Rosenelle Florencechild

Rosenelle began gardening as a child. She grew up in Buffalo, New York, and both of her parents were avid urban gardeners. Throughout her travels on both coasts and the Midwest, she managed to find time and space to grow plants even if just on a windowsill. She moved to Southern Oregon in 2012 and completed the Jackson County Master Gardener Program in 2013. In 2014, she became Head Gardener of the Lavender Garden, and since then, her love and knowledge of lavender has grown. She is a member of the Oregon Lavender Association and the Herb Society of America. One of the highlights of the year involves participating in the Southern Oregon Lavender Festival during the last weekend of June. Past years have brought over 300 visitors to the Lavender Garden, and Rosenelle enjoys meeting, greeting and answering questions. Rosenelle’s home garden is a work in progress with raised rectangular beds for vegetables and adjacent triangular beds filled with perennial flowers, shrubs and herbs to attract pollinators and hummingbirds.

Program Descriptions

In Love With Lavender

This is a 30-40 minute overview of lavender and a 20-30 minute demonstration and tour of the Lavender Garden at the OSU Extension Demonstration Garden in Central Point. The content is geared to the season and interests of the group. Spring topics include selecting, planting and growing lavender for color scent, culinary and craft uses. Lavender is at its peak in June and July and visitors are able to
experience the vast range of foliage and flower color, as well as the calming and energizing power of lavender. This is also a good time to learn how to make lavender wands and sachets. August through November topics include harvesting, pruning and propagating techniques. Picnic tables and benches are located nearby if groups would like to bring a picnic lunch or refreshments.

**Growing Lavender in Southern Oregon**
Lavender is ideally suited for this hot, dry region. It does well in full sun, poor soil, and requires little water. The different varieties of lavender have distinctive attributes that can help you identify the lavender in your garden. Lavender attracts pollinators and deer don’t like it! It looks beautiful, smells great and can be used to flavor food and drink.

**Gardening in the Month of March**
In Southern Oregon, March is the time to prune trees, vines, and shrubs, divide perennials, prepare beds for plantings, weed, weed, weed, and complete all the chores left over from Fall. With so much to do, one can easily get overwhelmed and distracted. This program helps home gardeners assess what needs to be done and create a plan of action for March and the months to come.