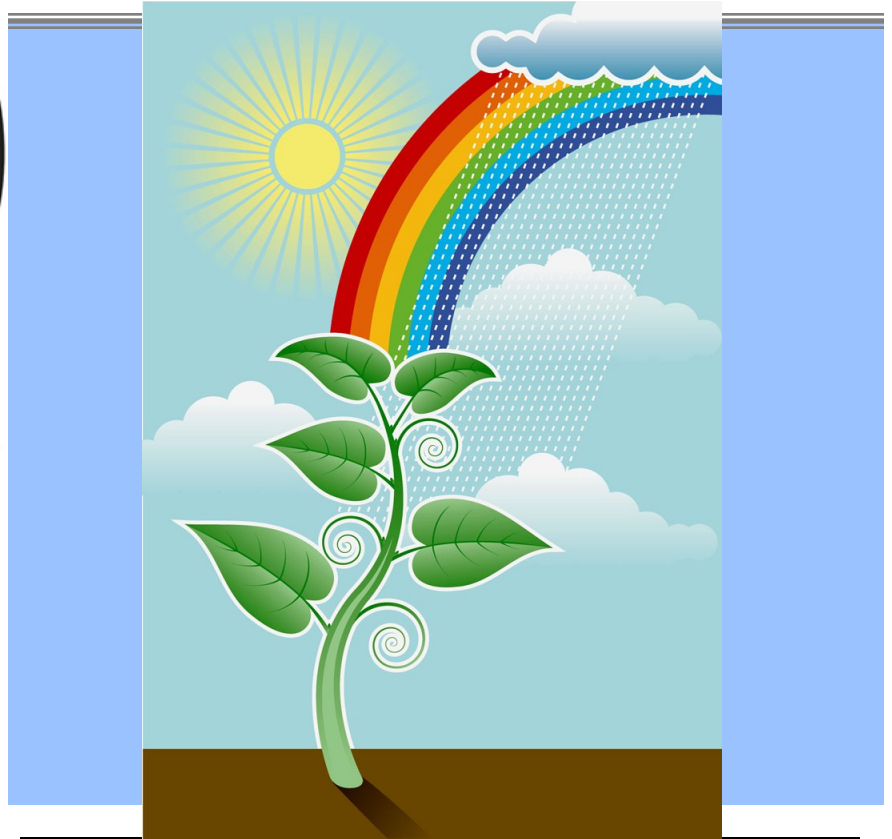


Metro Master Gardener™ News

April 2011



OSU Extension Service Metro Master Gardener™ Program

Serving [Clackamas](#), [Multnomah](#), and [Washington](#) Counties in the metro area since 1976.

Mission Statement

We provide relevant, research-based education and outreach to the public of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties about horticulture and household pests. This information promotes sustainable practices that minimize risks to human health and the environment.

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UPDATE FROM WESTON



Dear Master Gardeners,

As of March 18, 2011, we concluded the 2011 Master Gardener training for the tri-county metro region. This year, we trained about 185 new students plus an additional 15 folks who have taken the MG training online through OSU eCampus. Thank you to all of the new trainees for spending your valuable time with us this winter for the training. Now the fun begins! We look forward to providing you with a fun and learning-filled volunteer experience. There are many volunteer opportunities to choose from in the metro area. Please try a good sampling of activities that fit into your schedule.

We would also like to enthusiastically thank the many veteran Master Gardener volunteers who served as coordinators to help produce the MG training. It is truly a massive undertaking and we are very, very grateful for the ongoing support of many, many volunteers.

We have an important announcement below regarding the allocation of volunteer hours into the Direct-service education and Indirect-service programming. Please read this new policy:

It has come to our attention that our new designation and allocation of volunteer hours for 2011 as:

40 hours **Direct-service education** (specifically in service to OSU Extension Service sponsored phone clinics, farmers' markets, and speakers' bureau)

26 hours **Indirect-service programming** (all other activities) have created unintended consequences for both new trainees (not enough opportunities to pick up Direct-service shifts) and volunteer coordinators (perception of a scarcity of volunteer hours to staff events and programs).

The new designation of **Direct-service education** and **Indirect-service programming** provides a useful clarification about the many volunteer opportunities that are part of the MG program in the metro area and will remain in place for 2011. We have decided to change the allocation of volunteer hours into these categories to alleviate concerns among Master Gardeners.

Here is the new spread of volunteer hours for 2011:

New trainees

33 hours **Direct-service education**

33 hours **Indirect-service programming**

Veteran MGs

13 hours **Direct-service education**

12 hours **Indirect-service programming**

We hope that this re-allocation of volunteer hours among these categories will provide additional flexibility for new trainees to fulfill their 66-hour volunteer commitment and that veteran MGs serving as coordinators for various activities will have the human-power needed to make their activities work well in 2011. Thank you for your consideration.

We are having a make-up class at Oregon City (for a cancelled day) on April 7. Chip Bubl –vertebrate Pests and Jean Natter on Household Pests. These are both starred classes and count toward recertification for vets. 211 Tumwater Dr, Oregon City 97045. Regular class hours 9 am to Noon and 1 pm to 4 pm.

Happy gardening!
Weston

OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS

503-650-3118 Jordis.Yost@oregonstate.edu



SPRING NEWS

This is a busy time of the year for OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners. We are staffing clinics, phones, fairs and plant sales. Watch the newsletter for ideas. And be sure to contact the coordinators from the list published in the newsletter this month.

I also send out requests for help from MGs via email. It is a great tool for getting out messages in a faster format than the traditional newsletter.

In order for you to hear about these events and activities, I need to have a current email address on file. If you change your address, be sure to let the MG office know so that we can stay in touch!

2011 TRAINEES

The trainees in the class of 2011 just finished the classroom training and are ready to start volunteering! Weston and I are really excited to see this newest class of trainees join our valued veterans and see how rewarding it is to contribute to our local communities.

MG Guides and veterans are especially valuable now because the new trainees are going to need guidance as they learn how to get connected and feel at ease in their new roles. Veterans...make sure to introduce yourselves to the new class trainees, be open to some great questions and you will be rewarded by getting to know some really special people with varied talents.

Another bonus is that a class of 23 new metro online trainees for 2011 will be finishing their classes this month and will be joining the great list of opportunities that we offer. Welcome online trainees!

COORDINATORS SAVE THE DAY

Weston and I have been extremely lucky to have an incredible collection of class coordinators to hold things together at the 3 class sites. We had the additional challenge of holding classes in two new venues this year and the coordinators really stepped in to make things run smoothly.

A huge **thank you** goes to all the friendly, organized and dedicated MG class coordinators. They made important announcements, brewed coffee, supplied handouts, choreographed snack offerings, organized noon-time chats...and MUCH more.



Holding classes 3 days a week, for 11 weeks, in multiple locations is a *huge* job and is only possible thanks to these valued MGs. Many heartfelt thanks to you all!

RECERTIFICATION CLASS

Saturday, April 2th at PCC Rock Creek Campus – see flyer in March Newsletter for more information.

This day counts for 6 hours (if you stay all day) toward your required 12 hours of recertification training for the year. AND...it is always a great time to learn and reconnect with fellow MGs. This is the second in a series of two recertification trainings for veterans so that they will be certified and eligible to volunteer in the 2011 gardening season.

If you were unable to attend recertification (*'d) classes during the winter training and have to miss recertification Saturdays...you can request a take home test to certify you for the year. Let Jordis know if you would like to receive one.

2011 COORDINATOR LIST

Most... but not *all* coordinators are listed.

FARMERS' MARKETS

- Beaverton** – Karen Brandenburger 503-590-8562
Cedar Mill – Jack Gilliland 503-645-3798
Gresham – Lillian Miller 503-622-6123
Hillsboro – Kim Culbertson 503-681-9469
Hillsdale – (Sundays) Kathleen McHarg 503-295-9903
Hollywood – TBA
King – (Sundays) Marilyn Kongsli 503-289-8889
Lake Oswego - Kathy Whitman 503-684-6403
kathywhitman@juno.com
Lents – (Sundays) Paula Corbridge 503-705-6949
Milwaukie (Sundays)
Ellen Hanley 503-266-4486 ellenpoppy@aol.com
Oregon City – Janet Weber 503-358-2821
weberjanet@hotmail.com
PSU - TBA
Sherwood – Terri Hoffmann 503-982-4825
Tigard (Sundays) Carole Watkins 503-639-0058

OTHER CLINICS

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

Jean Aalseth 503-771-2537

Pat Frobes 503-287-3166

Fall Home and Garden Show

Jordis Yost 503-650-3118

Portland Nursery Events

Sandra Sue Wallace 503-968-6202

Raleigh Hills Fred Meyer

Carol Grasvik 503-246-3978

Rose Test Garden Clinic

Ellen Hanley 503-266-4486 ellenpoppy@aol.com

Trudy O'Donnell 503-636-1697



Pittock Mansion Clinic- Heather Kibbey
503-620-7239

Oregon Zoo

Rob Kappa 503-653-9575

SPEAKER BUREAU

- Clackamas County** – Candy Carroll 503-518-1948
Multnomah County – Linda Hendrickson 503-239-5016
Washington County – Lynn Cox 503-629-9156

PHONES

Clackamas County Office –
Hotline # 503-655-8631
MG Schedule Coordinator
Joby Duggan 503-632-2165
joby@bctonline.com

Multnomah County Office
Hotline # 503-445-4608
MG Schedule Coordinator-
Gloria Bennett 503-775-4005 dcleopatra@comcast.net

Washington County Office –
Hotline # 503-821-1150
MG Schedule Coordinator –
Heidi Nichols 503-774-6888
heidinichols@comcast.net



FAIRS



Clackamas County Fair (Aug 16-21)
Jane Collier 503-266-1191

Washington County Fair (July 28-31)
Joanne DeHaan 503-649-1683

Oregon State Fair (Aug 26-Sept 5)
Jordis Yost 503-650-3118

SHOWS OR TOURS

'Seeding Our Future' Garden Tour (June 25)
Ruth Robinson 503-245-2131 mickrob@comcast.net

Rose Test Garden Tour Guide
Kimberly Bown 503-807-0754

Pittock Mansion Tour Guide
Heather Kibbey 503-620-7239

HANDS ON

1860's Heritage Kitchen Garden - Champoeg State Park
Marie VanPatten 503-678-1251 x223

Doernbecher - Kids Garden Activities
Sharon Baker – 503-284-5189

Oregon Food Bank - Learning Garden / Wash. Co.
Lisa Waugh 971-230-1640

End of the Oregon Trail Pioneer Garden
Nikki Mantei 503-577-4494 ndparks@att.net

Spring Garden Fair – Volunteer Coordinator
Reta Suzanne kitchengardener@gmail.com 503-853-6065

Natter's Notes

Soil Prep

Jean R. Natter

Soil is always a hot topic among gardeners. Many folks seem to have their own customized recipe that they're certain is better than anyone else's. So many theories; they boggle a beginning gardener's mind.

Soil prep for a first garden is often lacking

The typical scenario for many new gardeners is that they simply dig, then plant. Results don't match expectations; the veggies don't thrive and harvests are scanty. The first year they had what they figured were good results; the second year not quite as good; and the third year was basically a failure. People are genuinely puzzled because "Nothing grew there before except grass."

That disappointing outcome of the dig-then-plant technique occurs all too frequently. Such failures either squelch budding gardeners or trigger inquiries of "Where do I get a soil test?"

Replacing soil is risky

In most instances, people want to get rid of what they consider to be "awful clay." But removing what's considered to be icky and replacing it with new stuff often fails. Instead, you'd be wise to create your garden by amending the soil you have. In other words, mix in compost. Lots of it. At least two inches each season you plant. The first year, mixing in four inches is a wise practice.

Frankly, clay is tremendous stuff. Its inherent nature is to hold fertilizer elements and, after it's amended, drainage will be greatly improved.

Then, too, consider this if you intend to use top soil to fill raised beds. No quality standards exist for top soil. What you see is what you get. So, before you order any, look closely at it. After it arrives, plan to mix in at least two inches of compost to every 6-inch depth before you fill the bed.

The Silver Bullet = Organic Matter

Yes, it's true. Mixing in organic material is the Silver Bullet required to remedy soils. Organic matter is as close to an instant fix as you can get.

Favorable changes will occur during the first season the organic matter is mixed in, even for soil that's considered nasty. So it's time to face the fact that clay can be excellent stuff. All you need do is mix in lots of compost, then devise raised beds. The clay fraction of the soil still holds critical fertilizer elements at the root tips and, now, it's well-drained. Your plants will thrive.

Whenever organic matter is added prior to each season's planting, soils gradually become a superb foundation for thriving plants. If you skip a year of mixing in organic amendments, you'll soon realize how rapidly soil reverts to its original, unfriendly-to-plants condition. That backslide occurs in just one season. (No, it's not the clay that eats the

organic matter. Instead, the soil organisms are simply doing what they should; they're composting in place.)

Soil prep: A "recipe"

When it comes to explaining how to prepare soil for a garden of seasonal vegetables and/or flowers, it's useful to present the details in a tidy package, a basic step-by-step strategy which clients can easily implement. Suggest they repeat the "recipe" each season prior to planting.

Here's one version:

1. When the soil is moist, clear the area of weeds and debris.
2. Dig or till. (A garden fork makes digging easy. If you till, limit it to two passes.)
3. Roughly level the area.
4. Mix two inches of compost into the soil. (If this is the first year for the garden, mix in four inches, that is, two inches at a time.)
5. Mix in garden lime according to package directions. (If the gardener has problems clearly related to pH, the preferred route is to first obtain a professional soil test, then follow the lab's recommendations for the amount to mix in.)
6. Rake the soil level and define the beds. (Thirty-inch wide beds allow for two rows of vegetables, 4-foot wide beds for three. Suggest 20-inch wide paths for easy access.)
7. Just before planting, broadcast an all-purpose granular or prilled fertilizer over the beds; rake lightly, plant moist root-balls into moist soil, then water to settle the soil.

Variations abound, among them the "lasagna method" which is simply a glitzy name for what was once called sheet mulching. Other folks start the process by putting down cardboard or eight to 12 layers of newspaper to kill the grass before new beds are installed.

If raised beds are planned, build them at least 8 inches high but know that higher is better.

Factors required for drainage

Three factors rule drainage in soil: soil depth, soil pore size, and interface.

The general guide for soil depth is "deeper is better", while that for pore size is similar in that larger pores are better than smaller. You already know the latter is true because sands or loams drain better than do clay-based soils.

The third factor – interface – complicates matters. This occurs where soil texture changes from one kind to another, either from a fine texture (e.g. clay) to coarse (e.g. sand), or the other way around. Consider an interface to act as a barrier; it restricts both root growth and water movement.

Guidelines for drainage

The combination of soil depth, soil pore size, and interface is the basis for the following guidelines:

- Don't add several inches of "good" soil on top of poorly drained soil. (Principles: The shallow depth of "good" soil won't drain; and the different textures – "good" soil adjacent to poor – create an interface.)

Four insects every Master Gardener should know....

Bob Falconer, Metro-Master Gardener Diagnostician

After two years on the Washington County hot-line plus Farmers Market experience, it is apparent to me that if a Metro Master Gardener is going to do any direct outreach there is a short list of insects they will be confronted with. All Master Gardeners should be able to recognize these insects and know current management recommendations.

1. Spotted Wing Drosophila

*** Why this is important to know:**

This newly-arrived insect has the potential to do significant damage to some of the plants gardeners hold most dear, such as berries, fruits and some ornamentals. The damage comes from the SWDs use of **ripening** fruit as the place to lay their eggs and raise their offspring.

*** How to recognize:**

The males are easily recognized by the gray to black wing-spot. Females are harder to ID because they lack the wing spot but possess a scimitar-like ovipositor they use to pierce the fruit and place the egg inside. Size is about 1/16th inch.

Male SWD >>

Image: Center for Invasive Species Research, University of California- Riverside



Larva in fruit
Image: CISR- UC- Riverside

*** What to recommend to people:**

Be aware of what fruit is ripening, anticipate when to begin trapping. Follow trapping recommendations. Check Oregon State's web-site devoted to the SWD periodically for the latest information on management recommendations.

http://swd.hort.oregonstate.edu/information_homeowners

- Don't remove clay soil, then fill the hole with "good" soil. (Principles: Holes are shallow compared with soil depth; the different textures of "good" soil and clay create an interface.)
- Don't use garden soil to fill pots. (Principles: Potting mix has larger pores than does soil, so will drain better in the shallow depth of containers.)

Resources

- A monthly email from OSU's Gardening News will bring you regular news about common seasonal garden topics. To subscribe, send an email to gardeners-subscribe@lists.oregonstate.edu. A featured story in March was a listing of vegetables OSU currently recommends. (We're in Region 2) http://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/story.php?S_No=1181&storyType=garden.
- OSU Gardening Encyclopedia is a one-stop resource of links for Oregon gardeners <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/>, or simply search for "osu gardening" (omit the quotes).
- *Growing Your Own* is a practical guide to gardening in Oregon <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/grow/grow/>. Or click the large graphic at the upper right on the OSU Gardening Encyclopedia. (See above.)
- OSU news releases about raised beds: Go to the OSU Gardening Encyclopedia (above), click Publications at the left; on the new page, enter the search phrase "raised bed" (omit the quotes) and click Go.
- Seedling images – This site is handy if you ever plant vegetable seeds, then forget what you put where: <http://www.theseedsite.co.uk/vegseedlings.html>



2. The Lace Bug

*Why this is important to know:

Northwest gardeners love their Rhododendrons and azaleas and are concerned when they see the damage that is caused by these insects.

Image: Oregon State University

These insects come in two varieties, the native Rhododendron Lace Bug, *Stephanitus rhododendri* and the newly arrived Azalea Lace Bug, *Stephanitis pyrioides*.

The differences? The Rhododendron lace bug usually has one reproductive cycle in spring but the Azalea Lace bug can have multiple reproductive cycles throughout the summer with nymphs visible and damage done as late as October. Additionally, they also attack azaleas.

*How to recognize:



Adult



Nymph

Images: Oregon State University

Nymphs are found on the underside of leaves beginning usually mid to late May depending on weather. Size of adults is less than 1/3 in.

*What to recommend to people:

Start checking early in the spring...look for eggs along mid-rib of the underside of leaves. Timing is the key to management and application of controls. Make sure plants are not under stress from lack of water or too much sun.

Check OSU's websites for additional information:

http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/azalea_lace_bug.htm

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/lacebugsonrhodies.htm>

#3. Brown Marmorated Stink-bug (BMSB) ... *Halyomorpha halys*

*Why this is important to know:

This is another relatively new arrival (2004) and potentially devastating pest of ornamentals and food crops.



How to recognize:

Image: <http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/pestsurvey/pestinfo/BMSB.htm>

There are very good images and a summary of information available beginning on page 6 of the Metro Master Gardener Newsletter from December 2008. This insect has a "look -alike" locally, the rough stink bug. To tell them apart look for:

1. The BMSB has light segments in the antenna alternated with dark segments.
2. The BMSB has smooth "shoulders", no spiked projections as with the rough stink bug.
3. The adults range from 1/2 to 3/4 in long by 1/2 in wide.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/sites/default/files/Dec08.pdf>

Additional images including eggs and nymphs at:

<http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=9328>

*What to recommend to people:

First, remember that these insects over winter, so good garden sanitation and cleanup can help eliminate hiding places. Also remember, that come the first warm weather, to begin checking the periphery of your garden space for broadleaf weeds that early risers can begin feeding on. Better to spray on weeds than later on your veggies. Currently, all that is listed for home use on stink bugs in the PNW is malathion. Remember to follow label directions for the plant you are treating!

4 The Carpenter Ant

Why this is important:

Every year we get numerous clients concerned about their homes (rightly so)...there is also a lot of misinformation out there about treatments and whether multiple treatments (service contracts) are necessary.

Image: UC Davis IPM



How to recognize: Notice the "node" between the thorax and abdomen. Wings may be present or not. The size of workers varies from 1/4 to 1/2 in; queens are larger, up to 3/4 in.

What to recommend: Carpenter ants need to be treated by a professional pest control company. One treatment is all that is necessary if all nests are treated. Many times carpenter ants have several nests and unless both nests are treated re-infestation is likely so...we recommend the client go out after dark with a flashlight and examine the perimeter of their house for a trail of ants leading off to the second nest. Identify where the second nest is...think woodpile, tree stump etc.... and be sure to communicate to the pest control company that it needs to be treated also.

Internet Essentials for Master Gardeners

(Computer training sponsored by the Metro Master Gardener Program)

Gain Internet skills on Firefox while researching and responding to client inquiries

Everyone has a computer

Three different 3-hour classes; take one or two each day

Date	Site	9 to noon	1 to 4 PM
May 7	PCC, SE Center ***	Search Techniques	MG Referral Forum (Uploading Referrals & Images)
June 18	PCC, Rock Creek**	Navigating the PNW Handbooks	MG Referral Forum (Uploading Referrals & Images)
September 24	Clackamas College*	MG Referral Forum (Uploading Referrals & Images)	Navigating the PNW Handbooks

*** PCC, SE Center: 2305 SE 82nd and Division, Portland, OR 97216

**PCC, Rock Creek: 17705 NW Springville Rd. Portland, OR 97229

*Clackamas Community College: 19600 Molalla Avenue, Oregon City 97045

The 3 featured classes

- Search Techniques to locate research-based information
- Navigating the online PNW Handbooks to locate Home Use information
- MG Referral Forum: Upload Referrals and Images; Educational Value

Class size is limited! Pre-register now!

Pre-register with Jean Natter; jrnatter@aol.com or 503-645-7073

Please provide the following:

1. Your name, plus phone number or email address
2. Date(s) and time of session(s) you will attend

Donation of \$2 requested to cover cost of handouts





Master Gardeners Reveal
Secrets of the Tomato Masters

This free event is a must for anyone who grows tomatoes!



Saturday, April 23, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie, 503-653-8100
• Ample Free Parking

These tomato masters grow over 100 tomato plants of about 50 varieties annually.
Their revelations will get you ready for a fun and productive growing season.

Topics:

- **Choosing the right type** – *The difference between ‘determinate’ and ‘indeterminate’ tomatoes*
- **Starting tomatoes from seeds**
- **Transplanting and planting** – *when and how*
- **General cultural techniques** – *pruning, fertilizing, and watering*
- **Disease and pest management** – *symptoms and remedies for common diseases and pests*
- **Support structures** – *how to make sturdy, long-lasting support*
- **Extra help that will yield early harvest**

These secrets are reserved for those in attendance!

In addition to lectures, there will be a display of tools, catalogs, and related resource materials.



Join the Gardening Fun with

Clackamas County Master Gardeners

*the folks who put on the annual, don't-miss,
Spring Garden Fair plant sale April 30 & May 1, at the Canby Fairgrounds.*

For more information about this group and other
free gardening events, log on to:

www.cmastergardeners.org

Herbs to the rescue: fend off deer with aromatic plants

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Many of the plants that enhance the flavor of our foods also leave a rich aroma as we brush against them in the garden, cut a few for soup or dry them in the fall.

Although aromatic and pleasant to us, many herbs have the opposite effect on deer and other animals that find them unpalatable. For that reason, herbs are some of the best plants to fend off garden nibblers, said Oregon State University horticulturist Linda McMahan.

She offers advice on how to use aromatic herbs to our advantage.

"A word of caution: even the toughest of deer-resistant plants might not always be good deterrents," she said. "Deer in one area, even a neighborhood, may learn to tolerate some plants while deer in other areas may choose to avoid them."

Many herbs originated in the Mediterranean or other dry-summer regions of the world and are familiar to us for culinary reasons. The same odors that enhance a stew often will dissuade deer. Sage, for example, is known botanically as *Salvia officinalis*, and many colorful varieties are available in addition to the standard sage-green.

The same can be said for rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), oregano (*Origanum*), mint (*Mentha*), thyme, including creeping thyme (*Thymus* species and varieties) and dill (*Anethum graveolens*).

Other attractive and traditional aromatic herbs that usually repel deer are lavender of all kinds (*Lavandula*), catnip (*Nepeta*), germander (*Teucreum*) and lavender cotton (*Santolina*).

For shrubs, try aromatic ones like sagebrush (*Artemisia*), Pacific wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*) or fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatic*). Dwarf or prostrate conifers often work well, are all aromatic and include junipers, cedars and mugo pines (*Pinus mugo*).

Although it's not fool-proof, you can experiment with other strong-smelling plants to see which ones work in your area. McMahan advises checking the USDA growing zones before you plant, as various areas of the Pacific Northwest have conditions that may not be good for all the plants listed here. Oregon has six of the 11 plant hardiness zones in the United States.



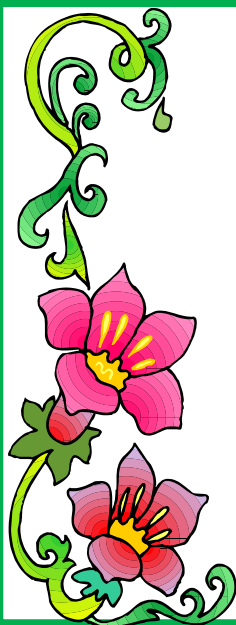
Spanish lavender is one of the aromatic herbs that usually repel deer. (Photo by Linda McMahan, OSU)

By: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: [Linda McMahan](#)

COLUMBIA COUNTY MG PLANT SALE

Spring Garden Fair at St. Helens High School Commons on April 30 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Certified Master Gardeners offer 6,600 tomatoes in 34 varieties for only \$1.25 per plant, tomato and general gardening information, raffle tickets, hourly prizes and displays. Dozens of local vendors offering garden related products. Please carpool.



**OSU Master Gardener™
Washington County Chapter**

**Spring Plant Sale
Saturday, April 30th, 2011
8:30 AM to 3:00 PM**



**Kinton Grange
19015 SW Scholls Ferry Road**

(5 miles west of Washington Square)

Many perennials are \$3 a gallon. Also offering shrubs, natives, bare-root trees, \$1 a pot table, yard art, and great raffle items

Master Gardener Clinic on site to answer questions

Checks or Cash only

www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

- Apr 2** MG Recertification—PCC Rock Creek 8:30AM—3:30PM
- Apr 3** Kiwanis Tree and Shrub Sale 9-12:30 End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, 1726 Washington St., Oregon City
- Apr 9** Kiwanis Tree and Shrub Sale, 9-4, End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
- Apr 10** Kiwanis Tree and Shrub Sale, 9-12:30, End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
- Apr 11** Clackamas County Chapter, *Debunking Garden Myths*; Jean Natter, Master Gardener
- Apr 12** Multnomah County Chapter, 6 PM, Welcome Potluck for Intern MGs; 7 PM Speaker: James Cassidy, OSU “*Soil, What It’s All About!*”
- Apr 16** Villa Garden Club Spring Plant Sale, 10AM—3PM; Tabor Heights Methodist Church, 6161 SE Stark, Portland
- Apr 16** Kiwanis Tree and Shrub Sale, 9-4, End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
- Apr 23** Secrets of the Tomato Masters, 9AM—11:30AM, Milwaukie Center
- Apr 30** Washington County Spring Plant Sale 8:30 AM—3:00 PM; Kinton Grange
- Apr 30—May 1** Clackamas Spring Garden Fair; Canby Event Center
- May 7** Opening Day—Oregon City Farmer’s Market
- May 7** Eastmoreland Garden Club Plant Sale, 10am-2pm, SE Bybee Blvd. and SE 27th Ave.
- May 8** Opening Day—Milwaukie Sunday Farmer’s Market
- May 10** Multnomah County Chapter, 7 PM; Speaker: Willi Galloway, writer, commentator, “*Some Like It Hot: How to Grow Warm Season Vegetables in the Cool Northwest*”
- June 4** Starlight Parade
- June 9-10** Portland Rose Society Annual Spring Rose Show
- July 13-15** Mini College in Newport



MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

Chapter Meeting 12 April 2011
Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, 5441 SE Belmont St.

Welcome Potluck for 2011 Interns

An evening to welcome and celebrate the new 2011 class of MGs.

Interns: bring your appetite, a plate, and utensils.

Veterans: bring a dish* to share, a plate, and utensils.

*With a 3 x 5 card listing the name of the dish and basic ingredients.

7:00 Keynote Speaker: James Cassidy, OSU Department of Crop and Soil Science 'Soil, what's it all about?'

It's all about soil! There is more life underground than in any other habitat on the planet Earth, and, yet, most people are completely unaware of this fact and the fact that our own survival is completely dependent on it. Soil is a battery that stores energy and is literally the foundation of all human civilizations from Agriculture and Industrial, to Information societies - it's all about soil! Building soil should be the number one activity of our culture, and gardening is a noble pursuit. What soil is, how it works, and how to build it is what this talk is all about - get ready to have your mind blown!

James Cassidy received a Master's degree in Soil Science from Oregon State University in 2001 looking at the drainage consequences of burrowing rodents. James is currently an instructor in the Department of Crop and Soil Science teaching introductory soil science courses and was voted Professor of the Year by the students of the College of Agriculture in 2006. Additionally, James is one of the founding members of the very popular Oregon State University Organic Growers Club. The OSU Organic Growers Club is an all-volunteer, student-run, student farm and just finished its 10th growing season. The Club is located on university land and members grow and market about 60 varieties of organically produced vegetable crops during the growing season. James' love of growing high quality vegetables is founded on a passion for food and cooking. He has had a 15+ year career in the food industry as a chef and cook. James is also an avid home gardener.

*****Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, 5 April 2011 at 5:30 pm at Claudia's – 4026 N.E. Hazelfern.**

*****Coming up...10, May, 2011, Chapter Meeting, Topic: *Some Like it Hot: How to Grow Warm Season Vegetables in the Cool Northwest***

Speaker: Willi Galloway, writer, radio commentator, and creator, DigginFood.com blog

The maritime Pacific Northwest is a great climate for gardening, but growing heat-loving vegetables such as tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers can be a challenge. In this photo-filled lecture, Willi will demonstrate how to warm up

your soil earlier in the spring, show off essential season-extending techniques and products, and give a step-by-step growing plan for maximizing your harvest of heat-loving vegetables.

******* For our booth at the **Canby Spring Fair, April 30 and May 1**, we need more donated used garden books to resell. The profits are for educational outreach. Please contact Sharon Baker, gazebo@teleport.com, if you have some books, but we can't take cookbooks or magazines, sorry. Visit our booth and browse the books that weekend while children pot a free plant seeded at our Demo Garden!

*****Things for sale to raise chapter funds:**

- Vests and T-shirts
Contact Mary Fiocchi at 503-312-6762 or email multmastergardeners@gmail.com
- Auto Cling Stickers
www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah or Carrie McIntyre at multmastergardeners@gmail.com
- Garden Delights Note-cards
<http://www.etsy.com/shop/MasterGardeners>. Also available at chapter meetings, contact Marilyn Kongsle at 503-289-8889 or email multmastergardeners@gmail.com
- Mugs \$10 or 3 for \$25
Contact: Abby Seemann at 503-285-7621.
- **Raffle Tickets: Win a Night at the Oregon Garden Resort**

The price is \$6.00 for one ticket, \$10.00 for two tickets. Contact Jean Edmison at 503-771-2486 or housejem@aol.com for more information.

*****2011 Chinook Books** – We sold 37 for a profit of \$370. And, we are signed up for next year. Thanks Carrie.

***** MG Demo Garden** (6801 SE 60th Ave.). Work days will be from 9am to about noon on Tuesdays (new day) and Thursdays until mid-April. After that we will add Saturday mornings. Please join us when you have the chance. We'll be having a regular MG clinic on April 16 in conjunction with the celebration of Earth Day at the LGL and will have additional clinics on the second Saturday each month through October. (Jean and Heidi)

*****Phones in Multnomah County** contact Gloria Bennett (503-775-4005 or dcleopatra@comcast.net)

2011 Officers and Contact Information

President – Claudia Groth 503-235-0669 claudia_groth@hevanet.com
Vice President – Gloria Bennett 503-775-4005 dcleopatra@comcast.net
Secretary – Carrie McIntyre 503-984-1109 lehua_mc@yahoo.com
Treasurer – Christine Semeniuk 503-493-0994 chrissem@comcast.net
OMGA – JoAnn Bones 503-253-3168 bones7247@comcast.net
OMGA Alternate – Mary Fiocchi 503-312-6762 maryto@johnlscott.com
Grapevine – Lorna Schilling 503-334-5162 lornaschilling@yahoo.com
Chapter Email – multmastergardeners@gmail.com
Chapter Website – <http://www.metromastergardeners.org/multnomah/>



Washington County Chapter Chat

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

Chapter Website: www.wcmga.info

UPCOMING PROGRAMS –

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

“Roses” Portland Rose Society President and Master Rosarian, Rich Baer, will share the newest information on rose bed preparation, own root vs grafted roses, rootstock problems, buying and planting roses, watering, fertilizing, diseases and rose garden tips in Roses 101. The speaker follows the Chapter Meeting which starts at 6:45 pm. Public invited.

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

“Beyond Peas and Carrots” by Vern Nelson, Garden Columnist

NEW MEETING LOCATION & DAY FOR 2011

First Baptist Church 5755 SW Erickson Ave.,
Beaverton, OR 97005, located between Farmington Rd. & Allen Blvd.
The public is welcome.

INTERN WELCOME POTLUCK

The dinner potluck will be held in conjunction with the Chapter Meeting on Tuesday, April 5th to welcome our new interns. Plan on arriving at the meeting at 6 pm and we will eat dinner at 6:15 with the regular meeting commencing at 6:45 and the program at 7:15.

Veterans please bring a dish to share with the new class. Bring food **READY TO SERVE** as there is no use of the ovens in the kitchen. Label your serving dishes and utensils with your name. Also, note there are limited plug-ins for crock pots, etc.

Below is a guideline as to what to bring. If your last name starts with:

A through K	Main Dish (casseroles, baked beans, etc)
L through R	Desserts
S through Z	Salads

BRING YOUR OWN PLACE SETTINGS so we can reduce the amount of garbage going to the landfill.

Spring Plant Sale Saturday, April 30th, 2011 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM Kinton Grange

19015 SW Scholls Ferry Road
(5 miles west of Washington Square)
Many perennials are \$3 a gallon. Also offering shrubs, natives, bare-root trees, \$1 a pot table, yard art, and great raffle items

WCMGA BUSINESS CARDS and DIRECTORY

New business cards are now available for Chapter members, including interns. The cards have been updated to reflect the new web address and are ready for your use to refer people to WCMGA. The directory dated 2/23 was sent out electronically as an attachment to the March Meeting Agenda and includes the names of the new interns.

SCHOLARSHIPS

WCMGA scholarship applications for studying horticulture or plant science are due April 1st. Info on our website.

President	Tim Lanfri	503-590-4354
Vice President	Bob Falconer	503-277-6595
Recording Secretary	Deb Kapfer	503-628-6349
Corresponding Secretary	Jackie Keil	503-531-3884
Treasurer	Lynn Cox	503-629-9156
OMGA Rep	Ken Keudell	503-292-6519
Alternate Rep	Joanne DeHaan	503-649-1683
Dir.#1 Business	Bill Klug	503-681-0143
Dir.#2 Program	Vern Vanderzanden	503-357-6109
Dir.#3 Publicity	Marilyn Berti	503-292 8637
Dir.#4 Fundraising	Sandy Japely	503-644-2637
Dir.#5 Chapter Relations	(vacant)	

Submit **Chapter Chat** information and general chapter announcements to **Jackie Keil**, Chapter Chat Editor.

Phone **503-531-3884** or e-mail: jkjvkeil4@gmail.com

For address/email changes, contact Alan Strong, e-mail coordinator, info@wcmga.info

Chapter Website: www.wcmga.info

Clackamas County Chatter

APRIL 2011



Oregon Master Gardener Association in Cooperation with
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program



April Chapter Meeting

Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.
Milwaukie Center

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

Debunking Gardening Myths

Jean Natter, OSU Extension
Service Master Gardener

Gypsum helps clay soils; coarse stuff in the bottom of containers helps drainage. Right? Well, perhaps not. Let's talk facts and dispel myths.

Jean Natter is one of the most dedicated OSU Extension Service Master Gardener volunteers, contributing over 1,000 hours each year. Jean was certified as an OSU Master Gardener volunteer in 1999. Since 2001, she has been a Master Gardener training instructor for various topics. The past few years, she has been teaching Entomology, Plant Disease, Household Arthropods, and Diagnostic Clinic. In 2007, she received the Master Gardener of the Year award from the Oregon Master Gardener Association.

May Program

Monday, May 9, 2011
Hopkins Tree Farm

Tim DeLano, OSU Extension Service
Community Outreach Educator
Carol Koshkarian, OSU Extension Service
Master Gardener

Hopkins Demonstration Forest (HDF) is a 140-acre, privately-owned forest open to the public for self-guided exploration, tours, workshops, and education programs. It includes a network of over 3 miles of hiking trails.

Tim has partnered with OSU Master Gardeners to create a native plant display garden. Carol has led the effort in the development of the garden.

27th Annual Spring Garden Fair

April 30 & May 1, 2011 • Canby Event Center

More than 200 vendors this year! We will celebrate the opening of a new vendor area, returning again to the main lawn behind the 4-H Building in addition to space used last year. Eight food vendors will offer a wide selection, whatever your taste. With all this excitement, dare we ask you to work? We need YOU to make the Fair a success! Please volunteer a few hours during this important weekend. So many, including the Chapter, benefit greatly from the Fair – Clackamas Community College Horticultural Scholarship recipients, OSU MG Endowment fund, OSU Metro MG Program, Gray Thompson Community Projects Grant recipients, the vendors who rely on this weekend's sales as a big part of their annual income, etc. Sign up is easy. Check out volunteer opportunities at the Chapter Web site, www.cmastergardeners.org, under the "Spring Garden Fair" or "Members Only" pages; look for the "Spring Garden Fair Volunteer Sign-up" link. You can sign up online, at the Chapter meeting, or contact Volunteer coordinator, Reta Suzanne, at retasuz@yahoo.com.

Trivia Pursuit

The first Spring Garden Fair took place in 1985 and raised \$530.75. How did things worked then?

- 1. Who opened this event?** (Multiple choice)
A. Miss Canby; B. Clackamas County Commissioner;
C. Canby Chamber President.
- 2. The Children's Poster Contest** was one of the activities in 1985. How many entries were there?
- 3. How many members** did the Chapter have that year to organize and staff the Fair?
- 4. What year did the Fair move to the main lawn*** behind the Main Pavilion? (Multiple choice)
A. 1993; B. 1994; C. 1995.
- 5. What year did the Fair move to the Carnival Lot**, where it is now? (Multiple choice)
A. 1995; B. 1996; C. 1997.

* The main lawn will again be part of the Fair this year.

To participate, respond to Sherry Sheng, sherrysheng@clear.net or call 503-655-1822, by midnight, April 10. The winner will be announced at the Chapter meeting on April 11 and will receive a prize.

Green Glove Award: Mike King & Carla Kildahl

Mike became a Master Gardener in 2004. His active service to the MG Program and Chapter include Parking co-chair, Spring Garden Fair; class coordinator for MG training; co-chair of the MG clinic at the Oregon City Fred Meyer Fuchsia Day; and a MG judge for the Giant Pumpkin Contest in Sherwood.

Carla has been a Master Gardener since 1997 and has played an active role in the Spring Garden Fair, including chairing the event. For the past 6 years, she has lived in Rainier, Oregon, and still makes the nearly 2-hour drive every year to work at the Fair. Most recently, she served as Day-of-Fair co-chair. Upon learning about this award, Carla exclaimed, "I love to do it and don't expect anything in return. This is a big surprise!"

2011 Workshops for Members

Propagation from Cuttings:
May 13, 2 – 4 p.m. CCC's Clairmont Hall, #117. Elizabeth Howley teaches propagation techniques from cuttings. Take home a fully-planted tray. Pre-registration required; \$7 supply fee. Contact: Madeline Forsyth at mpforyth849@yahoo.com, or call 503-465-1113.

President • Sherry Sheng: 503-655-1822 – Vice President • Frank Wille: 503-342-6699

Secretary • Darlene Reimer: 503-698-4648

Advisory Board • Buzz Oerding: 503-233-6974

OMGA Rep • Nikki Mantei: 503-577-4494

Treasurer • David Smith: 503-656-4613

Advisory Board • John Hill: 503-653-9524

OMGA Alt.Rep • Linda O'Toole: 503-659-5309

Asst. Treasurer • Penny Bowman: 503-908-0900

Advisory Board • Joby Duggan: 503-632-2165

Newsletter • Kathy Johnson: 503-794-3959

Websites: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/> - <http://www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org/>

APRIL 2011 MG NEWSLETTER

Agriculture, 4-H Youth, Family & Community Development, Forestry and extension Sea Grant Programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

April 2011

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Preventative pest management is emphasized over reactive pest control. Identify and monitor problems before acting, and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem.

First consider cultural, and then physical controls. The conservation of biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) should be favored over the purchase and release of biological controls. Use chemical controls only when necessary, only after identifying a pest problem, and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. Least-toxic choices include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides — when used judiciously.

Recommendations in this calendar are not necessarily applicable to all areas of Oregon. For more information, contact your local Extension office (<http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/locations.php>).

Planning

- Write in your garden journal throughout the growing season.
- Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate generous amounts of organic materials and other amendments, using the results of a soil analysis as a guide.
- Prepare raised beds in areas where cold soils and poor drainage are a continuing problem. Incorporate generous amounts (at least 2") of organic materials.

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Always identify and monitor problems before acting. First consider cultural controls, then physical, biological, and chemical controls (which include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides). Always consider the least toxic approach first.

All recommendations in this calendar are not necessarily applicable to all areas of Oregon. For more information, contact your local office of the OSU Extension Service.

- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. When the soil is consistently above 60°F, some warm season vegetables (beans, sweet corn) can be planted.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Allow foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to brown and die down before removing.
- Apply commercial fertilizers, manure, or compost to cane, bush (gooseberries, currants, and blueberries), and trailing berries.
- Place compost or well decomposed manure around perennial vegetables, such as asparagus and rhubarb.
- Cut back ornamental grasses to a few inches above the ground, in early spring.
- Cover transplants to protect against late spring frosts.
- Optimum time to fertilize lawns: Apply 1 lb. nitrogen per 1,000 sq.ft. of lawn. Reduce risks of run-off into local waterways by not fertilizing just prior to rain, and not over-irrigating so that water runs off of lawn and onto sidewalk or street.
- **Western Oregon:** Optimum time of year to de-thatch and renovate lawns. If moss was a problem, scratch surface prior to seeding with perennial ryegrass.
- **Western Oregon:** Prune and shape or thin spring-blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.

Trade-name products and services are mentioned as illustrations only. This does not mean that the Oregon State University Extension Service endorses these products and services or intends to discriminate against products and services not mentioned.

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Gardening information online—<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening>