

Metro Master Gardener™ News

September 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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Dear Metro Master Gardeners-

I hope that your gardening and Master Gardening season is going well. My own home garden has expanded this year and I am continuing to learn about the nuances and subtleties of soil, plants, and, of course, pests and diseases. The main garden pest that I contend with is Casey, our 2 ½ year old, who tromps through the growing beds, rips out plants, and wields his shovel. Regardless of this challenge, I am continually humbled and awed by our little piece of urban nature. My wife Katie is well and Joe, our 4-month old, is starting to develop a pretty mellow personality and is increasingly more of a human baby rather than a human larva (ha ha).



In terms of the Master Gardener program in the metro area, here are some important program updates for your information (in chronological order):

- Public presentation sponsored by the Clackamas County Master Gardeners
What: 'Organic Gardening – An Introduction' with Weston Miller, Community and Urban Horticulture Faculty, OSU Extension Service
When: September 23, 2009 from 7 – 8:30 pm
Where: Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie, OR
Contact: Sherry Sheng, 503-655-1822
Note: due to scheduling conflicts during the 2009 MG program in Oregon City, you can count your attendance at this program for 3 hours toward recertification.
- OSU Extension Service Washington County Harvest Festival (see flyer in newsletter)
What: Presentations on chickens, food preservation, edible landscaping, vegetable gardening IPM, PNW gardening, tour of Washington County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, MG plant clinic. The Home Orchard Society will also have their annual All About Fruit Show
<http://www.homeorchardsociety.org/events/> (small fee for Home Orchard Society event only)
When: Saturday, October 10, 2009 from 9am – 3pm
Where: Washington County Fair Complex Floral Building, Cornell Road
Contact: OSU Extension Service Washington County, 503-821-1150.
- Fall Master Gardener Recertification
What: Multiple presentations for Master Gardener recertification (6 hours of recertification credit) including Introduction to Permaculture with Andrew Millison (OSU Horticulture lecturer) and other topics.
When: Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 8:30am – 3:30pm
Where: Clackamas Community College Gregory Forum
Contact: Jordis Yost, 503-650-3118
- 2010 Master Gardener Training
Beaverton- Tuesdays, January 5 – March 16, 2009
Portland- Thursdays, January 7 – March 18, 2009
Oregon City- Fridays, January 8 – March 19, 2009
- 2010 Better Living Show
March 26, 27, and 28, 2010 at the Portland Expo Center
As with last year, we will produce the seminar series and OSU Extension Service will have a booth at the show. MGs and Family Food Educators (FFE) will also be part of the action.
- Spring Master Gardener Recertification
When: April 10, 2010 (tentative)
Where: PCC Rock Creek

We also hope to implement some strategies next year to increase our capacity to reach out to the general public about their gardening questions. Here are some ideas that we are working on for 2010:

- Create a new website and URL (internet address) that will serve as an easy-to-remember entry point for the general public to find the Metro MG program and services.
- Harness the increased public interest in food gardening and let folks (especially new gardeners) know about our services through targeted advertising and outreach.
- Launch high-profile advertising on Oregon Public Broadcasting radio and other venues.
- Create new flyers and other outreach materials to distribute broadly at farmers' market clinics and other remote plant clinics to promote the MG program and our services.
- Utilize a new, invitation-only, online platform (www.ning.com) to serve as a portal for metro Master Gardeners to communicate and connect with each other.
- Included in this platform is a diagnostic forum that will help MGs to research and communicate about tough cases that come in to the plant clinics.

Most of these strategies are already in process and we will be able to launch them in time for the 2010 MG training and the spring gardening season. In order to accomplish these goals, we have identified some needs that you might be able to fulfill.

Here is a wish list of equipment and resources that could help us move this set of strategies forward:

Technology and Services

- 3 digital camera memory card readers (with multiple ports for different sized cards)
- 3 Large (19") computer monitors for the MG offices
- 2 new and fast computers for the Clackamas and Washington County offices
- Several notebook computers to experiment with using technology at remote clinics
- These notebook computers would need Clear or other cellular-based internet connections (\$50/month).

If you are willing/able to donate any of the above items or have expertise in advertising and/or technology and want to help implement these strategies, please contact Weston Miller (503-706-9193, weston.miller@oregonstate.edu).

We are excited to integrate these new tools into our various activities to help the MG program fulfill its mission of providing research-based information to the general public about all aspects of growing and caring for plants and household pests.

If you have any questions or comments about any of these updates, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In service to the MG program,

Weston

OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS
503-650-3118 or Jordis.Yost@oregonstate.edu



This information was in the last newsletter, but it is such a fabulous new program it is worth repeating.

MG GUIDES

We've heard from a lot of Master Gardeners that good experiences working with other MGs make a big difference in how they feel about the program. In light of that, we're very pleased to announce an innovative new pilot project in the Metro MG program: Master Gardener Guides.

We've identified a core group of veteran MGs who are known for their welcoming, friendly, kind and supportive attitudes, patience, and general knowledge and have given them some extra training. MG Guides won't have all the answers, but they *will* have extra training in how to proceed to find the answers. MGs, interns or vets, who are unsure of themselves in clinic situations, are encouraged to sign up to work with an MG Guide for a few shifts to become more comfortable in clinic settings (phones or 'field' clinics). This pilot group of Guides can be identified by their badge holder and the green MG Guide 2009-2010 inserted at the bottom.

Beginning with the 2010 MG class, new trainees will be strongly encouraged to work at least one or two of their first few clinic shifts with an MG Guide. We see this pilot program as a way to provide better support for MG interns and veterans alike and as a real enhancement to our mission to disseminate research-based, regionally appropriate information for use by the home gardener. The public's experience with friendly, comfortable, and confident MGs is our best PR and no amount of advertising can duplicate that.

We hope to expand this group each year and build a stronger MG program as a result. Comfortable and prepared volunteers are really the thing that makes the Master Gardener Program *shine*.

SPEAKER WANTED

As part of the Le Tour des Plants, Boring Bark Co. is looking for a Master Gardener to speak at their location on Sunday, September 13 from Noon to 2 on deer resistant plants, high altitude gardening or some other topic that would be of interest to visitors. Boring Bark would love to show off the talents of MGs! Call Sue if you are interested 503-668-3219. Here is the website for more info on the tour... <http://www.letourdesplants.com/>

HOURS DUE

Volunteer hours are due October 1, so now is the time to record and clean up those loose ends. I have included a log sheet for reporting but also have an Excel version that I can email to you. You have the choice of recording volunteer hours that are scheduled for after Oct. 1 as predicted hours on this year's form, or save your calendars and report them in 2010. We try to make things easy, but still generate accurate numbers for OSU. You've done the hard work; now let's brag a bit about what we have accomplished.

2009 MASTER GARDENER™ VOLUNTEER LOG SHEET

_____ New Trainee
 _____ Seasoned MG

Phone _____

County _____

Year of 1st Training _____

Date	Project or Activity Description and Location of Activity	Educational Outreach	Support Program/Chap	Demo Garden	Your Own Continuing Ed.	Contacts	Mileage
Sub-total (front side of form) TOTAL HOURS (add back page to front) →		Total	Total				

Total hours on this side in each column, including the back side. If hours are not clearly logged, you may not get credit for them.
 Keep track of mileage for your own tax records. Check with IRS for deduction rates. (Hours traveled do not count as payback)

Date	Project or Activity Description and Location of Activity	Educational Outreach	Support Program/Chap	Demo Garden	Your Own Continuing Ed.	Contacts	Mileage
Sub-total (add back page to front)..... →		Total	Total				

Mail to: M/G Volunteer Hours, 200 Warner-Milne Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045 or Fax: 503-655-8636

Natter's Notes
Soil Prep for Productive Veggies
Jean R. Natter

Okay. So, you're on phone duty or in a demo garden doing your thing, and someone asks you "How do I start a vegetable garden?" Or perhaps "I put in a vegetable garden this year but it's not doing very well. Do I need a soil test?"

So what do you say? You've heard the various principles of soil prep during annual training, and have read Chapter 2 in *Sustainable Gardening*. But, oh gosh, now we have the challenge of organizing that information.

Soil Prep: A recipe

In order for our research to be useful to clients, we need to package it as a recipe, of sorts. In other words, a basic step-by-step strategy which can easily be accomplished. In the case of soil prep, the recipe should be repeated prior to each planting season.

Here's one version:

1. When the soil is moist, clear the area of weeds and debris.
2. Dig or till. (A garden fork makes digging an easy job. If you till, limit it to two passes.)
3. Roughly level the area.
4. Mix two inches of compost into the soil. (If this is the first year for the garden, also mix in a second two inches.)
5. Mix in garden lime according to package directions. (Granular or prilled kinds are easier to apply than the powdered form. Under average conditions, add lime every second or third year.)
6. Rake the soil level and define the beds. (Thirty-inch wide beds allow for two rows of veggies, 4-foot wide beds are okay for three. Allow 20-inch wide paths for easy access.)
7. Just before planting, broadcast an all-purpose granular or prilled fertilizer over the beds; rake lightly, then plant into moist soil.

As you likely know, variations exist in basic soil prep schemes, among them the so-called lasagna method, which is just a catchy name for what used to be called sheet mulching.

Then, too, some folks start the process by putting down cardboard, carpet, or layers of newspaper to kill the grass before the soil is prepped and new beds installed.

Let's slow down for a while, and look at the how and why behind these generalizations.

First-time prep often fails

The typical scenario for many new gardeners is that they simply dig, then plant. The first year they get reasonable results; the second year not quite as good; the third year turns out worse yet. Results don't match expectations; the veggies don't thrive and harvests are scanty. People are genuinely puzzled because "Nothing grew there before except grass."

Unfortunately, that's the normal, also disappointing, outcome for the dig-then-plant technique. And that outcome

is also the reason for the client's question about getting a soil test.

The Silver Bullet = organic matter

The missing ingredient is organic matter. Yes, it's true. Mixing in organic material is the Silver Bullet everyone craves.

Truth be told, organic matter is a rather slow bullet, but nevertheless, it's the widely sought magical ingredient. Favorable changes will occur the first season, even in local soils considered nasty. (Frankly, clay is good.)

And whenever more organic matter is added with each season's planting, the soil becomes a superb environment for roots, the foundation for thriving plants. The soil becomes moisture retentive even while well-drained. And that's true for both sands and clays.

Skip a year and you'll soon realize how rapidly soil reverts to its original, unfriendly-to-plants condition.

Two inches is good; more is better

So, yes, the Silver Bullet for every soil is to mix in an organic amendment. At least 2 inches.

The nastier you consider the soil, the more compost you should mix in. Four inches is a wise choice prior to a first-year planting. In this instance, mix in two inches at a time.

Mixing in organic matter benefits both clay-based and sandy soils. Clays will drain better than previously even while sands will retain moisture and fertilizer elements better than before.

Compost happens, above and below ground

Quite often I hear it said that "Clay soil eats compost." Some folks go even further to suggest "So, don't even bother using any."

As you know, a debris pile composed of half greens and half browns which is mixed occasionally, will be converted rather rapidly into useable compost.

You'll get compost even if you just throw the stuff in a heap, then walk away. The conversion process requires more time in an untended pile than in an active one but, in the end, it all becomes compost.

The reason compost happens is always the same. Numerous microbes are doing their decomposing thing. Naturally.

So, when you add compost to soil, the clay doesn't eat it; the microbes do. Naturally.

Replacing soil is risky

Whenever preparing a garden bed, it's best to work with the soil you have by amending; that is, mixing in sufficient compost. Removing what's considered to be icky soil and replacing it with new stuff is a risky venture.

Then, too, when it comes to purchasing topsoil, no quality standards exist. What you see is what you get. So take a good look before ordering the stuff, then plan to mix in at least two inches of compost after you fill the bed.

Soil test or not?

So, should you suggest a soil test if the vegetables aren't doing well?

Maybe, maybe not.

Maybe so, if all the required basics were applied – that is, the soil was amended with at least two inches compost, then appropriate amounts of fertilizer and water were applied.

Maybe not if the only thing the gardener did was dig the ground, then plant. Better to fall back on a “teachable moment” during which you help the client understand the value of pre-plant soil preparation.

Three factors required for drainage

When it comes to drainage, three factors rule: soil depth; soil pore size; and interface.

The general guide for soil depth is “deeper is better.”

The guideline for pore size is similar. Here, larger pores as in sand or loam drain better than do clay's smaller pores.

But an interface complicates matters.

An Interface occurs where soil texture changes from one kind to another, either from a fine texture (e.g. clay) to coarse (e.g. sand), or the other way around. You might even consider an interface as a barrier because it inhibits both root growth and water movement.

The following guidelines are based on those three critical factors thereby making good gardening sense:

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

Don't put coarse stuff in the bottom on the pot or planting hole. (Principles: The coarse material decreases the depth of the potting mix; the different textures create an interface.)

Don't remove clay soil, then fill the hole with “good” soil. (Principles: Holes are shallow compared with soil depth; and the different textures – “good” soil versus clay – create an interface.)

Don't use garden soil to fill pots. (Principles: Potting mix has larger pores than does soil, so will drain better in the shallow depth of containers.)

Now that we have those facts straight, understand that another way for gardeners to improve drainage is by using raised beds, with or without a rigid edge or border. And/or they can install a drain line with professional assistance.

More tips for your Green Thumb Notebook

Gypsum improves drainage only if the underlying problem is excess sodium. Locally, the only likelihood of that is if all the irrigation water goes through a sodium-exchange water softener.

Transplant moist rootballs into moist soil.

Soil is at the proper moisture content to dig and/or plant if a fistful, grasped tightly and released, holds together until

nudged with a finger tip. (This obviously won't work for sandy soils.)

If the ground is rock hard, irrigate thoroughly, then wait to dig until the moisture content is as described above.

If you want to use a cover crop, heed the advice of John Luna (OSU Department of Horticulture) at this year's Mini-college who suggests you use annual cover crops, not perennials. He recommends sowing a combination of oats and common vetch – his “Harley Davidson of cover crops” – and suggests you start with a 50:50 mix. He adds that you should experiment for the best combo for your soil, but “Don't go heavy on the oats because it will crowd out the vetch.” Planting dates are as for lawns; September/October or April/May.

OSU Publications

Of the several OSU publication which discuss setting up a garden, these are online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/>.

Planning and Preparing your Vegetable Garden Site (EC 1228; 4 pages)

Vegetable Gardening in Oregon (EC 871; 16 pages) is more extensive, and includes an illustration of a garden plan; a chart with planting dates (we're in Region 2); plant families for crop rotations; seed sources; and two extensive lists, one for production pointers, the other for recommended varieties. (Content is similar to *Growing Your Own*, a free 12-page tabloid not currently online.)

2008 Vegetable Trials (EM 8777-08-E; only online) is 43 pages covering everything from beets through watermelons.

Then, too, it's worthwhile to review basic principles in *Sustainable Gardening*, Chapter 2.

Recall that our clients can obtain OSU publications in various ways. They can download them from the website or pick them up at the office. Or we can mail publications to them. In the latter case, tell the client s/he will be billed for the price of the publication plus mailing.



Oregon State University Extension Service

Harvest Festival

Free parking and admission

Saturday, October 10, 2009

**Washington County Fair Complex- Floral Building,
Cornell Road, Hillsboro**

- 9:00 am Urban Poultry**
James Hermes, OSU Poultry Specialist
- 10:00 am Food Preservation Update**
Jeanne Brandt, Washington County Extension
- 11:00 am Edible Landscaping**
Weston Miller, Extension Metro Horticulture
- 12:00 pm Vegetable Gardening IPM**
Weston Miller, Extension Metro Horticulture
- 1:00 pm Pacific Northwest Gardening**
Rebeca Siplak, Oregon Food Bank Learning Gardens
- 9 am - 3 pm OSU Master Gardeners Demo Garden**
Guided tours and answers to your gardening questions

**Be sure to visit the
4-H Youth Harvest Festival
and
**Home Orchard Society
*All About Fruit Show***
at the same time**



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Nurturing the Gardening Community...

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON



BOUNTY FOR BOTANY

**A CELEBRATION AND FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT
THE PARKER SANDERSON MEMORIAL FUND**

With guest of honor Roy Lancaster



Photo courtesy of Canada Dolphin-Gingery

Friday, September 11, 2009

6:30-10:00 pm

Cistus Nursery, Sauvie Island, Portland, Oregon

Wine, dine and enjoy live music under the stars!

Join us for an evening of Bounty for Botany ~ a gala event supporting the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon's Parker Sanderson Memorial Fund.

Indulge in a late summer evening at Cistus Nursery on Sauvie Island. Enjoy live music, local wines and appetizers while perusing silent auction items ~ from fancifully planted containers to a flight of Parker's favorite plants. Delight in a handcrafted three-course dinner, featuring local ingredients, by Blake Van Roekel of Keuken Catering. All this to be followed by an exciting live auction of rare plant curiosities and unique opportunities (with items to tempt non-gardeners too!) Mike Darcy, the dynamic host of KXL Radio's *In the Garden* program, will serve as our auctioneer.

Roy Lancaster, renowned British plant explorer, author, and lecturer, is our special guest. Mr. Lancaster's visit to Portland has been made possible by the Parker Sanderson Memorial Fund and HPSO. Join us for his talk, *Mad About Plants: A Plantsman's Garden*, on Sunday, September 13th. (See the HPSO website for details).

The event is limited to 75 participants so early sign-up is encouraged.

Please register by September 1st.

**For registration information and more information about the Fund,
see the next page or contact the HPSO office at (503) 224-5718
or www.hardyplantsociety.org**

We look forward to sharing in this Bounty for Botany with you...

**Come celebrate Parker's legacy and
help strengthen the future of Oregon's
horticultural community !**

Internet Essentials for Master Gardeners

Join us as we learn about using computers in the MG offices.
We'll explore the internet to locate research-based information.

Date	Site	9 to noon	1 to 4 PM
October 3	Clackamas Community College*	Intermediate	The Next Step
November 14	PCC, SE Center **	Intermediate (same as Oct 3 AM)	The Next Step (same as Oct 3 PM)

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

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

All sessions are hands-on

Intermediate will explore most of the links on the OSU Garden Encyclopedia site

The Next Step will cover search techniques, plus additional useful websites.

***** You'll have your own computer *****

Class size is limited. Pre-register now!



***** Free for active Metro MGs, but donations are welcome *****

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

Please provide the following:

1. Your name, plus phone number
2. Date(s) & time of session(s) you will attend
3. What is your computer, a PC or Mac?
4. Put "Class" in the subject line

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

Sept 3	Washington County Chapter – Rethinking Your Personal Garden Style, Charlotte Klee
Sept 5,6,7	2009 Annual Dahlia Festival, Swan Island Dahlias, Canby
Sept 8	Multnomah County Chapter 7pm Speaker Lisa Albert, garden writer, Native Plants, Garden Gems
Sept 14	Clackamas Chapter meeting and plant swap
Sept 15	Washington County Chapter tomato tasting
Sept 23	Organic Gardening-An Introduction by Weston Miller, Milwaukie Center, 7-8:30 pm (see below for more details)
Sept 26	Multnomah Chapter Fall Plant Sale
Sept 26	Washington County Chapter Fall Propagation Workshop
Oct 1	Washington County Chapter – Mandy Tu – Oregon Invasive Species
Oct 3	MG Computer Class see page 10
Oct 10	Clackamas Chapter Soil pH Testing-Milwaukie Center
Oct 16	Clackamas Chapter Bee Washing at Jane Collier's
Oct 17	Villa Garden Club Fall Plant Sale, 10AM to 3 PM, Tabor Heights Church, 6160 S. E. Stark. Unusual perennials.
Nov 8	MG Recertification Training
Nov 14	MG Computer Class see page 10
Dec 14	Clackamas County Chapter annual book sale

What: 'Organic Gardening – An Introduction' sponsored by the Clackamas County Master Gardeners
When: 7 – 8:30 p.m., September 23, 2009
Where: Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie, OR
Speaker: Weston Miller, Community and Urban Horticulture Faculty, OSU Extension Service
Contact: Sherry Sheng, 503-655-1822

Program Description

What is organic gardening? How can you begin to garden organically?

If you have wondered about these questions, come to this free program for simple, practical ways to get started. The program will take place at 7 p.m., on Wednesday, September 23, at the Milwaukie Center. Speaking on this subject is Weston Miller, a seasoned teacher with the Oregon State University Extension Service who oversees the Master Gardener program in the Portland metropolitan area. Weston developed and operated an organic farm before joining the faculty of Oregon State University. This program will draw from his hands-on experience as a farmer and landscaper in addition to his knowledge as a scientist. The audience will learn the most important tools and techniques for organic gardening. In addition, Weston will highlight organic products that will improve soil fertility or manage pests. Members of the audience will take home a handout containing key information and further resources to practice organic gardening at home.

This program is sponsored by the Clackamas County Master Gardeners, in partnership with the Milwaukie Center, as a service to our community. The Milwaukie Center is located at 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie. For more information about activities of the Clackamas County Master Gardeners, visit

www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org

QUIZ CORNER

Q: What critter is this?



BONUS Q: What critter is this?



THE PRIZE? First three correct answers received *after* Sept. 14 will be listed in the next newsletter!

Respond to Jean R. Natter (jrnatter@aol.com) and please put "Quiz" in subject line; or call 503-645-7073.)

ANSWER FOR JULY/AUGUST QUIZ:

Answer: Fasciation

See Metro MG Newsletter, January 2009, p. 7

(<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/newsletter>)

Congratulations to the winners!

First: Shari Bosler (2006; Multnomah)

Next: Bill Bradley (2002; Clackamas)

(Only four MGs responded – sigh)

MGs In The News

Diane Cooper, Washington County Class of 2002, won blue ribbons for all three of her horticultural entries in the Washington County Fair. Diane entered a shrub rose, a gunnera flower and a perennial collection (stems of five different plants). Additionally, her hen, Olive, a Black Australorp, won second place in the brown chicken egg category.

Portland Classical Chinese Garden Greenhouse Watering Volunteer Job Description

Duties:

Assist the Garden's Horticultural Staff in watering plants located in the Garden's greenhouses in Southeast Portland (6801 SE 60th Ave.) Using hoses located throughout the 3 greenhouse spaces, keep plant stock watered during a weekly shift of approximate 3-4 hours work. The Horticultural Manager will train volunteer and be available for questions during shift by cell phone. Much of the time, the volunteer will be working independently.

Required skills:

- Ability to drag/lift approximately 20-25 pounds of watering hose
- Ability to bend, twist, and stoop
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to work in greenhouse conditions (warm in summer & cold in winter)
- Need transportation to the site
- Some knowledge and experience with plants
- Reliable with the ability to commit to a designated schedule

Please contact Katie Hill, Volunteer Manager at khill@portlandchinesegarden.org or 503-228-8131 x1001 for more information.

Continuing Education Opportunities for Master Gardeners Fall 2009

If you are looking for ways to increase your knowledge base as a Master Gardener, consider some of these upcoming classes at our local community colleges and opportunities online. Classes can be taken for credit or audited, check websites for further information.

Portland Community College - Rock Creek Campus: <http://pcc.edu/schedule>

Plant ID

HOR226 PLANT MATERIALS – DECIDUOUS Hollenbeck

8:00 AM – 12:50 PM Wed Sept 23 - Dec 9

Botanical characteristics & field identification. Cultural requirements, pests, diseases, & landscape uses of plants with concentration on deciduous material and plants of Fall interest.

HOR226 PLANT MATERIALS – DECIDUOUS Cherry

5:00 PM – 9:50 PM Th Sept 24 – Dec 10

Clackamas Community College: <http://clackamas.edu>

Weed ID

HOR-009 ID: WESTERN OREGON BROADLEAF WEEDS Harber
online class

HOR-235 WEED IDENTIFICATION Harber

6:30 – 10:20 PM T

Identification & life cycles of weeds commonly found in landscapes & nurseries.

Plant ID

HOR-22 PLANT IDENTIFICATION/FALL Harber

8 – 11:50 AM T

Identification of deciduous trees, shrubs, & ground covers, including their cultural requirements in the landscape.

HOR-22 PLANT IDENTIFICATION/FALL Harber

6:30 – 7:20 PM W hybrid class

Insect ID

HOR-236 INSECT IDENTIFICATION Nelson

6:30 – 10:20 PM T

Identification & life cycles of insects which damage ornamental plants in greenhouses, landscapes & nurseries.

OSU Phytophthora Online Course <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/phytophthora>

(free for noncredit)

Diagnostic Dilemma: Pale Azalea Leaves

Jean R. Natter

During recent months, numerous clients in the MG offices have complained of pale or bleached azalea leaves.

Most often the diagnosis has been azalea lace bugs. Even so, it's important to differentiate that from spider mite damage.

Similarities & differences

The two pests produce similar stippling damage but with several differences. For one, lace bugs dot the undersides of leaves with dark fecal spots, mites don't.



Coarse stippling from lace bugs on top surface; leaves (top R) w/dark fecal spots on the undersides

Management is similar for both. Insecticidal soap sprayed onto the undersides of the leaves, works well when the critters are present. Then, too, relieve the plant's stress.

The wisest strategy whenever there's the slightest doubt about a diagnosis is to use an in-office Referral Form. To learn the outcome, add a sticky note with your name and phone number.

References

- Metro MG Newsletter*, February 2009; <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/newsletter>
- *2009 PNW Insect Management Handbook*: Azalea lace bug in Commercial section: p.104; spider mites in Home Garden p. 514. (A different lace bug, *Stephanitis rhododendri*, causes the same symptoms on rhododendrons; p. 573.)
 - *Landscape Plant Problems*: Lace bug under the heading of rhododendron lace bug; Mites in the Common Insects section, CI-14
 - *Garden Insects* (W. Cranshaw): both lace bugs, p. 384; mites p. 392-393
 - *Insects that Feed on Trees and Shrubs*: both lace bugs, p. 424-425
 - UCD-IPM: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7428.html>

Quick & Dirty ID: Lace Bugs versus Spider Mites		
	Azalea lace bug <i>Stephanitis pyrioides</i>	Spider mites (several species)
Arthropod Class & Order	Insecta; Hemiptera	Acari; Tetranychidae
Conditions	Stressed plants, especially excess sun, also low water	Most common during the heat of summer
Size of the critter	1/8 inch; 6 legs	1/32 inch; 8 legs
Stippling on leaves	Pale; coarse (pin head size)	Pale; looks like pin pricks
Fecal droplets on reverse	Dark; glossy when fresh	None
Webbing	None	Sometimes
Eggs	Inserted along the midrib on the leaf underside	Scattered on the surface of the underside of leaf



MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE

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

8 September 2009 Chapter Meeting

Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church 5441 SE Belmont
6:45pm Gather - 6:50 pm – Announcements
7:00 pm - **Native Plants, Garden**

Gems Lisa Albert, Garden Writer. The Pacific Northwest offers an abundance of fabulous native plants. Their beauty ranges from knock-your-socks-off red flowering currant to sweetly scented false Solomon's seal to ethereal western trillium that vary in form, size, growth habit, growing environment and garden behavior, and provide a bounteous feast for wildlife, adding an additional dimension of beauty to our gardens. The reasons to grow natives are as diverse as the gardeners who grow them. Come discover your reasons as Lisa presents her favorite garden gems and how to integrate them into an existing garden.

Lisa Albert is a freelance garden writer, has written for *The Oregonian's* HGNW, *Digger*, *Sunset's* www.freshdirt.com, *The American Gardener*, and is the co-author of *The Berry Botanic Garden: Gardening for Wildlife*, native plant flashcards. She is an OSU Extension Master Gardener and an OSU Extension 4-H Wildlife Steward. Learn more about Lisa Albert: <http://lisaalbertwriter.com/index.html>

*****Next Board Meeting – Tuesday 1 September 2009 - 6:30 pm at Jean Edmison's – 7606 S.E. Ellis**

*****Coming up...13, October 2009, Chapter Meeting, Topic: Invasive Plants**

What effect do invasive plants have on us? As gardeners how can we play a role in halting these silent invaders? **Vern Holm, NW Weed Management Partnership**

*****Fundraiser:** As you enjoy the wonder of your garden this summer and into autumn take the time to capture the images. Please 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 Kongsli: mkongsli@gmail.com (503)289-8889

*****COMMUNITY DEMONSTRATION GARDEN –** Thank-you to the many volunteers who have made the garden such a success this summer. Thank-you also to Heidi Nichols for the work and updates so that we can all feel a part of the work.

*******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.

******* Please **save plants** for the **Multnomah Chapter's annual plant sale** on September 26, Saturday, at the Learning Garden on S.E. 60th, between Duke and Flavel, from 9:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. at the Learning Garden. In conjunction with the plant sale five of our members will be speaking in a new seminar format called Community Chats. There will also be a clinic table and tours.

Following are the speaking times and topics:

10:00 to 10:25 a.m. Xuan Sibell, Top 10 Vietnamese Herbs

10:35 to 11:00 a.m., Marilyn Kongsli, "What I Have Learned About Raising Happy and Producing Chickens"

11:10 to 11:35 a.m., Robin Case, Learn How to Propagate Edible and Ornamental Plants

11:45 to 12:10 p.m. Jennifer DaLao (a food nutritionist), Low Budget Cooking

12:20 to 12:45 p.m., Claudia Groth, How to Manage Slugs in Your Yard

There is no fee or registration, just come to listen, to ask questions, and to SHOP!

*****Phones in Multnomah County!** –The office is in Montgomery Park @ NW 27th and Vaughn. Gloria Bennett(503) 775-4005 or dcleopatra@comcast.net is managing the calendar. The phone hours are 10am-2pm Monday to Friday. 2 or 4 hour shifts.

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 Kongsli – 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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS –

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SOCIAL GATHERING at 6:30 pm

Sep 3rd, 6:45 pm Chapter Meeting:
“Rethinking Your Personal Garden Style”
 Charlotte Klee

Oct. 1st, 2009 “Oregon Invasive Species”
 Mandy Tu, The Nature Conservancy
Presentations are from 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. at the CAPITAL
 Center, 18640 NW Walker Rd (185th & Walker Rd) Rm 1411.
 The public is welcome.

7th Annual Washington Co. MG Picnic

Many thanks to Jane and Dick Miller for hosting a very successful “Beer, Brats and Bluegrass” potluck/picnic July 18th. We had near perfect weather and plenty of great food. Attendance was over 85 including 25 MG guests from Montgomery County Texas. A great time was had by all as we were entertained by the Rose City Bluegrass Band. Thanks to all who attended.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Tomato Tasting at the Demo Gardens
September 15th from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
All MG’s and Public are Welcome

Fall Propagation Workshop – Demo Garden
September 26th from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
 Details to follow on www.wcmga.info

CONGRATULATIONS

Washington County Master Gardener Chapter won **First place plus the Gardener’s Choice Award** for our display at Mini College. The theme for the display was “Backyard Solutions”, Local, Sustainable and Secure.

Garden Tour Wrap-Up

A huge “thank you” to all volunteers who helped make this year’s WCMGA Garden Tour a success. We had over 750 contacts and received over \$200 in donations. Our hosts went above and beyond to ensure that the gardens looked fabulous. This year we emphasized edibles as well as ornamentals. All of the gardens had food-growing areas, and the feedback from guests was very positive. Plans for next year’s tour will promote sustainable gardening practices for both edibles and ornamentals. We have a few gardens lined up, but want more! If you are interested in opening your garden, or just want more information, please contact Verleen Fletcher at vcrmac1@comcast.net.

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 11th each month. Phone **503-407-6422** or e-mail **Gini Lang [lang2044@comcast.net]**.

Submit general chapter announcements to Cathy Mankus, e-mail coordinator, cathy@cathymankus.com
 Chapter Website: www.wcmga.info



Clackamas County Chatter



September 2009

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

September Chapter Meeting

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

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

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

Sally Fisher, Waste Reduction Specialist, Clark County, WA

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.

To set us straight on what bats really do and how they affect our environment is Sally Fisher, an expert in waste reduction with the Clark County Solid Waste Program. Sally will acquaint us with the types of bats residing in our region, how they live, and how they contribute to a healthy environment.

If you want to attract these beneficial flying mammals to your garden, Sally will offer expert advice that's sure to work.

October Preview

Composting & vermiculture-Wastes to Garden Gold

In October we welcome back Master Gardener favorite, Elizabeth Howley, who will offer advice on the design and operation of a home composting system.

Also on the agenda is our own worm expert Laura Eyer who will talk about these wiggling wonders. Come learn what worms eat, how much, and what you need to start your own bin.

Upcoming Events

Plant/Seed Swap

September 14 6:30

Pre-meeting

Nikki Mantei 503-577-4494

SGF Committee Meeting

September 16 7 p.m.

Clackamas County Extension Office



Bee Wash

October 16 9 a.m. – noon

Farm of Mike and Jane Collier

- Rid bees of mites.
 - Wash their houses and get them ready for use next season
- Pre-registration required. Space limited to 25.

Jane Collier 503-266-1191

Soil pH testing;

10-Minute University

October 10 10 a.m. – noon

Milwaukie Center

10:15 Planning and Preparing Your

Vegetable Garden

10:45 Gardening with compost

11:15 Edible Landscape Plants

Metro MG Re-certification Training

November 8 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location to be announced

Annual Book Sale

December 14 6 p.m.

Master Gardener Meeting

Buy used books and magazines on all topics gardening. Start gathering your donations now! Janet Weber 503-358-2821

Last chance....

...to get your shears sharpened for fall. Our tool sharpeners will not be back until January.

Mini College

Clackamas County Master Gardeners were represented by 30 attendees at Mini College this year – our highest attendance yet.

Nikki Mantei put together the chapter exhibit which won 3rd place. Thank you, Nikki! Be sure to see it at the September Chapter meeting.

Herb and Rodger were the official photographers for the event.

Our chapter was part of one of the Search for Excellence Awards; see the Metro News for more information.

Mini College was an outstanding event; plan to attend next year!



End of Season 2009 Open Gardens

Sept. 20 Martha Waldemar 11-5
THANKS A BUNCH to all who opened their gardens this year. We look forward to visiting *your* garden in 2010!

Clackamas County Chapter Officers

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

September 2009

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

- Apply parasitic nematodes to soil beneath rhododendrons and azaleas that show root weevil damage (notched leaves).
- Harvest winter squash when the "ground spot" changes from white to a cream or gold color.
- Plant lawns until October 15 in western Oregon.
- Plant or transplant woody ornamentals and mature herbaceous perennials.
- Plant garden cover crops as garden is harvested. Spread manure or compost over unplanted garden areas.
- Pick and store winter squash; mulch carrot, parsnip, and beet rows for winter harvesting.
- Spray holly for leaf and twig blight, blueberries for stem canker as needed.
- Reduce water on trees, shrubs, and vines east of the Cascades to harden them off for winter.
- Divide peonies and iris.
- Plant daffodils, tulips, and crocus for spring bloom. Work calcium and phosphorus into the soil below the bulbs at planting time.
- Clean houseplants, check for insects, and repot if necessary; then bring them indoors.
- Protect tomatoes and/or pick green tomatoes and ripen indoors if frost threatens.
- Use stakes to support tall flowers and to keep them from blowing over in fall winds.
- Bait for slugs with traps or iron phosphate products that are safe for use around pets.
- Dig, clean, and store tuberous begonias if frost threatens.
- Harvest potatoes when the tops die down. Store them in a dark place.
- Prepare compost pile for recycling vegetation from garden and deciduous trees. Do not compost diseased or insect-infested plant material.
- *Western Oregon*: plant winter cover of annual rye or winter peas.
- Copper spray for peach and cherry trees.
- Monitor trailing berries for leaf and cane spot. Treat if necessary.
- Spray for juniper twig blight after pruning away dead and infected twigs.
- Monitor arborvitae for Berckmann's blight. Spray if necessary.
- *Coastal and western valleys*: spray potatoes and tomatoes for early and late blight.
- *Willamette Valley*: allow your lawn to dry out in late summer to make it less attractive to egg-laying crane flies.

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.

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

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