

Norm Jacobs...I began gardening under my grandmother's tutelage in New Jersey sometime around age 6 - trimming boxwood, pruning roses, and tending the vegetable garden. We moved to California's Bay Area when I was in high school, where I landscaped the tract house lot: fruit trees, berries, rhubarb, and a vegetable garden in the back yard, and a very conventional ornamental front yard. But the treasures were the three mature apricot trees that the developer left intact! College was math/physics at Berkeley, but fledgling programs for public "pension" gardens drew my involvement, as well as Alice Waters' first "edible classroom" a few blocks from where I lived. At the time my focus was on edibles, but exploring the UC Botanical Garden became one of my getaways.

A few years after college, I met Deb - a botany grad from UC Santa Barbara. That we would garden was a foregone conclusion, and partnering in Arbutus Garden Arts has been a natural outcome. We moved onto 20 acres of bare land in Yamhill in the early 1980s, where we immediately began a garden under a canopy of *Quercus garryana* with limited water and low-fertility low water retention soil. Beginning in 2010 we began to develop a new garden in Portland with more sun and alluvial soil, moving ourselves and our nursery in mid-2015. Deb has retained an eclectic taste in plants, while my interest has been drawn to Asian plants, gardens, and garden design in which I've taken formal training.

Woodland gardens are our focus, as we've found the assembly of over-story, mid-story, and understory to benefit the plants and ourselves with reduced stress and labor. Working from full sun at the fringes to deep dry shade in the depths allows us the full range of plants we like. As a nursery, we specialize in Japanese maples, dwarf conifers, Epimedium, and are flirting with woodland (species) peonies, all of which are propagated and grown right here from plants which have performed well in our garden.