

Metro Master Gardener™ News

March 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

Greetings Master Gardeners,

As an educator, I strive to provide you with information about a wide range of horticulture education programs in the metro area. The following newsletter entry is a description of 2011 programs that I recommend for further education in sustainable gardening and more.



OSU Extension Service, in partnership with Multnomah County, is proud to announce open registration for a new educational program in 2011:

The **Beginning Urban Farming Apprenticeship (BUFA)** program provides in-depth and comprehensive training in urban farming and sustainable farming methods. Through formal classes, hands-on training, field-trips, online learning, and supervised apprenticeships, BUFA prepares students to produce and market fresh vegetables, fruits, grains, cut flowers, and other value-added products using organic methods. Participants will also learn the knowledge and skills needed to design, install, and manage farm and landscape infrastructure in urban and peri-urban settings.

Participants will gain the knowledge and skills of urban farming through:

- Classroom training, field trips and an online learning platform
- Hands-on, in-the-field apprenticeship with experienced local farmers
- OSU's established *Growing Farms: Successful Whole Farm Management Workshop Series*, which is focused on farm business planning.

There are two tracks for participation in BUFA in 2011:

- **Track 1:** This track includes all of the above programming. At total of 460 hours over the course of 8 months. For 15 participants maximum, the full program includes all of the above programming (460 hours). Cost = \$3,000. Limited scholarship and work trade positions available.
- **Track 2:** An additional 10 participants can attend the classroom training and field trips. This track does not include the 336 hours of apprenticeship and is intended for individuals who want to increase their knowledge and skills in urban farming without the in-the-field training (124 hours). Cost = \$1,200.

Early-bird application and scholarship deadline is March 11, 2011

BUFA program begins on April 6, 2011

For program dates, more information, and to sign up, see: www.multco.us/sustainability/bufa

Also, if you want to increase your knowledge and skill in vegetable gardening, Oregon Tilth offers a great program this spring: **Comprehensive Organic Gardener Program**

March 3 – March 24 and takes place Thursday evenings 6:30-8:30pm and Saturdays 10-3pm. For more information, see [Oregon Tilth web site](#).

- For programming specific to organic gardening, we offer an on-line class HORTICULTURE 260 *Organic Farming and Gardening* through [OSU Ecampus](#), which will be conducted summer 2011.
- **For FREE gardening workshops, Metro**, in partnership with OSU Extension Service, provides natural gardening workshops on a wide-range of natural gardening topics throughout the gardening season. See [Metro website](#).

And, of course, we will continue to offer the Master Gardner training in 2012 and beyond. These changes in programming are intended to make best use of scarce funds and to further empower our partners in the delivery of research-based information on a wide range of gardening and small-scale farming topics.

Please note that in 2011 we will not be offering the Organic Gardening Certificate Program (OGCP) to make way for BUFA and other programming. We have provided 60 hours of training to nearly 250 organic gardeners over the last 3 years through the OGCP. We have received considerable feedback from participants this program, which has driven us to create the Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship (BUFA) and provide some additional opportunities.

OSU Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, or disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status. OSU Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

We are looking forward to working with our community partners to provide excellent educational opportunities for 2011 and beyond.

I hope to see you there,

Weston



OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS

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



2011 TRAINEES FINISH TRAINING

March starts with trainees still in classes for several more classes...and ends with 205 new OSU Master Gardeners out in the community educating home gardeners.

The new class has had instruction about what's next for them in the volunteer portion of the program. I always get the I'm- not-ready-look when I say "... now is the time to go out and answer gardening questions". Most new trainees are nervous about it. The bottom-line is... you've been trained to know WHERE to find the answers. The best advice is to jump in and sign up for everything! You will be amazed at how much you know AND how much more you get out of your classroom learning when you apply it.

Remember, we have several ways for you to get involved:

Volunteer Opportunities packet (check boxes for what you are interested in). New trainees won't receive their permanent badge until I have one of these on file! These were handed out in class and are due by March 11.

We give you the coordinators name and number to call directly for the event you want to help with. Look in the April newsletter.

The best way to complete your hours is to be **proactive**. Call about events that interest you...get on multiple lists...sign up with a new friend from class and have some fun! There are a lot of exciting and educational events coming up for new trainees and veterans. Watch the newsletter and emails for volunteer opportunities that are in your neighborhood or area of interest. We have something for every gardener.



MARCH OPPORTUNITIES

First and foremost...**phones!** New trainees owe 40 hours in a Direct Service Educational Role (phones, clinics, or speakers bureau) and can work the phones when their training ends. Veterans should aim for half of their 25 hours being spent helping the new MGs as they ease into their new role as 'Volunteer Staff' for OSU.

To schedule a shift or ask questions, contact Joby Duggan for Clackamas Co. 503-632-2165 joby@bctonline.com , Gloria Bennett for Multnomah County 503-775-4005 dcleopatra@comcast.net or Heidi Nichols for Washington Co. heidinichols@comcast.net

Trillium Festival and Native Plant Sale at Tryon Creek State Park- April 2 - 3. This is a clinic and some expertise with native plants may be helpful. Call Jordis Yost to schedule. **503-650-3118** or jordis.yost@oregonstate.edu.

Many opportunities start up in the spring, so watch for the **coordinator list in the April newsletter...** and make sure that I have your current email address.

CRYSTAL SPRINGS RHODODENDRON GARDENS

Master Gardeners are very active at CSRG this spring. The garden attendance is huge this time of year and it is an exciting place to be. The National Rhododendron Society will be visiting Portland this spring, so we are proud to show off this lovely spot and will need a bit of extra effort to getting it looking it's best. Call Pat Frobes (MG) 503-287-3166 for info.

There is an ongoing opportunity that can be somewhat lower key...working at the entrance gate. This is a lovely building at the garden and is the perfect place for MGs that have limited mobility. The garden staff needs help Thursday through Monday. There are two shifts available, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. Please call Rose Kress 503-654-4318 for more details. Both these volunteer activities are Indirect Service Support.

Spring 2011

OSU Master Gardener™ Recertification Agenda

Saturday, April 2 - 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

PCC Rock Creek Campus - Bldg 9

Bring lunch and finger food to share



Doors open at 7:30 am, 8:00 am: Registration and gathering, 8:30 am: Welcome and announcements

8:45 - 10:15 am Invasive Plants - What you can do about them!

Mary Logalbo, Conservation Planner, Multnomah SWCD

Mary Logalbo has been working as a conservation planner with Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Oregon for the past four years with an emphasis on native plant restoration, invasive species control programs and public education program development. Mary's presentation will focus on invasive plant id, strategies for control, resources for home owners.

10:30 - Noon Sustainable lawns - Practical Tips for Maintaining Nice Lawns with Minimal Inputs

Tom Cook, OSU Associate Professor and Turf Grass Specialist, retired.

Contrary to popular opinion, it is possible to have an attractive lawn without applying excess fertilizer, water, and chemicals. This presentation will explore the ecology of lawns in Western Oregon, how maintenance practices influence appearance and longevity of lawns, how landscape design influences lawn maintenance, and how we can maximize the environmental benefits of lawns. It will also explore alternatives to conventional lawns and look at how marketing of lawn care services has shaped lawn owners expectations. Finally, it will challenge the value of calendars and recipes for guiding lawn care practices. By design or by default most people have lawns so come prepared to ask about problems you may be having with your lawns.

Noon - 12:30 Lunch break - Time to catch up with other MGs and look at items for sale.

12:30 - 2:30 pm Horticultural CSI - Uncovering the Dirt on Why Landscape Plants Die

Linda Chalker-Scott, PhD - WSU

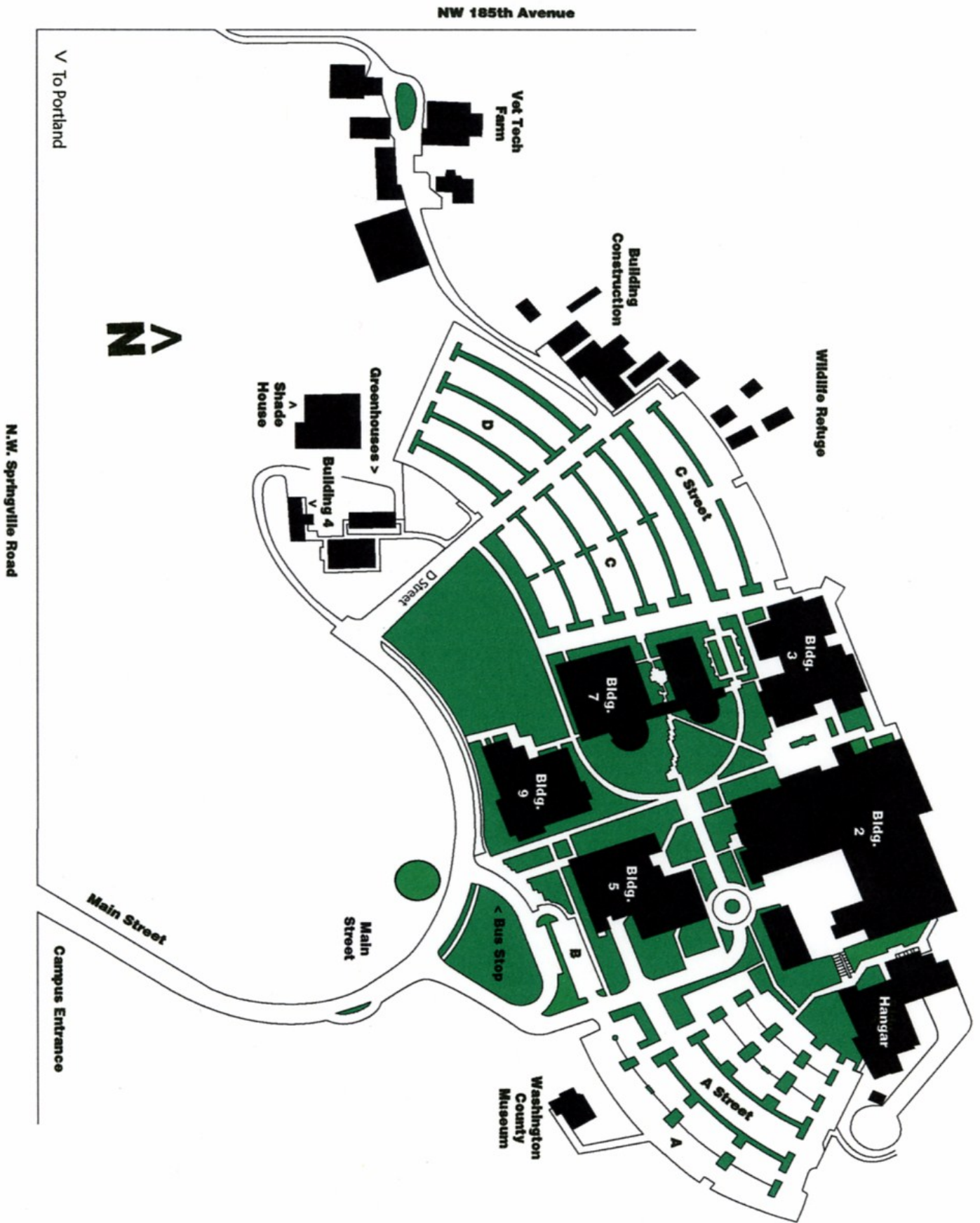
Author of *The Informed Gardener* & *The Informed Gardener Blooms Again*

Here in the Pacific NW we are blessed with a mild climate that allows us to grow a wide variety of native and non-native trees and shrubs. Yet landscape failures are common - how many dead arborvitae hedges have you seen in your neighborhood? This seminar will present a diagnostic approach to discovering the cause behind landscape failure. You may be surprised to learn that many landscape plants die because of avoidable errors in selecting, transplanting, and maintaining trees and shrubs. An alternative set of suggested best practices will be presented based on recent and on-going research. Handouts containing the text of the talk will be provided.

2:45 - 3:30 pm Premier Showing of New Videos - Produced by MGs for MGs

Weston Miller - OSU Faculty, Metro Master Gardener Leader

Weston presents the newly released training videos. These MG inspired vignettes show some sticky situations and creative makeovers. There is a whole new set of MG Players and some really good information on how to handle some common 'speed-bumps' while navigating the MG activities.



Natter's Notes

Odorous House Ants, aka Sugar Ants

Jean R. Natter

Prior to the recent purchase of our new place in October, the house inspectors reported they saw odorous house ants trailing along a beam in the crawl space. That definitely wasn't welcome news because I've heard plenty of stories about how annoyingly persistent those tiny black fellows are. I've been waiting for the other shoe to drop ever since.

All was well until, while teaching an entomology class, I commented that I hadn't seen any of those ants, called sugar ants by most folks, inside the house as yet. Knock on wood. (Oh, oh. A sudden sinking feeling grabbed me, probably because I haven't yet escaped some of the superstitions I grew up with, one of which was "don't speak about something bad because then it will happen.") So wouldn't you know, by the next morning I had a few in the kitchen, plus more in the bathroom.

There's nothing like an invasion of those tiny black beasts to trigger considerable anxiety and even fear. With colony members numbering in the thousands, they can sacrifice many workers as you try to keep them out of the house. But, that day, action had to be delayed until after I returned from the office. Of course, by then, I saw plenty more than a few! And they were way too close to the bagged dog food in the pantry.



Fig 1: Clubbed antenna of an odorous house ant (AntWeb)



Fig 2: Profile of an odorous house ant (AntWeb)

Description

Odorous house ants (*Tapinoma sessile*) are black or brown, and a mere 1/8-inch long. Their elbowed antennae are subtly clubbed, the club appearing as a minor enlargement of the three tip-most segments. (Fig 1) In profile, these ants have an uneven thoracic outline. The narrow petiole – the connection between thorax and abdomen – has one very small node that's often hidden from view by the anterior abdomen. (Fig 2)

A diagnostic characteristic of sugar ants is that, when crushed, they emit an odor which is variously described as coconut; rotten coconut; and/or very strong. Some call them piss ants. So, to my mind, the specifics of the odor and its strength are a function of the nose at hand.

Habits of odorous house ants

Sugar ants reside in shallow nests, often under logs, stones, debris or thick mulch, each nest with multiple queens and 10,000 or more workers. Workers are monomorphic (all the same size) and are said to be active both day and night. At my place, activity seems concentrated during daylight hours. But I don't sit up all night watching for them, either.

Worker ants constantly scout for food. They search with a meandering pattern, then return to the nest in a more direct manner. (Fig 3) In short order, many additional workers form a two-way trail along the scented pathway the scouts laid down.

Odorous house ants feed on honeydew as well as insects, both living and dead. The ants at my place are persistent in scouting my kitchen counters. Perhaps those in the tub wanted water. (Fig 4)

Colonies multiply by several means, either by mating of males and females or via budding, a process in which a group of workers gather up several queens and march off to establish a new nest in another site.

Management

Managing odorous house ants is challenging, even for professionals. They're fast becoming the #1 pest problem nationwide.

Strict sanitation by all household members is required, combined with baiting and constant vigilance. Homeowners who are particularly harassed by these ants may want to hire a pest control company which can use materials unavailable to the public.

Spraying visible ants wastes your time and effort because they account for less than 10% of the colony. Far more effective is to use pre-formulated baits because workers share the material with nestmates. Choice foodstuffs vary through the year. Proteins are preferred when rearing new brood, whereas sugars are prime fare for older workers. It's wise to use one kind of bait for at least three weeks before deciding it's not working. If it's ineffective, select a product with a different active ingredient. Those most effective against odorous house ants are a borate material; fipronil; and imidacloprid.

"Temporary relief can sometimes be had by wiping away the invisible odor trails with a kitchen cleanser or mild detergent," reports the University of Kentucky, a leader in ant management research. "Do not disturb foraging trails, however, if you are using a bait. Caulking obvious ant entry points also may be helpful, along with trimming back shrubs and limbs touching the building. In nature, this ant feeds extensively on plant nectar and honeydew excreted by plant-sucking insects such as aphids." They suggest that "the better baits to try" against odorous house ants "are often syrupy ones, such as Combat® Ant Killing Gel or Terro® Ant Killer II."

Update

It's been several weeks since I saw the first odorous house ants indoors. They seem to be gone except for a few persistent scouts in the kitchens. I never saw huge numbers of ants. That may have been luck, or it may be that this early in the year the colony is just beginning to rouse from winter dormancy. In any case, I haven't seen ants in the bathroom for the past two days, and only a few are in the kitchen during daylight hours. It makes me wonder, though, if this is the calm before the storm because, from what I've read, they'll be back! And back. And....

Persistence will win! Right? Right!

Yeah, I know. They'll be back.

Resources

- *Odorous House Ant* <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/TOOLS/ANTKEY/odorous.html>
- *Technician's Handbook* (PCT), pages 122-123
- *Structure-infesting Ants* (PCT), especially pages 123-129
- *Ants* provides an overview about various house-invading ants; several brief videos detail management practices against the Argentine ants so very common throughout California but most of which is also useful against other ants. <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7411.html>
- *Ant Control for Homeowners* (University of Kentucky) <http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef619.asp>
- AntWeb <http://www.antweb.org/>

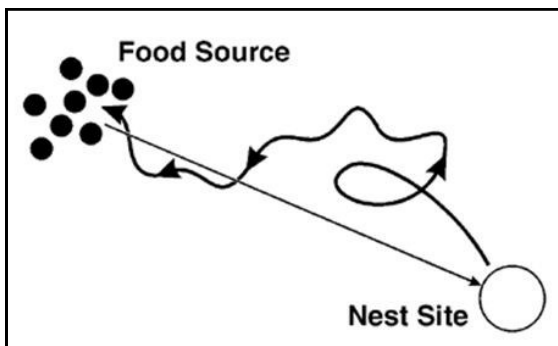


Fig 3: The meandering line represents the route ant scouts follow as they search for food; the straight line is the more direct route workers take as they carry food home to the colony.



Fig 4: Moderate activity in the bathroom one day after I set out pre-formulated bait stations. The ants are entering and exiting the room via a hair-line crack beneath the faucet at the upper right.



Instructions for signing up for the Rose Garden Clinics

Go to Google and click on Gmail (you do not need a Gmail account).

Sign on using the user name – **mgrosegarden**- and password – **kioskclinic**.

Click on Calendar in the upper left hand corner.

Use the calendar on the left side of the screen to select the date(s) you want to sign up for and click on that date.

Click on the rose colored area and select **Edit Event Details**.

Add your name, phone number and email address in the area that says “click to add title” or, if someone has already signed up for that date, just add your name, etc. If you are only working one shift include the shift i.e. (10 to 1) or (1 to 4) in parenthesis after your name. Finally, click save. **There is a limit of 3 people per shift.**

Questions: Call Ellen 503-266-4486 or Trudy 503-636-1697

Portland Rose Society Fertilizer available for sale!!!

15-10-10 Portland Rose Society Fertilizer (Standard Non-Organic) with micro-nutrients blended for the Portland Area. \$10 per 20# Bag.

5-4-4 Portland Rose Society Fertilizer (All Organic) with nutrients blended for the Portland Area. \$11.00 per 20# bag.

Fertilizer will be available at Oaks Amusement Park in front of the main entrance. Oaks Park is at the foot of the Sellwood Bridge on SE Oaks Park Way.

Fertilizer will go on sale at 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm on the Following Mondays: March 21, 2011, April 18, 2011 and May 16, 2011. These are the dates of our the general meetings. Meetings start at 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited, no admission charge, free snacks and beverages plus door prizes.

Any questions please call Bill Hettick 503-936-5629

FROST DATES



MG Margaret Bayne

As soon as stores put out annuals and other tender plants for sale, they are quickly picked up by overly anxious gardeners. But there are some who know they should do a little research and we will get the call, “When is it safe to plant my annuals?”

A request was made of me to update the ‘frost dates’ information for the offices and, after some research, the following is information that may be helpful for you when answering clients’ questions about frost.

From *Abiotic Disorders of Landscape Plants-A Diagnostic Guide*, U of CA, “Plant cells are injured when temperature declines below a critical level for a species. Injury that occurs at or below the freezing point (32°F, 0°C) is called *frost injury* or *freezing injury*...In both cases, ice crystals form in plant tissues, dehydrating cells and disrupting membranes...The frost itself does not damage plants; plants are damaged by ice crystals that form within their tissues.”

From the website, Ed Hume Seeds, <http://www.humeseeds.com/frost1.htm>:

“...The last frost date for an area is the last day in the spring that you could have a frost. The average last frost day is the date on which, in half of the previous years, the last frost had already occurred (so about half of the time it will not frost again and it will be safe to plant tender plants). Most planting directions are based on the average last frost date...

An important thing to realize about last frost dates is that the actual date of the last frost is different every year. It can be much earlier than the average or much later. This is especially important for tender plants that can be killed by a frost. For hardier plants, the average last frost date is more an indicator of general growing conditions than a danger sign...

...Remember, Micro-climates play an important role in frost dates. Features like hills or water can significantly affect temperatures. Thus, neighbors might have somewhat different average last frost dates.”

The following information for a few specific cities in our area is from the link on Dave’s Garden, <http://davesgarden.com/guides/freeze-frost-dates/>, which states, “This station data is available courtesy the *National Climatic Data Center*.”

CITY (Zip code)	RISK OF FROST (on average)	WILL RECEIVE FROST (almost certainly)	NOT GET FROST (almost guaranteed)	FROST FREE GROWING SEASON DAYS (about)
Beaverton (97006)	Sept. 28 - May 10	Oct. 18 - April 19	May 31 - Sept. 8	141
Gresham	Oct. 13 - April 24	Oct. 29 - April 7	May 12 - Sept. 27	172
Hillsboro	Sept. 28 - May 10	Oct. 18 - April 19	May 31 - Sept. 8	141
Oregon City (97045)	Oct. 15 - April 20	Nov. 2 - March 30	May 10 - Sept. 26	178
Portland (97210)	Sept. 28 - May 10	Oct. 18 - April 19	May 31 - Sept. 9	141
Tigard	Oct. 31 - April 11	Nov. 26 - March 13	May 10 - Oct. 5	203

Note: Frost dates for other cities can be obtained from Dave’s Garden website by entering your zip code, city or state <http://davesgarden.com/guides/freeze-frost-dates/>.

Following are links for more information:

Oregon Climate Service - <http://www.ocs.oregonstate.edu/>

Ed Hume Seeds -This site is very informative, <http://www.humeseeds.com/frost1.htm>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Maps showing length of growing season, last spring freeze and first fall freeze. Choose the high resolution maps to see your local areas. <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/freezefrost/frostfreemaps.html>.

Understanding Frost, Cornell, <http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/weather/frost.pdf>.

SAVE THE DATES

MG Computer Classes – Hands On

Three dates; two different sessions per day
Enrollment for each 3-hour session limited to 20 MGs

Features:

- Step-by-step handouts will enable you to navigate the various sites on your own.
- Each MG has his/her own PC computer.
- Experienced instructors Janette Barbour (2008; Washington) and Jan Breckon (2008; Washington) will repeat their popular technique of team teaching.
- Other MGs available for one-on-one assistance as needed during your hands-on computer exercises designed to reinforce your new skills.
- Free, but we suggest a donation of \$2 or more to cover the cost for handouts.

Classes:

The classes are designed to help you easily and effectively navigate online materials approved for MG use when responding to clients. Both classes will be offered each day.

1. Using the PNW Handbooks; OSU Publications; and additional useful web sites
2. Using the MG Referral Forum

The tentative dates:

1. Saturday, May 7
2. Saturday, June 18
3. Saturday, either September 24 or October 1

And thanks again go to Bill Klug (2007; Washington) who has served as our “master scheduler” in locating easily accessible sites in each of our counties.



Prune blueberries yearly for more fruit

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Moderate pruning of highbush blueberries done every year can make the difference between a mediocre and a bumper crop – and in consistent production of quality fruit.

Highbush blueberry, a native of North America, grows six to 12 feet tall and is the major blueberry-producing species in commerce. Its name refers to its tall stature. The best time to prune is from January to early-March during the dormant period, advises Bernadine Strik, berry crops specialist with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Strik's research shows that annual, moderate pruning results in bushes with the fewest canes, but with the greatest yields and largest berries.

"When plants are not pruned or are pruned too lightly, they become dense with weak, twiggy growth," she said. "They produce small fruit and fail to develop strong new wood for future berry growth. On the other hand, severe pruning leads to more new wood and larger but fewer berries."

"If bushes are pruned only occasionally and then pruned heavily, many young canes will grow the year after," Strik said. "These canes will age together and become unproductive all at the same time. After several years, if you wanted to prune out the unproductive canes, nearly the entire bush would have to be removed. And no young growth would be present to replace the lost fruiting wood."

Strik recommends the following steps for pruning highbush blueberries:

Remove the low growth that would touch the ground when loaded with fruit. Cut out short, soft shoots that develop from the base of the plant late in the season.

Prune off canes and twigs damaged by winter injury, mechanical causes, diseases or insects. Cut out the unproductive canes: those that haven't produced much new growth on one-year-old canes, which have buds and are dull in color.

If you have been pruning every year, it is best to remove the two oldest (most unproductive) canes each winter.

Prune to let light down into the plant center.

If your plants tend to overbear, with numerous small fruits rather than larger ones, thin the fruit buds by clipping back some of the small shoots carrying a heavy load of flower buds. Blueberry flower buds are near the tips of the past season's growth and are large and plump, compared to the small scale-like "leaf" buds.

An outline of pruning methods with general care of blueberry plants is available in an OSU Extension Service's circular "[Growing Blueberries in Your Home Garden](#)," (EC 1304), available free of charge online, or you can purchase a copy for \$1.50 plus shipping and handling.

For more specific pruning information, the 22-minute video "[A Grower's Guide to Pruning Highbush Blueberries](#)," (DVD 2) is for both home gardeners and commercial growers. Cost is \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.

[Order online](#), or call 800-561-6719.

By: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: [Bernadine Strik](#)



Help cane berries bear more fruit

CORVALLIS, Ore. – It's not too early in the year to begin doing a few simple chores to help raspberries and blackberries stay healthy and bear more fruit.



Bernadine Strik, a berry crops specialist with the Oregon State University Extension Service, suggests pruning raspberries in the late fall or winter. In summer-bearing raspberries, she says, remove dead fruiting canes and then cut the tops off and train new canes that will bear this coming summer.

Cut canes of primocane-fruiting raspberries in early March so they're mere stubs in the ground to get just a late summer crop on the tips of the new canes that will grow this spring. (Most types of raspberry canes grow and produce only leaves the first year, when they are called primocanes, and do not produce fruit until the following year, when they are called floricanes.)

If you want two crops, one in June and one in late summer, remove the dead tops on last year's canes only. You'll get a crop on the base of these canes in June and a late-summer crop on the tips of the new canes. No other pruning is necessary. Remove unwanted new canes or suckers that grow up between the rows once spring growth starts in both types of raspberries.

Prune and train most blackberries in either August or February. In trailing blackberries, such as Marion and Boysen, if you haven't removed the dead fruiting canes and trained the new canes up the trellis yet, then do so in late February. Cut out last year's dead fruiting canes and train the new canes after most of the risk of winter cold injury has passed, but before the buds start to swell, generally in mid- to late-February.

Blackberries and raspberries benefit from an application of horticultural oil and lime sulfur to combat pests and diseases when they are dormant.

Fertilize all cane berries in the spring. Fall-fruiting raspberries also need another shot of fertilizer at bloom in June.

Don't forget to irrigate cane berries frequently throughout the fruiting season to insure good fruit size. Raspberries and blackberries need an inch to an inch and a half of water weekly. "If it doesn't rain that much, you need to provide water," Strik warned.

Pick fruit when fully ripe to ensure good quality. Over-ripe fruit on the canes promotes fruit rot.

Control weeds. They rob the fruiting canes of water and nutrients.

Be on the lookout for insect pests, especially leaf rollers and spotted wing drosophila. Control if necessary.

More information about growing and pruning cane berries is in two revised OSU Extension Service publications available for no charge online: "[Growing Blackberries in Your Home Garden](#)," EC 1303, and "[Growing Raspberries in your Home Garden](#)," EC 1306.

By: [Judy Scott](#)

Source: [Bernadine Strik](#)

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

- Mar 1** Washington County Chapter—*Carnivorous Plants by Jeff Dallas*, Co-Owner of Surracenia North West
- Mar 8** Multnomah County Chapter, 7 PM, Speaker: Sarah Kleeger and Andrew Still, Adaptive Seeds, “*Seed Saving*”
- Mar 12** Garden Discovery Day – The Fun of Know, Sow, Grow, 9 am – noon; Milwaukie Center
- Mar 14** Clackamas County Chapter, New Intern Welcoming Potluck; *A Plant Explorer in South Africa*—Burl Mostul, Rare Plant Research
- Mar 19** Home Orchard Society’s Annual Fruit Propagation Fair 11 AM—5 PM; Main Pavilion at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby; \$4 per HOS member; \$6 for nonmembers
- Apr 2** MG Recertification—PCC Rock Creek 8:30AM—3:30PM
- 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 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 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*”
- Jun 4** Starlight Parade
- Jun 9-10** Portland Rose Society Annual Spring Rose Show
- Jul 13-15** Mini College in Newport



MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE

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

Chapter Meeting 8 March 2011

6:50 pm Announcements
7:00 pm Seed Saving:
Stewardship of a Natural Resource

Speaker: Sarah Kleeger and Andrew Still, seed stewards, Adaptive Seeds

According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, crop genetic resources are disappearing at the rate of 1 to 2 percent a year. About 75 percent of agricultural crop diversity is estimated to have been lost since the beginning of the last century. What's more, seed knowledge is eroding even faster than seed biodiversity.

Saving seeds is easy, fun, and a profound act of social and environmental empowerment. Here in the Willamette Valley, fertile soils, mild winters, and dry summers combine to create some of the best conditions in the world for growing seeds. Come learn more about why saving seeds are so important, how to plan your garden for seed saving, and how to process the seeds you've grown.

*Sarah Kleeger and Andrew Still began The Seed Ambassadors Project in 2006 when they traveled through northern and eastern Europe collecting and sharing open-pollinated seeds in places with climates similar to or harsher than those of the Pacific Northwest. In 2007 they began growing out many of the 800 varieties they collected on their travels, evaluating them for flavor and suitability for growing in the Willamette Valley. They started Adaptive Seeds in January 2009 to help some of these incredible varieties find their way into more gardens. Sarah and Andrew are the authors of *A Guide to Seed Saving, Seed Stewardship, and Seed Sovereignty*, a 'zine that is available free on the web at www.seedambassadors.org or www.adaptiveseeds.com*

*****Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, 1 March 2011 at 5:30 pm at Claudia's – 4026 N.E. Hazelfern.**

*****Coming next month... Tuesday, April 12 6pm, Welcome Potluck for 2011 Interns**

Gather to celebrate the new class of 2011 MG Interns. Speaker: **James Cassidy, OSU, 'Soil What's It All About!'** *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!*

*****Phones in Multnomah County!** The office is in Montgomery Park at NW 27th and Vaughn. Gloria Bennett (503-775-4005 or dcleopatra@comcast.net) is managing the calendar. The phone hours are Monday to Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, two- or four-hour shifts.

*****Clean out your bookcases and help the Chapter!**

Once again we are collecting used garden books to sell in our booth at the **Canby Spring Fair, April 30--May 1**. Bring the books to a meeting or contact Sharon Baker, 503-284-5189 gazebo@teleport.com. Please do not include magazines or cookbooks.

The Fair is the place to find great plants and garden items at great prices! Mark your calendar and visit our booth that includes a Children's Plant Potting Station.

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

- Vests
- 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 2 for \$25

Contact: Abby Seemann at 503-285-7621.

*****2011 Chinook Books Still Available!** Preview coupons here: <http://pdx.chinookbook.net/in-print/>. A terrific value at only \$20. Available for purchase at chapter meetings or contact Carrie McIntyre at 503-984-1109 or email lehua_mc@yahoo.com.

*****Next week marks the beginning of the New Year in the Multnomah County 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 of each month through October. Jean and Heidi

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

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Treasurer – Christine Semeniuk 503-493-0994 chrissem@comcast.net

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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, March 1, 2011

“Carnivorous Plants” Jeff Dallas, Co-Owner of Sarracenia North West

Tuesday, (April 5, 2011)

“Roses” Rich Baer, Portland Rose Society”

NEW MEETING LOCATION & DAY FOR 2011

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

SOCIAL GATHERING at 6:30 p.m. – come early!

Monthly Chapter Meeting is at 6:45 p.m.

Presentations are from 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.

The public is welcome.

HELLEBORES FOR SALE

Remember to bring money to the March 1 Chapter Meeting. Blooming Hellebores will be on sale. The price is \$5 to \$10 depending on size and bloom.

GOT PLANTS!

The last week of March is cut-off time to dig and divide your perennials for donation to the April Plant Sale. We need plants suitable for gallon-size pots. Sorry, no plants will be accepted after April 5. Bring the plants to the March or April Chapter Meetings for pick-up if possible. For other arrangements or for additional information, please call Jane Miller (503) 590-3598 or Cindy Muir (503) 245-3922.

PRUNING DEMONSTRATION

Here is your chance to get hands-on training by experienced gardeners to correctly prune fruit trees, grapes, blueberries, rhododendrons and other ornamentals. The pruning demonstrations will have five stations for each type of plant with volunteers to provide information and show correct pruning techniques.

Information regarding the care and maintenance of garden tools will also be available.

Date: Saturday, February 26, 2011

Time: 9:00 am until noon

Location: 3850 Minter Bridge Road, Hillsboro OR 97123

For additional information contact Dianne Pinkerton at (503) 628-1302

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED; If you are an experienced Master Gardener and are willing to help with this demonstration, please call Dianne Pinkerton.

ROSE PRUNING DEMONSTRATION

Bill Carver, MG and member of the Portland Rose Society will talk about the care of roses followed by a rose pruning demonstration by Donna Yount.

Date: Saturday, February 26, 2011

Time: 1:30 pm until 3:30 pm

Location: Capital Center, 18640 NW Walker Road, Beaverton OR 97006

President	Tim Lanfri	503-590-4354
Vice President	Falconer	503-277-6595
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OMGA Rep	Ken Keudell	503-292-6519
Alternate Rep	Joanne DeHaan	503-649-1683
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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

MARCH 2011



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



Welcome 2011 MG Interns at the March Chapter Meeting

Monday, March 14, 6 p.m.

Milwaukie Center

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

6 p.m. Potluck – Veterans bring a dish that serves 8–10; interns are our guests.

7 p.m. Speaker

8 p.m. Resource Fair

The business meeting will be deferred, but minutes and financial reports will be distributed on time.

Resource Fair!

Monday, March 14, 8 – 9 p.m.

Explore volunteer opportunities in our community.

Ask questions, learn more, and get involved with:

- Clackamas County phone clinic
- End of the Oregon Trail Pioneer Garden
- Grow an Extra Row
- Lake Oswego Farmers' Market clinic
- Milwaukie Farmers' Market clinic
- Oregon City Farmers' Market clinic
- Spring Garden Fair

We can't do it without you. Bring your calendar!

March Program

Monday, March 14, 2011

A Plant Explorer in South Africa

Burl Mostul, Rare Plant Research

South Africa is well-known for its diversity and richness of plants, and plant explorer Burl Mostul is just the person to show us this wondrous part of the world. Join Burl for a visual trip to South Africa, starting in Cape Town and traveling the "Garden Route" through the Drakensberg mountain range to Johannesburg and Pretoria. Along the way, we will view myriad gardens and plants native to that region. Burl has lived his dream for over 20 years. Rare Plant Research started as a hobby, becoming a vocation and the wholesale nursery business of today.

April Program

Monday, April 11

Debunking

Gardening Myths

Jean Natter, Master Gardener

Gypsum helps clay soils; coarse stuff in the bottom of containers helps drainage; pruning paint heals tree wounds; and coffee grounds are acidic. Right? Well, perhaps not. Let's talk facts and dispel myths.

In 1999, Jean was certified as an OSU Master Gardener volunteer. 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.

Green Glove Award:

Sandra Sue Wallace

& Rob Kappa

Sandra and Rob both are active contributors to the Clackamas County phone clinic. Sandra became a MG in 2005 and has dabbled in many aspects of the program. Her favorite activity is talking to clients at the phone clinic. The ability to conduct research attracts her.

Rob became a MG in 2008. An interest in continuing to learn led him to the phone clinic where client questions pose "endless challenges each shift." He has also worked many hours at the Oregon Zoo and the International Rose Garden.

27th Annual Spring Garden Fair

April 30 & May 1, 2011

Canby Event Center

Mark your calendar for this great event! The next planning meeting is at the Clackamas Fire District #1 station, 624 SE 7th Street, Oregon City.

Garden Discovery Day

The Fun of Know, Sow, Grow

March 12, 9 a.m. – Noon, Milwaukie Center

Tell your friends and neighbors about the 2nd annual Garden Discovery Day. We offer nine classes on gardening, one-on-one advice at a gardening clinic, soil pH testing, children's activities, and additional information

through displays and handouts. The class schedule is as follows:

Main Stage

9:00 All About Compost: Make & Use

Garden Compost; Start a Worm Bin

10:00 Organic Gardening

11:00 Year-Round Vegetable Gardening

Second Stage

9:00 Growing Edibles in Early Spring

9:30 Growing Blueberries

10:00 Growing Edibles in Containers

10:30 Growing Plants in Raised Beds

11:00 Growing Herbs

11:30 Growing Leafy Greens

2011 Workshops for Members

Propagation from Seeds: April 8, 2 – 4 p.m.

Pre-registration required; \$7 supply fee.

Contact: Madeline Forsyth at

mpforsyth849@yahoo.com

Tomato Workshop: April 16, 10 a.m. –

noon. Pre-registration required. Contact:

Sherry Sheng at sherrysheng@clear.net

Propagation from Cuttings: May 13, 2 – 4

p.m. Pre-registration required; \$7 supply

fee. Contact: Madeline Forsyth.

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

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

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Advisory Board · Joby Duggan: 503-632-2165

Newsletter · Kathy Johnson: 503-794-3959

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

MARCH 2011 MG NEWSLETTER

March 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

- Plan the vegetable garden carefully for spring, summer, and fall vegetables that can be eaten fresh or preserved. If you lack in-ground gardening space, plan an outdoor container garden.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. Some cool season crops (onions, kale, lettuce, spinach) can be planted when the soil is consistently at or above 40°F.

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.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Lawn mowing: set blade at 0.75 to 1 inch for bent-grass lawns; 1.5 to 2.5 inches for bluegrasses, fine fescues, and ryegrasses.
- Compost grass clippings and yard waste, except for clippings from lawns where weed-and-feed products or herbicides (weed killers) have been used.
- Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.
- Prune gooseberries and currants; fertilize with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees, only if needed. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- If needed, fertilize rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- **Western Oregon:** Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blossoms fade.
- **Western Oregon:** Fertilize caneberrries (broadcast or band a complete fertilizer or manure).

Planting/Propagation

- Divide hosta, daylilies, and mums.
- Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
- Plant insectary plants (e.g. Alyssum, Phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow, dill) to attract beneficial insects to the garden. See PNW550 (*Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden*) online for more information.

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.

Oregon State University | **Extension Service**

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

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.