provide financial & other support to our area's fruit research and/or projects, &
- 5) to join with other organizations in promoting tree fruit in the Western Cascade region.

STFS members share an interest in growing fruit & nut trees, berries, kiwis, grapes & other fruit. We offer information on adapted varieties, current growing techniques & share our own experiences growing fruit.

STFS members meet monthly from Sept to May usually in-person on a Saturday morning in Seattle's Magnuson Park. In-person meetings typically include speakers presenting on topics such as grafting, pruning, pest control, plant health & fruit preservation tailored to Western Washington growers. STFS members receive both the STFS online monthly newsletter Urban Scion Post (USP) & the WCFS online quarterly BeeLine. STFS is online at www.seattletreefruitsociety.com and www.facebook.com/SeattleTreeFruitSociety/

The STFS membership is Seattle Tree Fruit Society. The goals of STFS are achieved by STFS members. Please contact STFS representatives listed in this newsletter and communicate what STFS can do for you and what you can do for STFS. When more STFS members get involved, STFS does more & attracts more STFS members who get involved.

Background: Abbe Fetel European Pear from Hartman's Nursery blooming under blue skies 29 Apr 2023 Port Orchard.

Seattle Tree Fruit Society

seattletreefruitsociety@gmail.com

www.seattletreefruitsociety.com

www.facebook.com/SeattleTreeFruitSociety/

PRESIDENT Mike Ewanciw 206.683.9665

(2-year term expires Jan 2025)

VICE PRES. Tracey Bernal 206.913.3778

(2-year term expires Jan 2025)

SECRETARY Vacant—please volunteer

(2-year term expires Jan 20??)

TREASURER Trent Elwing 206.517.3118

(2-year term expires Jan 2025)

MEMBERSHIP Trent Elwing 206.517.3118

HOSPITALITY Judy Scheinuk 206.200.1483

scheinukj@gmail.com

STFS DIRECTORS

#1 - Laure Jansen

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#2 - Linda Sartnurak 425.271.6264

noilinda@yahoo.com

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#3 - Ed Scullywest 425.286.4030

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#4 - Melinda McBride

(3-year term expires Jan 2026)

#5 - John Roach

(3-year term expires Jan 2025)

#6 - Ia Dubois

(3-year term expires Jan 2026)

#7 - Vacant—please volunteer

(3-year term expires Jan 20??)

USP NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Trent Elwing treling@gmail.com

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Orchard - Vacant—please volunteer

Events - Vacant—please volunteer

Programs - Vacant—please volunteer

NEW MEMBERSHIP & 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

How do I know when my annual STFS membership will expire?

Back in March 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, printed USP newsletters were USPS-mailed, and the STFS membership renewal date was printed above the mailing address of each member’s hardcopy printed newsletter.

To minimize spread of the coronavirus causing COVID-19, USP newsletters are now electronic and emailed. A reminder to renew your STFS membership no longer is printed above the mailing address.

Depending upon when a STFS member joins, annual memberships expire at the end of March, June, September or December each year.

Trent Elwing, STFS membership coordinator, will email STFS members one month prior to an expiring STFS membership reminding of the need to renew shortly and how to renew.

**Need to know now? Contact Trent
(phone/text: 206.517.3118 email: trelwing@gmail.com)**