

Mason Bees are the native, gentle, super-pollinators of the early spring garden. Invite them to your fruit trees, berry patches, and early flowering plants. We have bee houses, nesting material and cocoons to get you started.



Try this hands-on, bee-friendly family activity from Emmy-award winning writer and Bainbridge Island author, Lynn Brunelle.

MAKE A MASON BEE HOUSE WITH UPCYCLED TRASH! by Lynn Brunelle, author of “Turn This Book Into a Beehive”

So we all know that plastic bottles are terrible. They don't break down easily and they last forever. We all know to reduce our use of them, but sometimes they happen. And when they do, you can recycle them-- but you can also upcycle or re-use them.

One great way to re-use them, along with re-using all those paper grocery bags and toilet paper tubes we've been accumulating since COVID-19, is to make a mason bee house.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- PLASTIC BOTTLE (1-2 LITER POP BOTTLE)
- PAPER GROCERY BAGS
- TOILET PAPER TUBES
- SCISSORS
- TAPE
- PENCILS
- DUCT TAPE

- Cut your grocery bags up into pieces measuring about 7 x 9.5-10 inches. You have to use pieces that measure at least 6-7 inches so the tubes will be long enough for the bees.

- Place a #2 pencil along the 7 inch side and roll each paper sheet around it. Tape the tube closed (after you take out the pencil!)

- Make a BUNCH of tubes. Then cram them into a toilet paper tube. You will need four toilet paper tubes (or you can use two tubes cut in half to make four) filled with the thin tubes, plus extra tubes to spare. (The toilet paper tubes help things fit snugly and also add a little bit of insulation.

- Cut the top off the plastic bottle so you have a straight walled cylinder with a backing. Place the loaded tubes inside and then wedge more in so nothing moves when you turn the container upside down. Push the tubes so the ends are inside the bottle—this way they will be protected from rain. Put a strip of duct tape around the bottle and tape the ends together. Poke a hole in the tab and hang the bee house up in a protected sunny corner of your yard near plants you want pollinated.

Lynn's book “Turn This Book Into a Beehive” is full of fascinating facts and activities so that you can find out more about these “un-bee-lievably” great pollinators.

“The earth laughs in flowers.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Let the laughter begin, as flowering spring color arrives weekly now. Primroses, pansies, and spring bulbs, followed by your favorite annuals and perennials, welcome lighter, longer days ahead. Roses are here. Peonies are popping up. Scatter wildflower seeds.

We can help you choose color and fragrance for all the sunny and shady spots of your garden.

New to gardening in the Pacific Northwest?

We have six Certified Professional Horticulturists on staff. Bring us your gardening questions and ideas. We also can provide an at-home consultation.

Luckily, we can garden year round in the maritime northwest. Late winter is an ideal time to care for your fruit trees. Prune and spray to control pests before your trees set bud. Fertilize all of your trees and shrubs in mid-March. Our fertilizer and compost choices are natural and pet-safe. Even with our rainy days, make sure you are watering your garden by late April before your shrubs and trees put on new growth.



SPRING LAWN CARE

Get your lawn ready for spring and summer.

In March, you can apply lime to discourage moss and fertilize to feed your existing lawn. Wait until April to seed. When soil temperature is at least 50 degrees, your lawn seed will germinate in 10 to 14 days. Spread a 1/4-inch layer of mulch over the seed and keep the area moist.

March	Apply Lime	Lilly Miller Super Sweet (Calcium carbonate)	25 lb. bag covers 2000 sq. ft.
March	Apply Fertilizer	E.B. Stone Lawn Food	20 lb. bag covers 2000 sq. ft.
April or when soil is 50°	Spread Lawn Seed	Full Sun: Supreme Blend	5 lb. bag covers 1000 sq. ft for a new lawn
		Shade or Sun: Show and Shade Blend	2 lb. bag covers 2000 sq. ft. for overseeding
April	Mulch	E.B. Stone Top Coat	1.5 cu. ft. bag covers 72 sq ft. with 1/4" layer

MAKE A LIVING EASTER BASKET

Choose a basket with a plastic liner or a low pot with drainage that will fit inside your basket. Fill with potting soil. Then choose a theme. Some ideas:

Plant groundcovers and annuals and decorate with fairy garden bunnies, painted eggs, and fluffy chicks.

Create an edible Easter basket with microgreens. Harvest your Easter basket for a fresh garnish to an Easter Brunch salad or casserole.

Plant cat grass or wheat grass to make an Easter basket for your cat.

Share your ideas on Instagram! Bunny ears optional.



E.B. Stone
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1.5 CU. FT. BAG
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OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/21
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PLANTS MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY!

Collecting and caring for houseplants is more popular than ever. With many of us spending more time at home, plants bring much-needed greenery and fresh air to our spaces. And plants provide companionship -- caring for a living thing gives us purpose.

We have tropical plants and succulents arriving almost every week, tall and small, hanging and standing. Pots with feet or on stands are in demand right now.

We are bringing in dozens of pots, planters, vessels and vases for spring. Plant-themed dishtowels, mugs, cards, stickers, stakes, and even decorations for your plants, complete our infatuation with all things leafy & green.

The best houseplant for beginners? The nearly indestructible Snake Plant. Sansevierias are available in numerous varieties, need very little water, and thrive in low light or bright light.



Bainbridge GARDENS



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Look Inside for Family Activities:

- Make a Mason Bee House with Upcycled Trash! by Bainbridge Island Author Lynn Brunelle
- Plant a Living Easter Basket!

Plus, What to Do in the Late Winter Garden, Lawn Care, and a Coupon for E.B. Stone Planting Compost.

Planning a veggie garden? Pick up a free copy of our handout "Planting Guide for the Edible Garden" to help you plan what to plant and when.

Bainbridge GARDENNER



Time to start your veggie garden! Peas can be planted now! Potatoes, asparagus, and onions arrive in mid-winter, followed by veggie starts as the weather warms.

FRESH AND LOCAL!

Next to your own backyard, you can't get more local than Butler Green Farms, right here on Bainbridge. Brian MacWhorter and his team bring us veggie starts right from his farm, ready to go straight into your garden. Brian will share veggie gardening tips from his 40-plus years of gardening experience.

Tip: Cover your newly planted vegetable garden with row cover. This raises the temperature by a few degrees and helps your baby veggie plants get a great start.



ALL HAIL KALE!

In a few weeks, Langley Fine Gardens Farm and Nursery on Vashon will start bringing spinach, arugula, frost tolerant lettuces, sugar peas, snow peas and shelling peas, many varieties of greens from Japan, China, and Korea, broccoli, cabbage, and kale, lots and lots of kale! Owner Leda Langley says some of her favorite early varieties are:

- Red Russian Kale (great raw in salads)
- Italian Lacinato Kale (excellent braised with garlic and olive oil)
- Purple Peacock Broccoli- Kale Hybrid (the most productive sprouting broccoli they've ever grown)
- Langley's Spring Lettuce Mix
- Mizuna
- Arugula
- Sugar Ann Peas.

Late winter is the best time to plant fruiting trees and shrubs. Plant cherry, peach, pear, plum, and apple trees as well as blueberries, raspberries, and strawberries. Explore our collection of unusual edibles, including gooseberries, capers, and kiwis.



FLOWER CHILD

Leda's ideas to get kids interested in edible flowers: Sprinkle Calendula petals and Viola flowers on cupcakes and salads, freeze blue Borage and blue Bachelor Buttons into ice cubes and grow poppy seed from Breadseed Poppies

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