

THE MOFFIT GARDEN

Abigail was on our tour last year, but her impressive spread and ever-expanding gardening empire was worth revisiting. As owner of Bloom, she propagates flowers for sale and for events and workshops. She was practically born into the profession. "I grew up on a mini farm in the Pacific Northwest. We grew produce for our family's French restaurant. My mother grew the most beautiful flowers and my sister and I helped set the tables. My mother has been my inspiration and now is fondly named "Grandma Blueberry" by my children. They love seeing grandma and being in the garden with her like I did as a child."



She's transformed her property over the past 11 years, which started with a few existing peony beds. "I divided them and now have over 300 plants that are mostly the old and fragrant Shirley Temple and Sarah Bernhardt varieties." That's where the grand vision started and over the years she's added more and more raised beds, acquired more property, expanded her business all by herself and now with one helper for five hours a week. Her passion and determination show.



Lush stands of poppies, lupine, and peonies bloom before the summer hits and dahlias, sunflowers, daisies, zinnia, and other perennials take over. Since her business depends on it she plants in rotation to get blooms throughout the growing season.

Soil health and organic practices are important to Abigail and she takes great pride in the quality of her soil. To prevent erosion she uses raised beds and garden boxes which also help with weed control. Standing water in the boxes is resolved by heavily amending the clay rich soil with compost and vermiculite.

"Soil makes all the lovely gardens possible. I have not tilled in 7 years. Not tilling, using cover crops, and heavily amending with organic materials has provided very healthy soil and this is evident in the amount of fungi in the soil. I'm not sure if it's a philosophy, but I do think the first step in successful gardening is taking care of the soil."

