



BIOGRAPHY: Judy Alleruzzo, co-host of *Garden Time*

Judy Alleruzzo has been the co-host of the Garden Time TV show since its premiere in 2006. She also works for Al's Garden & Home as the perennial plant buyer and the houseplant buyer.

Over 20 years ago, Judy arrived in Oregon to visit friends in Canby on a glorious April day. She remembers it as a spectacular sunny day and "Everything was in bloom." Having lived in Chicago all her life, she was awed by the colorful landscape in the month of April. Of course, the Oregon weather turned back to its true self of cool and rainy weather, but she was smitten. She returned to Chicago, packed up and returned by September. Needing a job, she walked into Al's, then called, Al's Fruit & Shrub and was lucky there was a job opening for a cashier. Working for what was a small company at the time, Judy was excited to learn many different jobs including

stocking, planning and buying in perennials for the retail stores. Judy has an Ornamental Horticulture degree but never worked at a garden center before beginning her job at Al's. It has been a busy and rewarding job, as Al's has grown to 4 retail stores and doubled their growing facility.

Over ten years ago, she said yes to becoming the houseplant buyer. It was a challenging job to learn and remember a whole other palette of plants. Many years ago, Judy worked for a plant rental company in Chicago during the indoor plant mania of the 80's. She is now in the middle of another indoor plant trend and not only helps to take care of the plants, but orders in tropical plants grown in Oregon, Washington, California, Hawaii and British Columbia. These days her work week is touring each store to check out the perennial and houseplant departments and meeting with the Al's Perennial Head Grower to help with the retail store's availability.



Filming Garden Time each week is an adventure. It allows Judy even more opportunities to learn about all kinds of plants, meet local gardeners, tour gardens around the area and overseas, visit plant festivals and learn new gardening tips. She says it's amazing to be exposed to the depth of the horticulture and agriculture industry in the Northwest. Judy enjoys meeting the people she interviews and the people that watch the show. "Our viewers are such nice people and loyal fans of Garden Time and our sponsors."

Judy's two careers of talking about plants on Garden Time and buying and caring for them at Al's Garden & Home is a great match as she loves all kinds of plants. She is always happy to meet that next gardener or grow that new plant!

Judy Alleruzzo is the co-host of Garden Time, the #1 gardening show in Oregon and Washington. Garden Time has aired on local TV stations, from March to November, every year since 2006. She is also the Perennial and Tropical plant buyer for Al's Garden Centers.

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