

# Metro Master Gardener™ News

## December 2009



### 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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## CLASSES FOR 2010

December brings a lot of excitement to our office as the 2010 Master Gardener training starts soon. We couldn't be happier that the MG Program is still strong and growing in the metro county area.

The classes for 2010 will be held on:

Tuesdays at First Baptist Church, 5755 SE Erickson Ave, Beaverton 97005

Thursdays at Mazama Mountaineering Center 527 SE 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave Portland 97215

Fridays at the VFW/Bingo Hall, 104 Tumwater Dr, Oregon City 97045.

Check the schedule posted in this newsletter for dates.

If you were a new trainee in 2009 (or before), you are invited to attend the 2010 classes without a fee and contribute 25 hours of volunteer time during 2010 to remain an active MG volunteer. Just come to the location that works for you, sign in the veteran book, and bring your Sustainable Gardening Handbook and handouts since many of them will be the same. We welcome experienced MGs like you and value your help in easing the new class into the program. You will play an important role this coming year and I look forward to working with you again.

Remember – you can re-certify by attending **four 3-hour class sessions** (choose 4 from the starred classes on the schedule), adding up to 12 hours, or attend **both the fall and spring** re-certification training days (6 hrs ea = 12 hrs) or later in the season we offer a **recertification test** to do at home. Some MGs choose to take several of the starred classes and one of the advanced training days...just make sure they add up to 12 hours.

2009 trainees are not required to recertify until 2011, but are welcome to attend classes. If you have completed your 66 hours of volunteer time and have your orange badge, you can now sign up for volunteer opportunities as a veteran and have a goal of 25 hours for 2010. At least 1/2 of the 25 hours should be as educational outreach.

## VOLUNTEER FORMS

Now that you have turned in your 2009 volunteer forms, you will probably need another form for 2010. If you go to the website <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/> click volunteer portal, important resources then volunteer log sheet. You can also call or email Jordis to get a copy mailed or use the convenient Excel version. This can be sent electronically and is super easy to use.

## NUMBERS FOR 2009

Now that most metro MGs have turned in their volunteer hours and the number of contacts for phones, clinics and other outreach activities have been tallied, let's take a look at the numbers.

- 40,000 + volunteer hours contributed by metro MGs. That's equivalent to over 19 full-time volunteer staff members for OSU for 2009.
- ¼ of those hours were from 2009 interns. Some hours are yet to come from this group, and that number will be even higher.
- 22,000 + contacts! That number goes way up if we factor in everyone who attended Spring Garden Fair, Washington County Fair, Clackamas County Fair, Yard, Garden and Patio Show, Fall Home and Garden Show, International Rose Test Garden, Pittock Mansion, Crystal Springs Rhodie Garden, plant sales, tours, speakers bureau audiences, and other venues where the numbers are either hard to capture or didn't get tallied. These events are huge and even though not everyone stops at our booth or table to chat...they probably see the OSU Extension Service banner and your badges. Exposure for the OSU Master Gardener Program at these events is invaluable.

Thank you, metro MGs, for your generous donation of time and expertise. We are a strong program because of all of you.

See you at the classes! Sincerely, Weston and Jordis



## 2010 Metro Master Gardener Training Schedule

Week	Dates	Time	Topic	Instructor	Reading
1	January 5, 7, 8	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Social gardening</li> </ul>	Bubl, Miller, Yost	
		PM	Botany for Gardeners	Bubl	Chapter 1
2	January 12, 14, 15	AM	Soils and Compost	Groth	Chapter 2
		PM	*Organic Gardening for MGs	Miller	See web portal
3	January 19, 21, 22	AM	Ornamental Plant Care and Pruning	Bob Nelson	Chapter 9
		PM	*Entomology	Natter	Chapter 14
4	January 26, 28, 29	AM	*Understanding Pesticides	Bubl	Chapter 19
		PM	*Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	Miller	Chapter 20
5	February 2, 4, 5	AM	Small fruits	Strik (Tue), Kaufman	Chapter 11
		PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MG office training</li> <li>• Resource Fair</li> </ul>	Bubl, Miller, Yost	none
6	February 9, 11, 12	AM	Vegetable Gardening	Miller	Chapter 7
		PM	*Weeds	Bubl	Chapter 17
7	February 16, 18, 19	AM	Home orchards and fruit tree pruning	Bob Nelson	Chapter 4
		PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to PNW guides</li> </ul>	Bubl (M) Miller	Chapter 10
8	February 23, 25, 26	AM	*Household pests	Natter	handout
		PM	Lawns	Price	Chapter 12
9	March 2, 4, 5	AM	*Vertebrate Pests	Bubl	Chapter 18
		PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant Propagation</li> <li>• Resource fair</li> </ul>	Miller, Yost	none
10	March 9, 11, 12	AM	*Plant Diseases and Disorders	Natter	Chapter 15 and 16
		PM	*Plant Identification and outdoor excursion	Bob Nelson	Chapter 22
11	March 16, 18, 19	AM	*Diagnostics Clinic	Natter,	Chapter 15 and 16
		PM	Open Book Test Review Volunteer Presentations	Bubl (M), Miller, Yost	Take-home test

### Training Locations:

Tuesdays- First Baptist Church 5755 SW Erickson Ave., Beaverton 97005  
 Thursdays- Mazama Mountaineering Center, 517 SE 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Portland 97215  
 Fridays- VFW Hall 104 Tumwater Dr., Oregon City 97045

### Daily Schedule:

Morning Session 9am – 12 pm  
 Lunch- 12pm – 1 pm  
 Afternoon Session 1pm – 4 pm

Final 2010 MG Training Schedule

## Natter's Notes

### Update: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)

Jean R. Natter

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), *Halyomorpha halys*, is a relatively new invasive species in Oregon that's now common in the Portland area. Right now, they may be hanging out on a wall near you, just as do the more well-known box elder bugs.

As it turns out, many parallels are to be had between BMSB and box elder bugs. Perhaps the most significant difference is that BMSBs can be serious pests in gardens and agriculture whereas box elder bugs are strictly a nuisance.

Unfortunately, BMSB looks like it may be here to stay. Some people who had them in their gardens during the past year have had more than ever this fall. During September and October, they were seemingly on every sun-warmed object outdoors. And they migrate indoors; again, just as box elder bugs do.

Oh yes; if you annoy them, they really put up a stink!

**Because BMSB belong to the order Hemiptera**, they're true bugs. Their life cycle follows simple metamorphosis, with three different stages: egg; nymph, and adult. The nymphs go through multiple stages, each one slightly larger than the previous with slightly larger wing pads than previously.

In the stage that immediately follows the final nymphal molt, the bug has its adult form but its exoskeleton is quite soft, it isn't able to reproduce as yet and does not have full coloration. At that time, the insect is called a teneral adult. (See Figure 1, an image taken by a sharp-eyed Metro MG who has far more BMSBs this year than she wants.)

Both adults and nymphs are known to be serious agricultural pests elsewhere, with the bad habit of damaging tree fruits. (See Figure 2)

**The PNW Insect Management Handbook** doesn't yet have an entry for the BMSB. Even so, if they're hanging out on houses as do box elder bugs, the management would be the same:

"Use a vacuum cleaner to pick up bugs in building interiors. Prevent bugs' entry by repairing screens (1/4-inch screen is recommended), and caulking around windows and doors, screen soffit, corner trim and attic vents, etc. Sealing is best done during the summer months when the bugs are not present.



**Figure 1: Teneral adult; notice the final nymphal cast skin slightly above and to the left; image by C. Groth**

"Insecticide treatment has not been very successful: Insecticides will not eliminate the insects but may reduce them to a tolerable level. Residual sprays (by a pest control operator) where bugs congregate on building sides and near the foundation may reduce entry indoors. A professional tree service may treat infested trees near the structure."



**Figure 2: Nymph BMSB at left; adult at right; image by J. R. Natter**



**It's important to add a few words about the timing of caulking** cracks and crevices, also the professionally-applied sprays.

Any sealing of exterior access points should be completed by mid-August. If done later during the year, the insects may be trapped inside the wall. But right now, clients can caulk indoors, such as around windows and light fixtures and where ever else the bugs are gaining access.

For the professional sprays to be effective, they must be applied about a week prior to the insects' estimated arrival date. Such a spray is designed to repel the critters, not kill them. So this is a matter of marking next year's calendar in order to have the spray applied in a timely manner.

**Whenever people ask why BMSB return year after year**, you can tell them the insects mark the structure with pheromones specific to their kind. Next year, the new generation will home in on that aroma in order to locate a good place to hang out for the winter. (As you know, that sort of behavior also holds true for box elder bugs.)

And no, washing the wall won't stop the critters from returning. The reason? The insects also mark the wall void with their pheromones.

**A recent Pest Alert from Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)** has comparison images so that you can differentiate the marmorated stink bug from our native predator, the rough stink bug, *Brochymena quadripustula*. It also updates the information ODA wants to receive, namely that citizens report "possible BMSBs found outside of the Portland metro area." Go to <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/IPPM/bmsb.shtml>.

**So, keep an eye out for the brown marmorated stink bug**, at your place as well as in the MG office or at remote clinics. Next year, when you see egg masses and/or newly hatched nymphs, dispatch them on the spot! (See Figure 3)

If you suspect that you or the client has marmorated stink bugs, please obtain samples so that we can verify the identification. Then contact me so that I can finalize the ID and contact ODA for those BMSB found outside the Portland metro area.

**Bottom lines:** The Metro MG offices and clinics are cooperating with ODA in mapping the location of BMSB infestations just as we're doing with the spotted wing fruit fly and the dogwood sawfly. As usual, request samples of the insects so that we can verify their identification.

And now that the MG Diagnostic Forum is active online, you'll be able to take pictures with the digital camera supplied to your office, then upload the Referral and images to the online MG Forum. (It was activated in late November.)

Now that the MG Forum is functioning real-time, here's how the in-office Referral system will work:

- Just as in the past, problematic client cases will be referred to successive MG shifts for a maximum of two days via the Referral Forms in the offices.
- On the first shift of the third day, the office MGs will transfer the Referral information to the online forum so that the MG-Diagnosticians can begin their online discussion. The exception to waiting two full days is whenever an intervening holiday or weekend will exceed the 2-day guideline.
- After the case is solved, the client and the interested originating MGs will be notified of the diagnosis and management, if any.



**Figure 3: Next year, look for and dispatch egg masses and newly hatched BMSB nymphs. (The large pink thing is an index fingertip.)**

To review my previous newsletter story about the BMSB, go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/newsletter> and click December 2008.

You'll find further details about BMSB at PNW Nursery Pests <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/Brownmarmstinkbug.htm>, along with links to other informative sites, among them USDA, Penn State, Rutgers, and the Invasive Species site, the latter site perhaps the most rich in excellent high-quality images of all life stages.

And here's an image of leaf damage from Maine [http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/images/pests/soybean/BMSB\\_leafdamage2.jpg](http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/images/pests/soybean/BMSB_leafdamage2.jpg)

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**Correction for November newsletter**, in "Update: *Drosophila suzukii*; Not Your Mother's Fruit Fly," page 8, concerning the site of the community garden mentioned in the second paragraph. The location should be Gladstone.

## Horticultural Myths

Check out the new binder, *Horticultural Myths*, which has been placed at each MG phone clinic. This binder is a compilation of articles from Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott's online column, *Horticultural Myths* and her current venue, the WSU magazine, *Master Gardener*. She addresses the most common myths and misconceptions that plague home gardeners and horticultural professionals. It has many articles that are of interest to the investigative Master Gardener. These articles can be viewed at: [http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~linda%20chalker-scott/horticultural%20myths\\_files/index.html](http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~linda%20chalker-scott/horticultural%20myths_files/index.html).

Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott is an Extension Urban Horticulturist and Associate Professor at WSU's Puyallup Research and Extension Center. She has more than twenty years in the field of plant physiology and has discovered a number of so-called truths that have damaged both plant and environmental health. In these articles she offers guidance on better understanding landscape and garden plants as components of a living system.

Some of the topics she covers include: coffee grounds, compost tea, pressure-treated lumber, corn gluten meal, botanically derived pesticides, antitranspirants, amending the soil with organic matter, gypsum, glyphosate and more.

Information on subscription to *Master Gardener* magazine can be obtained from: Master Gardener Magazine, 105 South 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 217, Yakima, Washington, 98901 or toll free at 1-800-487-9946 or online at [www.mastergardeneronline.com](http://www.mastergardeneronline.com).

Linda Chalker-Scott also has a book, "*The Informed Gardener*", which contains thirty-five of the favorite articles from her online column. It is published by the University of Washington Press, and available at [www.washington.edu/uwpress](http://www.washington.edu/uwpress), ISBN 978-0-295-98790-3.

The following article, which was of a subject of recent interest to me, comes from information from her website *Horticultural Myths*.

MG Margaret Bayne

## Recycled Rubberized Mulch

I recently noticed rubberized mulch in my neighborhood garden center and was curious about its effectiveness and potential problems. Even though the idea of using this brightly colored rubberized mulch might sound like an environmentally friendly way to recycle some of the 290 million scrap tires that we generate annually, I still wanted to investigate it further in case we get any client questions about it. You never know!



Designer colors?

The mulch is made from recycled rubber tires that are shredded and dyed to the desired color. One of its many uses is as landscape mulch. Some of the advertised claims are: *fights weed growth, is economical-made for a lifetime, never decomposes and is non-toxic, odorless and clean.*

There is a lot of discussion in the literature on the benefits and risks of this mulch and one of the best sources of information comes from Professor Linda Chalker-Scott, Extension Horticulturist at WSU's Puyallup Research and Extension Center. The following information comes from her blog, The Garden Professors, <https://sharepoint.cahnrs.wsu.edu/blogs/urbanhort/archive/2009/09.aspx>.

According to Chalker-Scott, "...it's not effective...it burns... it breaks down... it's toxic..." and "... it's not fun to be around." More from her blog:

**"It's not effective:** One of the main reasons we use mulch is to suppress weeds. Research has demonstrated that organic mulches such as wood chips, straw, and fiber mats control weeds better than rubber mulch.

**It burns:** You've heard stories about piles of scrap tires catching fire and burning for weeks. Well, those same flammable compounds are in rubber mulch, too. When compared to other mulch types, rubber mulch is the most difficult to extinguish once ignited. In fact, some parks and playgrounds no longer use rubber mulch or rubberized surfaces because vandals have figured out that rubber fires cause a LOT of damage.



Burning mulch

**It breaks down:** Although sales literature would have you believe otherwise, rubber is broken down by microbes like any other organic product. Specialized bacterial and fungal species can use rubber as their sole food source. In the degradation process, chemicals in the tires can leach into the surrounding soil or water.



Fungi Growing on Mulch

**It's toxic:** Research has shown that rubber leachate from car tires can kill entire aquatic communities of algae, zooplankton, snails, and fish. While part of this toxicity may be from the heavy metals (like chromium and zinc) found in tires, it's also from the chemicals used in making tires. These include 2-mercaptobenzothiazole and polyaromatic hydrocarbons, both known to be hazardous to human and environmental health.



**It's not fun to be around:** When rubber mulch gets hot, it stinks. And it can burn your feet. Yuck.

The EPA's website says this about scrap tires: "Illegal tire dumping pollutes ravines, woods, deserts, and empty lots. For these reasons, most states have passed scrap tire regulations requiring proper management." So if we have legal tire dumping (in the form of rubber mulch), does that mean it doesn't pollute anymore?"

For Professor Linda Chalker-Scott's more detailed article on rubberized mulch, check out: WSU Extension Horticultural Myths, "The Myth of Rubberized Landscapes-*Recycled rubber mulch is an environmentally friendly, non-toxic choice for Landscapes.*" [http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~Linda%20Chalker-Scott/Horticultural%20Myths\\_files/Myths/Rubber%20mulch.pdf](http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~Linda%20Chalker-Scott/Horticultural%20Myths_files/Myths/Rubber%20mulch.pdf)

MG Margaret Bayne

## QUIZ CORNER

Q: What 's blooming? (Picture taken 11-16-09)



**THE PRIZE?** The first five correct responses received after noon December 5 will be listed in the next newsletter!  
Respond to Jean R. Natter (Phone 503-645-7073, or email [jrnatter@aol.com](mailto:jrnatter@aol.com) with "Quiz" in the subject line.)

### ANSWER FOR NOVEMBER QUIZ:

English ivy; *Hedera helix*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

#### THEY ARE, IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER:

Debbie Walker	(Multnomah, 2006)
Beven Peters	(Multnomah, 2000)
Jean Aalseth	(Multnomah; 2004)
Lisa Albert	(Clackamas; 1996)
EZ Jewell	(Clackamas; 2006)

For more information about English Ivy, Check out Lisa Albert's article on this pesky plant in *American Gardening* magazine: [http://www.ahs.org/publications/the\\_american\\_gardener/](http://www.ahs.org/publications/the_american_gardener/)



## Update on MG Files

Thank you to all who have given positive feedback to Carol Ross and me about the revamped MG files in each office! It is great to hear that the transition went smoothly. If you haven't checked the files out yet, we encourage you to do so. There is a wealth of information in them using the sought after guidelines - **research-based, unbiased, credible** and **regionally accurate**. Many of us tend to jump to the internet first and forget that the information may be just waiting for us in the files.

As you may know, we copied things out of the Washington County MG office files for the Clackamas and Multnomah MG office files. We have also cleaned out information that was *old and outdated* and added *new and up-to-date* handouts. This system now allows MGs who volunteer at many different offices to have the **same** information available to them at just a finger's reach.

We have placed a magazine holder in each office in which MGs should place any literature that they think should be included in these files. I check them regularly and have added some of these great items to the files! We ask you to keep on the lookout for new information that you think would help Master Gardeners provide up-to-date information to clients.

When you find a great article or handout **please don't** just put it directly in the files! We need you to place it in the magazine rack so I can make sure **all offices get a copy!** Also, it would be helpful if you attached a note with your name and contact info as well as the source of the document, such as the URL, if you found the item online.

Remember, as mentioned before, the document needs to be **research-based, unbiased, credible and regionally accurate** to be included. For information on what would qualify check out *Tab I- Research-based & Credibility* in the *Master Gardener Office Information Handbook* at each office or online at : <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/training-resources>.

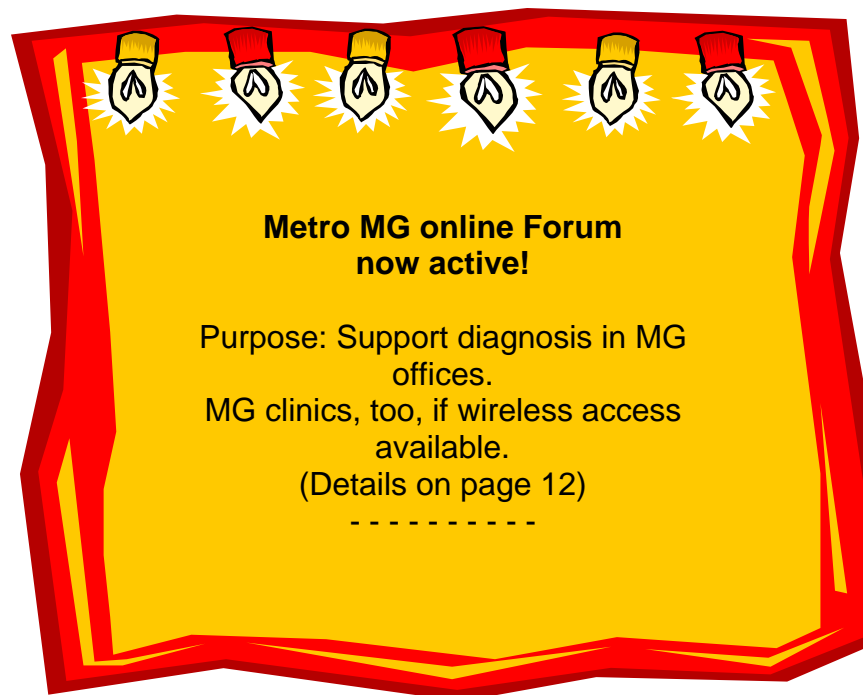
Based on MG requests and client's need some of the **new** category additions to files are : **ADAPTIVE GARDENING TECHNIQUES, CHICKENS, PEST CONTROL COMPANIES, CONTAINER GARDENING, PLANTS COMPATIBLE WITH BLACK WALNUT, ARBORISTS, LEAD, RAIN GARDENS/BIOSWALES, and BEAVER & RABBIT Management**. Please check them out next time you are in the office! The first file in the drawer titled, *File System List*, will provide information to direct you to their location in the file drawers. Instructions on how to use the file system are taped on top or front of the file cabinet.

Carol is in the process of inventorying all the documents in the files so we can put a reference list in the *MG Office Information Binder*. Again, thanks for all your feedback, MG Margaret Bayne.

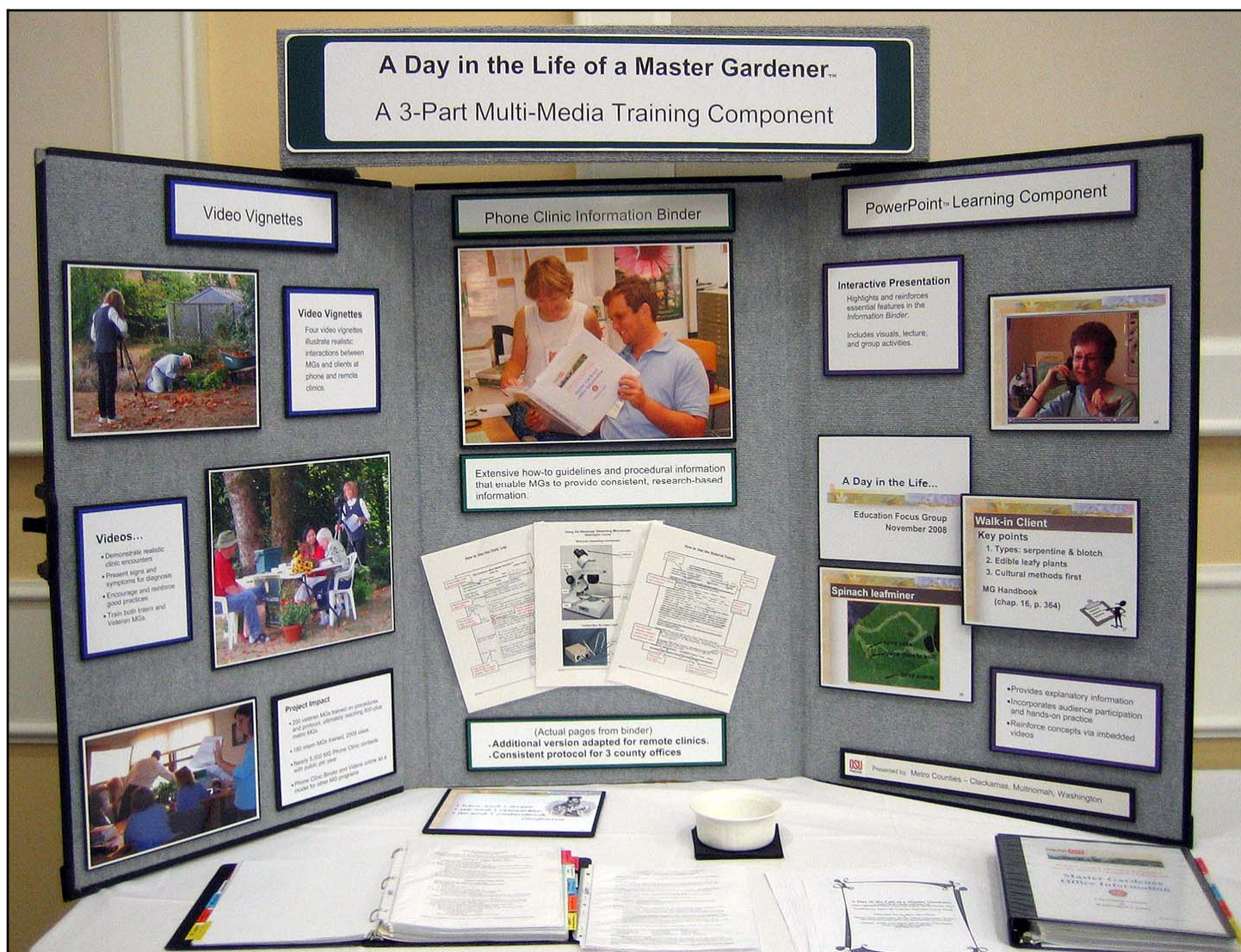


## HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

- Dec 3** Washington County Chapter; Chip Bubl "Hot Topics in Vegetables and Other Botanically Interesting Discoveries"
- Dec 8** Multnomah County Chapter; 7pm; Annual Winter Greens Gathering
- Dec 9** Class Coordinator sign up at Clackamas Extension office 10-noon
- Dec 14** Clackamas County Chapter annual book sale
- Dec 14** Clackamas County Chapter—Appreciate the Role of Bats—Sally Fisher
- Jan 7** Washington County Chapter—Patrick Proden-OSU Extension Service
- Jan 5,7,8** New Training classes begin!!
- Jan 11** Clackamas County Chapter—Nancy Goldman-European New Wave Perennial Movement
- Jan 12** Multnomah County Chapter, 7pm, Glen Andresen, Metro Natural Gardening Educator, 'Seed Starting'
- Feb 9** Multnomah County Chapter, 7pm, Ray Ethel, Broadacres Nursery, 'Grape Expectations'
- Apr 10** Spring MG Recertification Training—save the date



# The Metro Master Gardener Education Focus Group Wins Top Award in 2009 Search For Excellence for a 3-part Multi-media Training Tool: A Day in the Life of a Master Gardener



**Metro MG display for 2009 Search For Excellence: *A Day in the Life of a Master Gardener, a Multi-media Training Tool***

“A Day in the Life of a Master Gardener” is a 3-part Multi-media Training Tool consisting of an Office Information Binder, an interactive PowerPoint presentation, and a video series created by the Education Focus Group, a subgroup of Weston Miller’s Advisory Council. Focus Group members span all three Metro counties: Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington.

This Training Tool was submitted to the 2009 Oregon Master Gardener Association Search for Excellence

(SFE) as an Innovative Project, with the sub-categories of a General MG Accomplishment; Workshop; Presentation; and Hands-on Demonstration. And it won! Big time! In fact, Gail Langellotto, Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator, told us that our project received the highest score of all submissions.

(continued on page 12)



## Description of SFE project

This Multi-media Training Tool was designed to educate veteran and intern MGs on all aspects of office procedures via integrated components that function successfully combined or on their own.

They are:

- An Office Information Binder with guidelines and procedures which enable MGs to provide consistent, accurate information to the community
- A PowerPoint presentation to highlight and reinforce essential features in the Information Binder through visuals, lecture, and interactive hands-on activities for the MGs
- Four training videos that illustrate real life interactions between MGs and clients in the offices and off-site clinics

## Number of people impacted

After nearly two years preparation, the Multi-media Training Tool was introduced to about 200 veteran MGs at a 2008 Recertification Workshop. The effects soon extended to an additional 800-plus active MGs and will continue to affect about 180 new interns yearly.

The 2009 interns praised our efforts. They said they now had greater confidence in their ability to carry out their duties in the offices and off-site clinics.

We've encouraged MG Programs in Oregon and beyond to adapt the videos and Office Information binder (pdf files) for their needs. (You can review the files and videos at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/training-resources>.)

## Kudos to the Education Focus Group

Congratulations to the hard-working members of the Education Focus Group, who are Margaret Bayne, Diane Clevon, Jane Collier, Marcia McIntyre, Jean R. Natter, Heidi Nichols, Pat Smith, Norrene Thompson, and Martha Waldemar.

The many hours those Metro MGs dedicated to this project resulted in an excellent, high-quality training tool. Its elements will be used in new and unique combinations during the coming years to further develop a firm foundation for community service by our MGs to roughly 5,000 persons annually.

Metro Master Gardeners. Grow!



## Metro MG Online Forum Now Active!

Last month, you read in this newsletter about a new Metro MG pilot program: the Master Gardener Diagnosticians, MG-Dx for short, or just plain Dx.

As was said, the purpose of the MG-Dx pilot program is to recruit enthusiastic MGs who enjoy researching answers for clients' problematic questions. The more than 30 MGs who have accepted our challenge will blaze trails with their diagnostic endeavors in an on-line forum which switched from practice mode to real-time late last month or, to be precise, on November 20.

Another goal is to ultimately compile two searchable databases, one for answers to common questions, the other for images.

By the time you read this, each Metro MG office will have its own digital camera and card reader. Office MGs should photograph all samples from clients, then transfer the images to the computer, filing them in the MG FORUM IMAGES folder, located at the lower right on the computer's desktop. Those images will be critical when a Referral is transferred to the online Forum.

This is now the protocol for the In-office Referral system:  
As before, problematic client cases will be referred to successive MG shifts for a maximum of two days via the Referral Forms in the offices.

On the third day (the 5<sup>th</sup> shift), the office MGs will transfer the Referral information to a closed-membership online forum so that the MG-Dx can begin their online discussion. *The exception to the 2-day guideline is when an intervening holiday or weekend exceeds the two day limit.* After the case is solved, the client and interested originating MGs will be notified of the diagnosis and management, if any.

Each Metro MG office has access to the forum via a hot link, either at the lower right of the desktop, or via a bookmark. Usernames (and passwords) are unique to each office: wcpPhones for Washington County, mcPhones for Multnomah, and ccPhones for Clackamas.

You'll find directions about the camera and uploading Referrals to the Forum in several places. Online, look at the top of the Incoming Forum for an announcement with attachments you can download and/or print. In the MG office, look for hard copies of the same material.

The Metro Master Gardener Diagnostician pilot program and online Forum is designed and implemented by the Diagnostician Action Team, a sub-group of Weston Miller's Advisory Committee. Its members are Martha Waldemar, Pat Smith, Beth Rose, Jean R. Natter and Diane Clevon, with Jay Ewing the lead technology person for the MG Forum.

Metro Master Gardeners. Grow!





**MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE**  
Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with  
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

**8 December 2009 Chapter Meeting**

Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church 5441 SE Belmont

**6:45pm Gather - 6:50 pm – Announcements**

**7:00 pm - Annual Winter Greens Gathering:** Gather with fellow chapter members to share a cup o' cheer and create winter arrangements, wreaths and swags. Bring cuttings from your garden, supplies and tools to build a festive winter creation. Additional evergreens, ribbon and some supplies will be available. Enjoy a sweet treat, warm beverage and conversation with fellow MGs.

**\*\*\*Next Board Meeting – Tuesday 5 January 2010 - 6:30 pm** at Jean Edmison's – 7606 S.E. Ellis

**\*\*\*Coming up...12, January 2010, Chapter Meeting, 7pm Topic: Seed Starting.** In the midst of winter seed starting brings hope of spring!

Speaker: **Glen Andresen**, Metro, Natural Gardening Educator

**\*\*\* CAPTURE GARDEN WONDERS BY PHOTO!** As our gardens transform from autumn glory to winter wonders don't forget to take the time to grab your camera and capture the images. Submit your favorite garden photos to be considered for an upcoming fundraiser. We are planning on printing a set of high quality, color, note cards of lovely garden images. So snap away at all the captivating combinations and vibrant vignettes your garden has to offer. Please submit all photos to Marilyn Kongslie: mkongslie@gmail.com (503)289-8889

**\*\*\*Seattle Flower Show Bus** (Were we really told it was cancelled?) We will take a bus for the first day of the show Wednesday 3 February 2010 from 6am to 9pm. Cost is \$60 for the ticket (includes bus with room for plants, show ticket and agenda). Call Evelyn Clink (503) 777-6771.

**\*\*\*Best Bang for Your Buck! Directory Advertising!** Once again advertising space will be sold in the Mult. Co. Directory. This is a great way to promote your business and get the word out to our many Master Gardeners. Reasonable rates. To place an ad please contact Jean Edmison (503)771-2486.

**\*\*\*** This summer we kicked off the “**Share Your Garden**” series of Master Gardener open gardens. Four gracious Multnomah County MGs, Kimberly Brown, Linda Hendrickson, LeAnn Locher, and Darlene Myers, opened their gardens and welcomed us. Their gardens offered delight and inspiration to a gardener's heart. So now it is time to plan for 2010. Please consider taking part in this fun

event. If you would like to host an open garden pick a date and time, and then contact Gloria Bennett, e-mail: dcleopatra@comcast.net or (503)775-4005. Notify Gloria by January 4, 2010 and your open garden will be listed in the 2010 Mult. Co. Master Gardener Directory.

**\*\*\*2010 CHINOOK BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE!!** Loaded with over 400 money saving coupons from local, sustainable businesses. Coupons for groceries, dining, entertainment, garden, travel and home. Makes a great gift that keeps on giving! ONLY \$20! Contact: Robin Case (503) 762-3964 or Jean Edmison, email: [housejem@aol.com](mailto:housejem@aol.com)

**\*\*\***We are very much in need of **historical information on the Multnomah Chapter's 2008** year, in addition to 2009. Could you please bring to our meeting photos, clippings, etc. of any Multnomah Chapter event or related activity you, as a Master Gardener, were involved in, during 2008. Contact Velda Altig for more information.

**\*\*\*** The following slate of **officers for 2010** was approved at the October meeting:  
**President-Sharon Baker**  
**Co-Vice-Presidents-Heidi Nichols and Gloria Bennett**  
**Secretary-Jo Ann Bones**  
**Treasurer-Robin Case**  
**OMGA Representative-Marilyn Kongslie**  
**Junior OMGA Representative-Linda Eggiman**  
**who is being replaced by Deanna St. Martin**  
**because Linda will be busy being the OMGA Secretary.**

**2009 Officers**

President – Jean Edmison - 503-771-2486  
Vice President – Sharon Baker - 503-284-5189  
Secretary – Jo Ann Bones – 503-253-3168  
Treasurer – Robin Case – 503-762-3964  
Past President – Patrick Adams – 503-287-9071  
OMGA Sr. Rep. – Joyce Hemmerling - 503-331-0824  
OMGA Rep. – Marilyn Kongslie – 503-289-8889  
Historians – Velda Altig, Claudia Groth and Jim Colahan  
Grapevine – Lorna Schilling – 503-334-5162



# Washington County Chapter Chat

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

Chapter Website: [www.wcmga.info](http://www.wcmga.info)

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS –

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**SOCIAL GATHERING at 6:30 pm- Election at 6:45 pm**

**Dec. 3, 2009 “Hot Topics in Vegetables and Other Botanically Interesting Discoveries”**

Chip Bubl, Columbia County Extension Service

**Jan. 7, 2010 “OSU Extension Service”**

Patrick Proden, Staff Chair/Administrator WA & Mult Counties OSU Extension & 4H Program

**Presentations are from 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.** at the CAPITAL Center, 18640 NW Walker Rd (185<sup>th</sup> & Walker Rd) Rm 1411. The public is welcome.

## POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIR OPENINGS

**Historian** (job description on [www.wcmga.info](http://www.wcmga.info))

**Raffle Chair for Plant Sale** -- Contact Barbara Knopp at **503-641-0429**.

## BEAVERTON TRAINING CLASS FOR NEW MGS

It is time to gear up for the 2010 Class (1/5 to 3/19) and welcome the new trainees. The Set-Up Committee and the Hospitality Committee still have vacancies. Please contact Diana Gaydon at [diana@dianagaydon.com](mailto:diana@dianagaydon.com) or call **503-524-4243**.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NOONTIME CHAT FACILITATORS NEEDED

The Noontime Chats have been fun and successful for the past two years. We are now looking to fill the 2010 schedule for the classes. We will start with the 2<sup>nd</sup> class on January 12<sup>th</sup> and continue each Tuesday's lunch break. The facilitators should have material for a 20 minute INFORMAL discussion. No pressure; this should be a FUN thing, just having lunch with some people that share your passion about any gardening topic. Props help! This activity and prep counts for volunteer practicum Educational Outreach hours. For information or to volunteer, contact Sally Skinner at **503-887-4064**.

## REMINDER TO PAY YOUR DUES

Annual Chapter dues in the amount of \$25.00 are due no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Bring your check to the Chapter meeting or contact Donna Yount.

## PERENNIAL REMINDER

Now is a good time to divide your hardy perennials suitable for gallon size pots to donate to our Chapter's Plant Sale. Four years ago we collected about 750 plants; last year nearly 2000. Our goal for 2010 is 2500! Thanks to all of you, we are able to fund some of the Chapter's major projects. Jane Miller will be at the Nov. and Dec. Chapter meetings to collect your donations. Questions, call Jane at 503-590-3598.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The November Golden Trowel Award was presented to James Galbreath (class of 2009) for his dedication and hard work over the last two years. He logged over 300 hours for his payback time during this first year as an intern! Thank you, James, for your enthusiasm and many hours of work. We appreciate you.

President	Ken Keudell	503-292-6519
Vice President	Lynn Cox	503-629-9156
Recording Secretary	Jackie Keil	503-531-3884
Corresponding Secretary	Gini Lang	503-407-6422
Treasurer	Donna Yount	503-746-6198
OMGA Rep	David Rullman	503-292-1603
Alternate Rep	Jerry Knott	503-292-1939
Dir.#1 Business	Bill Klug	503-681-0143
Dir.#2 Program	Alan Strong	503-690-1882
Dir.#3 Publicity	Lynn Wagner	503-531-9239
Dir.#4 Fundraising	Anna Stubbs	503-643-9474
Dir.#5 Chapter Relations	Barbara Knopp	503-641-0429
Editor:	Gini Lang	503-407-6422

Submit Chapter Chat Announcements to **Gini Lang**, Chapter Chat Editor, by the 11<sup>th</sup> each month. Phone **503-407-6422** or e-mail **Gini Lang [lang2044@comcast.net]**.

Submit general chapter announcements to Alan Strong, e-mail coordinator, [alan@astrongone.net](mailto:alan@astrongone.net)

Chapter Website: [www.wcmga.info](http://www.wcmga.info)



# Clackamas County Chatter



December 2009 A chapter newsletter for the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

## December Chapter Meeting

**Monday, December 14**  
**Milwaukie Center 7:00 p.m.**

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

### **Appreciate the Role of Bats: Insect-eaters of the Night**

*by Sally Fisher, waste reduction mgmt  
Clark County Solid Waste Program*

Bats have gotten a bad rap! Their popular images as blood-suckers, disease-carriers, or scary creatures that get tangled in your hair are totally undeserved.

Sally will set us straight on what bats really do and how they affect our environment. In this talk, she will acquaint us with the types of bats residing in our region, how they live, and how they contribute to a healthy environment.

All of this may turn you on to bats. If you want to attract these beneficial flying mammals to your garden, Sally will offer expert advice that's sure to work.



*A round of applause for a  
great year of programs!*

*Our thanks go to Program Committee  
members Susan Carley, Hazel Childs,  
Laura Eyer, Ruby Friesen, Nancy Hopkins,  
Nikki Mantei, Sherry Sheng, and  
Carol Zinsli.*



## Upcoming Events **Annual Book Sale**

December 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Master Gardener Meeting

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to add to your gardening library!

*Janet Weber 503-358-2821*  
[weberjanet@hotmail.com](mailto:weberjanet@hotmail.com)

## January Meeting Preview

**Monday, January 11**  
**Milwaukie Center 7:00 p.m.**

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

European New Wave Perennial Movement  
Nancy Goldman, former president of the Hardy Plant Society, will introduce the concept and design principles of the "New Perennial" gardens developed by Piet Oudolf, and illustrate his ideas with photographs of European gardens.

The Low Countries and lower Rhine region of Germany, freed from the French and English landscape designs that dominated for hundreds of years, is now the cutting edge in developing and introducing new ideas, designs, and plant material, including the New Wave perennial movement

## Positions Open

Our Chapter currently needs volunteers

for the following positions.

- Extra Row Chair
  - Historian
- Sherry Sheng 503-655-1822*  
[sherrysheng@clear.net](mailto:sherrysheng@clear.net)

**Green Glove Award** for October goes to  
**WILL HUGHES**



for his enthusiastic participation in this year's Spring Garden Fair. Our hats are off to you, Will!

## 2010 Open Gardens

Plan now to share your garden with fellow MGs next year. Contact our Open Garden Chairperson, Dot Carson, as soon as possible for inclusion in the 2010 Handbook. *Dot Carson 503-638-0913*

[dot@steelmagnolia.org](mailto:dot@steelmagnolia.org)

## 2010 Chapter Dues Payable Now

Please remit \$12 to Irwin Rogers by check (payable to CCMG) or in cash at a chapter meeting, or mail directly to:

Irwin Rogers  
15125 S Macksburg Road  
Molalla, OR 97038.

To have your 2008 directory mailed to you, include an additional \$3.

*NOTE: Dues are due December 1 but can be paid at the December chapter meeting.*

Clackamas County Chapter Officers						
President	<b>Bill Bradley</b>	503-624-8435		Advisory Board	<b>John Hill</b>	503-653-9524
Vice President	<b>Rick Mishaga</b>	503-557-4491			<b>Dale Eggers</b>	503-557-3152
Secretary	<b>Cheryl Borden</b>	503-723-4257			<b>Martha Waldemar</b>	503-698-2519
Treasurer	<b>Mary Butler</b>	503-632-1532		Newsletter	<b>Holly Pederson</b>	503-701-5816
Asst. Treasurer	<b>Trudy O'Donnell</b>	503-636-1697		Websites	<a href="http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/">http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/</a>	
OMGA Rep	<b>Denise Dwan</b>	503-632-3035			<a href="http://www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org/">http://www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org/</a>	
OMGA Alternate Rep	<b>Nikki Mantei</b>	503 577-4494				

## December Garden Calendar

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 OSU Extension Service office](#).

### Maintenance and Clean Up

- ✦ Spread wood ashes evenly on vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 lb/100 sq ft/year. Don't use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.
- ✦ Protect new landscape plants from wind. Use stakes, guy wires and/or windbreaks as needed.
- ✦ Yard sanitation: Rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds, hoe or pull winter weeds.
- ✦ Turn the compost pile and protect from heavy rains, if necessary.
- ✦ During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tilling, ditching, and French drains are possible short-term solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales as a longer-term solution.
- ✦ Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- ✦ Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.
- ✦ **Central/eastern Oregon:** Water your plants every 6 to 8 weeks with a deep soaking to prevent drying out.
- ✦ **Western Oregon:** Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.

**Western Oregon:** Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.

### Planting/Propagation

**Western Oregon:** Good time of year to plant trees, and landscape shrubs.

### Pest Monitoring and Management

- ✦ Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- ✦ Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Remove weeds to prevent rodents from using them as hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- ✦ Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents.

Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. Read and follow pesticide label directions.

### Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- ✦ Protect poinsettias from cold, place in sunlight, don't let leaves touch cold windows; fertilize with houseplant fertilizer to maintain leaf color.

Monitor houseplants for adequate water and fertilizer. Water and fertilizer requirements generally are less in winter.