

Computer Use – Multnomah County

Basic Maneuvers

Please don't change any computer settings

The cursor (a moveable on-screen arrow)

- Move the cursor by moving the mouse
- To type, first set the cursor
 - Move the cursor to the appropriate place, such as a search box
 - Once there, click (This will highlight any text in the box)
(If any text is in the box, it will now be highlighted; ignore it.)
 - Type when the cursor changes to a blinking vertical bar

How to scroll (move the page up or down)

- Click the arrowhead (up or down) at the far right margin
- Or click the arrowhead and hold down the left button until the page moves to the desired position
- Or place the cursor on the vertical slide bar at the far right margin
- Or move the page up and down with the arrows on the keyboard

To Turn the Computer On & Off

- **To turn the computer ON**
 - Press the power button (the small black button on the front of the computer's tower on the floor, to your right)
 - If the computer has been inactive for a while, the screen will go dark; move the mouse to reactivate the screen
- **To turn the computer OFF at the end of the day**
 - Click **Start**, at the far left of the Task Bar at the bottom of the screen.
 - In the popup menu, click **Turn Off Computer**
 - The next pop-up menu is labeled "Turn off computer"
Click **Turn Off**
(The tower automatically shuts down and the screen goes dark)
 - Turn off the monitor via the button at the far lower right

To Access the Internet

Caution: Updates to websites and software may affect these general guidelines.

- Click the Firefox icon (the orange & blue icon) in the Quick Launch Toolbar (bottom left of the screen; Fig 1)
- Or double click the Firefox desktop icon (Fig 2)



Fig 1: Quick Launch toolbar at bottom left of screen



Fig 2: Desktop icon

The screen opens to the OSU Extension Gardening Encyclopedia

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/>

- You can also access some websites from Desktop icons;
To do so, double click the desired icon (Fig 3)



Fig 3: Examples of desktop icons

Finding Things Fast with Bookmarks

Bookmarks is a list of useful websites sorted into alphabetized subfolders.

Just one click takes you to the desired website.

You can find a complete list of MG Favorites later in this section.

To access Bookmarks from any web page

1. Click Bookmarks in the menu bar at the top of the computer screen, between History and Tools (Fig 4: 1 on next page)
 - Move the cursor to the subject of choice
 - To see contents, slowly move cursor to the right
 - Move to desired topic, then click
2. Or click on the Bookmark icon (just below the top menu bar) (Fig 4: 2 on next page)
 - Move the cursor to the subject of choice; click it
 - Locate desired topic; click it

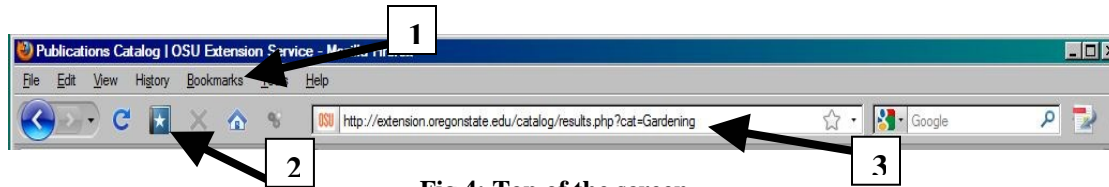


Fig 4: Top of the screen

Search Engines

A search engine is a retrieval system that helps you locate information.

To access a search engine

1. To go to the desired search engine from any web page
 - Move cursor into address bar near top of the screen (Fig 4: 3)
 - Click to set cursor (Any existing text is highlighted; just type over it)
 - Type the address of the search engine you would like to use (e.g.: google.com; yahoo.com; or msn.com)
 - Click **GO** (to the far right of the address box) or press **Enter**
2. Or access search engines in Bookmarks (just below the menu bar)
 - Click Bookmarks
 - In the drop down menu, go to the folder Search Engines; click to open the folder
 - Scroll to the desired search engine; click

Generic instructions to use any search engine

After the search engine page is open

- If needed, move the cursor to the search box, and click
- **Type** your search terms (Any existing text is highlighted; just type over it)
Note: Capital letters aren't needed in search words/phrases
- Hit the **Enter** key

To search for images with any search engine

e.g.: You want to use Google to find images of lilac bacterial blight

- Go to google.com
- **Click** on Images (near far left top corner of the page)
- If needed, click in the search box to set the cursor
- **Type** the search phrase "lilac bacterial blight" but without quotes
- Hit the **Enter** key
- The result pages display images of lilac bacterial blight, possibly plus some extraneous items
- To see an image in the original context, **click** it

To limit your search to relevant, credible, research-based information

Note: Also see *Research-based & Credibility* (Tab I)

- Use search terms such as oregon state extension, wsu extension, pnw, or pacific northwest (Capital letters unnecessary in searches)
(Don't use osu because that also means Ohio State University)
- Or use the Advanced Search within the search engine
- Or limit the search to specific domains (e.g.: gophers site:edu)
edu (colleges and universities) usda.gov (U.S. Department of Agriculture)
gov (government) gov.bc.ca (British Columbia)
org (organization) aphis.usda.gov (Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service)

Examples of an Advanced Search

Note: Each search engine has its own method for an advanced search.

- **Example using google.com**
e.g.: You want information about bronze birch borer, and you want to limit your search to education (edu) websites
 - Click on Advanced Search at the right of the search box
 - When the Advanced Search page opens, type your search words (bronze birch borer) in the search box, but omit the parentheses
 - To limit the search for education sites, type edu in the box to the right of the phrase "Search within a site or domain"
 - Click on the Advanced Search box at the right
- **Example using yahoo.com**
e.g.: You want to use yahoo to locate information about giant hogweed, and you want to limit your search to government (gov) websites
 - Type your search words "giant hogweed, but omit the quotes
 - Click on Web Search at the right
 - When the next window opens, click **Options** at the right of the search box
 - Click on **Advanced Search**
 - Go down to **Site/Domain**
 - Click the bubble in front of "**Only .gov domains**"
 - Click on **Yahoo! Search** (at either the top or bottom of the page)
- **Example using msn.com**
e.g.: You want to use msn to locate information about vireya rhododendron, and you want to limit your search to organization (org) websites
 - Type your search words "vireya rhododendron" in the search box, but omit the quotes
 - Click **magnifying glass** icon at the right
 - Click **Advanced**
 - Click **Site/Domain** (The words Site/Domain change to boldface)
 - **Type** the letters org in the box
 - Click **Add to Search** (This adds site:org to your search term)
 - Click on the magnifying glass icon at the right

- **Example using any search engine**
 - **Type** “vireya rhododendron site:org” (without quotes)
 - Hit the **Enter** key

Finding OSU Extension Publications online

From the computer Desktop

- Double click the icon for OSU Extension Gardening (See Fig 5)
- On the new page, click “Publications and Multimedia Catalog” (in left margin) or “How-to and other Publications” in the menu center left
- On the new page, set the cursor in the search box if needed (Fig 6)



Fig 5: Icon



Fig 6: OSU Publications search box

- **Type** the search term in the search box (e.g.: raspberries)
Click **GO** at right of search box
The search for “raspberries” has 4 results, one of which is *Growing Raspberries in Your Home Garden*.
Click “View it now”
- **Or**, if you know the publication code, type that (here, it’s **EC 1306**)
Click **GO** at right of search box
The search for “EC1306” has only one result, *Growing Raspberries in Your Home Garden*.
Click “View it now”

From an outside search engine (e.g.: google.com, etc.)

Note: Sometimes the internal search fails to locate a publication you know is there

- If so, use the desired search term (e.g.: cabbage) plus the phrase ‘Oregon State Extension’ (without quotes); don’t use OSU as it’s also Ohio State University
- When the search results appear, select publications from Oregon State University