



Gnarled Harry Lauder's walking stick (top left, behind spreading white fil) and blue-needled weeping Atlantic cedar (far right) frame an entry arbor.

## Fresh ideas at Seattle's big show

“Take your basic Northwest green garden. Add blue, lots of blue. Blue foliage, flowers, pots, and gate. Too much blue? In Seattle? I don’t think so.” That’s how landscape designer Mike Jeppesen of Sammamish Landscape (360/435-3769) describes the Blue Garden (shown above) he designed for display last year at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show in Seattle. A gold-medal winner, the garden, with pots designed by Tina Dixon of Plants à la Carte, was filled with good ideas, which I jotted down in my notebook: “Glazed blue pot filled with purple sage. Woolly thyme and ‘Curly Girl’ rue edge the path.” Like many avid gardeners in the Northwest, I find the show to be a virtual supermarket of ideas.

If you’re planning to attend this year’s five-day show in late February, here’s how to get the most from your visit.

- Carry a notebook and a camera with a flash for recording ideas and plant names, plus a tote bag for collecting designers’ brochures.

- View each display garden from several angles, then focus on the details that strike you.

The 15th annual show will feature 29 display gardens, plus 400 vendors offering everything from garden books to greenhouses. Once again, *Sunset* will sponsor a free seminar series with more than 100 presentations by horticultural experts.

Feb 19–23, 9 A.M.–9:30 P.M. Wed–Sat, 9–7 Sun; \$18 per day (\$15 in advance, by Feb 18), \$7 ages 4–11. Washington State Convention Center, Seventh Ave. and Pike St.; [www.gardenshow.com](http://www.gardenshow.com) or (800) 229-6311.

—Kathleen N. Brenzel