bloom

Inspiration for your Garden, Home & Lifestyle from Al's Garden & Home

Real Curb Appeal!

Growing Citrus in the Northwest

It's A Jungle in There!

Fresh Home Décor for SPRING
D.I.Y. Container Days

April 4th - 7th
All Al’s Locations

Build your own spring container and leave the dirt with us!

Bring in your own container or pick one out from our large selection. We make it easy to add stunning plant combinations with a great selection of premium annual and perennial choices! You will leave with a container that you proudly planted yourself. Need help or inspiration? Our Al’s Experts will be on hand to lend their container expertise!
Letter from Jack
Welcome Home

It’s A Jungle In There!

Style, Style, and more Style

Real Curb Appeal

Al’s Has Fresh Decor For Spring

Growing Citrus in the Northwest

These Geraniums Make a Lot of Scents!

Looking for Low Maintenance Solutions!

Grower’s Choice

On The Cover: Greetings from Annie Ruef, daughter of Al’s CFO Darcy, and Great-granddaughter of Al.
I love traveling and seeing the world! There is so much to discover by experiencing other cultures and I have seen so many exciting places while also finding many plant treasures along the way. As much as I love getting away, there is nothing like coming home.

Home is where the heart is and if you are dreaming and scheming about an outdoor living area worthy of fun and summer memories, we have what you need to get started or expand your outdoor space. Discover the five latest and greatest patio living trends for the year and let us help you plan your area so you can achieve your goals for relaxation and outdoor entertaining.

It’s a jungle out there but it doesn’t have to stay confined to the outdoors. We have innovative ways to create an indoor jungle, using contemporary shelving and other creative ways to display your houseplants while also reaping the mental and physical benefits of surrounding yourself with indoor plants.

With many of us moving to smaller plots, we are finding resourceful ways to fit all of the gardening we love into tighter spaces. Dive into this issue of Bloom and find ideas on how to bring vegetable gardening to its full potential, even if your space is limited. Our grower, Jill West, highlights a few of our “Grower’s Choice” vegetables for this spring.

Looking for low maintenance options for your landscape? No problem! Check out our list of shrubs, perennials and vines that fit the bill when it comes to plants that offer light work with lots of rewards.

It’s time to get scented! We have come up with a selection of plants that stink so good you won’t be able to resist adding them to your collection of favorites. From scented geraniums to lemon cypress, these plants pack a powerful fragrant punch!

Home is definitely where my heart is and making it look and feel welcoming inside and out is my goal. If my home can become a place of refuge and my favorite vacation spot, then I have done it right! In this issue of Bloom, I hope that you will find inspiration for both your indoor and outdoor areas while also picking up on the top trends in gardening and home décor for 2019.

Happy Gardening,

Jack
It’s a **JUNGLE** In There!

By Judy Alleruzzo • Al’s Houseplant Buyer

Indoor Jungles may sound like a strange concept but don’t we all love to feel like we’re outdoors all year long? In the anticipation of warmer weather, we can still be enjoying lush greenery right in our living rooms. The same sense of beauty and serenity you enjoy in your outdoor garden, can be simply created indoors. Being surrounded by the fresh, clean air indoor plants provide, you’ll reap the benefits mentally and physically!

It really is simple to create an indoor jungle. All you need is a shelving unit, hooks anchored into the ceiling or a table top to display your collection. Gather together different kinds of plants that require the same amount of light you have available in your home.

Macramé hangers with a 21st century vibe add trailing vines to your jungle. At Al’s Garden and Home stores, we have all the plants, containers and even the macramé hangers to complete your own Indoor Jungle.

**Judy’s Jungle Plant Picks:**

- **Anthuriums** *(opposite page; left)*
  - Long lasting flowers in a rainbow of colors, including bright red, orange, pink, and white.
  - Bright Light, No direct sun
  - Keep soil evenly moist
  - Fertilize weekly with African Violet Fertilizer to keep Anthuriums blooming.

- **Guzmania** *(opposite page; center)*
  - The center colorful “bloom” is actually called an inflorescence that will last for months.
  - Guzmanias are members of the Bromeliad family. They can are found in several colors including, pink, magenta, yellow, orange and even white.
  - Bright Light, No direct sun
  - Keep soil evenly moist.
  - Add just about 1 ounce of water in the “vase” in the crown of the plant. Too much water held in the crown may rot the plant.

- **Prayer Plant Maranta** *(opposite page; right)*
  - Don’t be concerned if you find the leaves folded up at night - this the normal habit of a Prayer Plant.
  - Bright indirect light
  - Keep soil moist but not soggy wet.
  - Prayer Plants love high humidity, mist daily.
  - Fertilize every 2 weeks with a general plant fertilizer, April to August.
STYLE STYLE and more STYLE

By Teri Schafer • Al’s Patio Furniture Buyer

Peninsula Collection
The **Top 5 Trends** in Outdoor Living for 2019
1 CONTEMPORARY CONTINUES
Contemporary styles continue to be hot in outdoor furniture options. This year the looks include more sleek lines and simple designs reflecting the growing popularity of modern elements to your outdoor living area.

2 FIREPITS ARE HEATING UP
Heating up your patios with fire pit tables are becoming a major part of outdoor living spaces. Whether you are relaxing on your own or entertaining guests, as the party continues into the night a source of heat and light will allow guests to continue enjoying the evening in comfort.
3 WHAT COLORS REIGN THIS YEAR?

Be prepared to see every shade of gray fabric and frame finishes this year. Popular accent colors include Emerald Green, which evokes warm feelings, gives off energy, and - with specific fabrics - adds a little texture. Forget terra cotta as you know it, subtler shades of the bright, clay baked color are popping up all over and blend well with many color combinations. It is particularly striking in outdoor fabric with pillows, rugs and loveseats.
4 IN MOTION

Motion attracts everyone and although the swivel chairs and gliding loveseat may seem old school, that comfortable feeling is sought after by everybody. Motion allows people to join the conversation and soak up any water, mountain or other views. Motion is also popular in a cantilever umbrella defining 2-3 outdoor areas with a single swing of the canopy.

5 CHIT CHAT AND CLUTTER FREE SPACE

Outdoor spaces keep getting more organized, thanks to items that fold together for perfect storage. The Outdoor folding Bistros for a small space or the outdoor dining tables that fold and fit anywhere. Tables that extend seating 4-8 guests for entertaining and eating meals al fresco. Prepare for those drop in friends and make sure you have multiple seating areas that offer simple chairs with ottomans allowing people to prop up their feet and relax.
Simply Refined

Laurel Collection

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Making your home warm and welcoming to your guests start with a little curb appeal. Whether you use just one of these emerging trends for your front porch, or blend them all together for a little extra punch, here are three of the top home decor trends you won’t want to miss out on!
According to our Pinterest researchers, the next big thing is eucalyptus! While some are tying sprigs of it to their shower heads for a little aromatherapy, we love the look of this faux-eucalyptus door wreath that welcomes this lovely trend, and greets your guests with grace.

**Mid Century Modern**
A modern update to classic design! These gray cement, 3-legged containers are perfect for indoors or out. Showcase your anthuriums to strike a tropical vibe!

**Tribal Travels**
Since our lives are really about experiences, fill your home with the wonderful eccentric collectibles from your travels - and then mimic that in tribal patterns throughout. This Tribal-inspired doormat captures our lust for foreign adventures.

Find all of these looks - including Annie’s spring outfit - in Al’s Home & Gift Department!
Al’s Has

Fresh Decor

For Spring

Metal buckets $24.95 | $11.95
Citrus dish towels $9.95
Kitchen wall sign $54

Serving platter $28
Throw pillows $48
Salt & pepper shaker set $8
Concrete/bamboo candle 10oz $32
Concrete/bamboo candle 3oz $16
Glass candle 8 oz $21
Lemon basil hand lotion $14.95
Lemon basil bar soap $9.95
Lemon basil foaming soap $11.95
Growing Citrus in the Northwest

By Aaron Rivera • Al’s Tree & Shrub Buyer

Believe it or not, you can have your own taste of Florida right here in the PNW! Citrus does grow here, with a little extra help from you. Here’s some handy tips to help you successfully grow your citrus plants.

- Buy citrus that has been grafted on dwarf root stock. This will help keep the plant more compact so you are able to maneuver it. Citrus at Al’s is all on dwarf rootstock for your convenience.

- When choosing a container, choose larger than smaller and deeper than it is wide. Wait until spring or summer to transplant the citrus plant. This helps prevent transplant shock.

- In the Northwest, it is very important to protect citrus from cold. We recommend bringing the plant indoors when danger of frost looms, usually around the end of October. Indoors, keep the plant in a bright window and away from drafty areas such as a door to the outside or heat registers.

- Before you move your plant inside for Winter, check for pests such as aphids and/or scale. We have several natural solutions for these pests such as just washing off with water or insecticidal soap and horticultural oil.

- In spring, around mid-April start hardening-off the citrus plant(s) by taking the plant outside during the day and bringing it back to a protected area such as a garage for about a week to 10 days. This will re-acclimate the plant to outdoor conditions.

- We recommend fertilizing your citrus plant in the summer with Espoma Citrus-tone organic fertilizer. Do not fertilize the plant during winter months.

- Citrus plants are self-fertile so you don’t need another plant for pollination. To help increase fruit production, you can hand pollinate with a small paint brush or Q-tip to move pollen from flower to flower.
These Geraniums make a lot of Scents!

By Jill West • Al’s Annuals Grower

Fragrant plants help add another element to the garden experience beyond being just visually appealing, often evoking strong memories associated with each smell, and encouraging people to interact with and touch the plants. While most of us think of things like roses, honeysuckle, and jasmine as fragrant, with their heavily scented blooms, there are also many plants out there that have highly fragrant foliage instead of flowers. One such plant, an old-fashioned favorite that’s making a comeback, is the scented geranium.

While most scented geraniums have small clusters of small, single flowers in pink, purple, or white, their real claim to fame is their highly aromatic foliage, ranging from orange to lemon to mint to rose to the most popular of all – Citronella. The foliage can be used in sachets, potpourris, and essential oils, or dried in sugar for one week to make scented sugars which can then be used in baking or teas. Stems can be cut and added to bouquets of fresh flowers for an extra aromatic element.

Scented Geraniums grow best in full sun to part shade, and have low water needs once established. They’re perfect for containers as well as in garden beds, and while technically an annual, they may come back in the spring if the winter is mild. Plants can also be brought indoors as winter houseplants.

Look for these tags at Al’s Garden & Home to experience the wonderful aromas of our scented geraniums!
“Low maintenance” is a phrase we love to hear when thinking about new plants for our gardens or containers. We want all the beauty with less work. When thinking of ‘Low Maintenance’ plants, do remember to use good garden practices when planting: Add Al’s Compost for good drainage; Use Al’s Transplant Fertilizer to help plant growth; Add Al’s Compost as a top dress to help the new plants retain moisture. These few simple steps help to get you plants off to success in the garden and help in the low maintenance upkeep.

**Evergreen Ferns**
- Can be planted in a shady garden or container
- Low maintenance - Simply water to keep soil evenly moist and prune old evergreen fern fronds in late March before new fronds emerge
- Many varieties: look for Alaska Ferns, Autumn Ferns, Japanese Holly Ferns, Sword Ferns, and Tassel Ferns

**Heuchera**
- Vibrant foliage is used as a color spot in gardens and containers
- Produces a small flower as well
- Keep soil evenly moist
- Remove spent flower stem after blooming, and old foliage as needed
- Many varieties: look for ‘Forever Purple’, ‘Lime Marmalade’ and ‘Paprika’

**Spanish Lavender**
- Fragrant flowers and foliage for your sunny garden or container
- Blooms 2 - 3 times a year, April to September
- Drought tolerant once established
- Keep soil evenly moist the first year; drought tolerant after 1 year
**Nandina varieties** aka ‘Heavenly Bamboo’

Evergreen shrub,
Zero or very little pruning necessary
Colorful fall and new spring growth
Varieties can mature as small as 3 feet tall to over 10 feet tall
Drought tolerant once established

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**Abelia ‘Kaleidoscope’**

Semi-evergreen, compact shrub
Spring foliage emerges green & yellow; turns bright gold in summer and fiery red & crimson in the fall & winter
One of the largest flowering abelias with lightly fragrant white blooms from spring through the fall
Drought tolerant once established

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**Sarcococca ruscifolia** aka Sweet Box

Evergreen, compact shrub with shiny oval foliage
Develops very fragrant white flowers that bloom in late winter (December - February)
Requires very little pruning

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**Star Jasmine**

Evergreen woody vine growing to 15 feet or more
Lots of very fragrant white flowers begin blooming as the weather warms in spring
Excellent plant for full to part sun exposure.
Does well in the landscape or in containers with a climbing structure such as a trellis or fence

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**Knock Out® Roses**

Deciduous compact rose bush that re-blooms every 5 - 6 weeks
No need to deadhead in order to re-bloom
Requires at least 6-8 hours of full sun
Perform well even without fertilizing
Prune once a year to 12 inches tall in early spring
Will be 3 - 4 feet tall by the end of the season
Al’s Grower’s Choice brings you select varieties of plants that have been chosen for their taste, hardiness and bloom. They are unique, hand picked plants and vegetables that our growers believe work best in our climate and terrains. We believe you will have the best success with the Grower’s Choice series. Look for great Grower’s Choice plants at all Al’s locations!

**Pepper ‘Biquinho Red’**

**What is it?**
A uniquely shaped, mildly hot pepper native to Brazil.

**Why we chose it:**
Biquinho means “Little Beak”, so named for its small, pointed fruits that look like, you guessed it, little beaks. The 1 ¼” fruit have a slightly tart flavor with a tiny bit of heat, and can be eaten raw or cooked, though they are traditionally served pickled as a side with meals in Brazil. Peppers can be harvested when green, or left to ripen to a bright red.

**How to grow it:**
Plant in full sun, spaced 12-18” apart from other plants. Keep plants evenly moist, allowing to dry slightly between waterings, and fertilize regularly over the growing season. Lime green peppers are ready to harvest at 55 days, or 75 days for red ripe. Perfect for containers.

**Tomato Kitchen Minis ‘Siam’**

**What is it?**
A dwarf tomato variety that can be grown indoors.

**Why we chose it:**
Who says you have to wait for summer to enjoy home grown vegetables? ‘Siam’ can be grown indoors in a brightly light spot or windowsill right next to your basil plant. Compact, slow-growing plants produce over 200 ½ ounce tomatoes over a long harvest period.

**How to grow it:**
Plant in full sun outdoors or in a brightly lit area indoors, allowing for 6” of space around it from other plants. Keep plants evenly moist and fertilize regularly. Harvest the fruit regularly to ensure continued fruit set. Though indeterminate, ‘Siam’s compact habit does not require staking. 60 days to maturity.
Success Starts With Great Soil

G&B Organics soils and fertilizers are made from high-quality ingredients that are people, pet, and planet safe.

GB-Organics.com

Mother’s Day is May 12th!

Buy an Al’s Gift Card worth $50, and receive an additional $10 Al’s Gift Card FREE

Valid April 1st - May 12th, 2019
Coupons not valid with any other offer. Not redeemable for cash. Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid on previous purchases.

Buy an Al’s Gift Card worth $100, and receive an additional $20 Al’s Gift Card FREE

Valid April 1st - May 12th, 2019
Coupons not valid with any other offer. Not redeemable for cash. Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid on previous purchases.
Flats of Annuals
(twelve 3-packs)

$5 off

Mix-and-match color and variety. While supplies last. Selection varies by store.

Save the Date!
Sale runs
April 18th - 22nd, 2019