



Garden Thymes

Coos County Master Gardeners™
Myrtle Point, OR 97458

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Oregon State University Extension Service

President's Message

The summer is passing quickly. I have a Tulip Magnolia Tree that thinks it's spring. The cool nights that we have been having are what set it off I am sure. The garden is producing lots of delicious meals. I sure do love this time of year. There has even been enough produce to share with the local Food Bank.

The Plant Sale was a success and now is the time to think about dividing plants in your yard to pot up, and to start cuttings of herbs and some of your favorite shrubs and perennials for the sale next year. I do know that we could have sold cherry tomatoes 10 times over, so think of that when you are ordering your seeds this winter.

The Lady Bug Landing Community Garden is up and running as of June 3rd and has been a huge success as well as being the talk of the town. There have been lots of positive comments from everyone who walks through, plus the addition of a petite scarecrow made by Dolly Fountain and a full-sized Mother (Pricilla) and child scarecrow made by Valerie Cooley make a huge impact. Roland Ransdell presented a workshop on Compost and Winter Gardening in August at the community garden attended by almost 50 people. That day we also conducted a small plant sale with fall vegetables. The proceeds made from these were donated to South Coast Community Garden Association. Another fundraiser happened on September 20 from 11-2 where Chef Jardin from Black Market Gourmet prepared a vegetable stir-fry and rice lunch for \$5. If you have not had an opportunity to check out the garden on 8th and Anderson in Coos Bay, I highly recommend it. You will not be disappointed.

Mini-college at OSU this July, included the celebration of the 30th year of the MG program in Oregon. The days were filled with great classes, garden tours and get-togethers with MG's from other counties and states. Oh, and we didn't pass up the chance to go to some great nurseries in the valley. The garden bookstore set up in the meeting center where mini-college is held was a big draw. Bookstores and nurseries can be dangerous. J But I think my favorite part is hearing what activities other counties are doing.

The Plant Clinic has been busy even as we have had problems manning it this year. It will be running until Thanksgiving so sign up and help get those questions answered. I know that people are always impressed when they get answers to their questions promptly. The Farmer's Market in Coos Bay has been very busy this year with lots of people bringing in samples to be ID. We have expanded our service area this year with the addition of the Farmer's Market in Coquille, on Thursday afternoons. It has been slow but I am sure that as people know us, it will become busy. It is always fun to work the markets and visit with the public and, of course, have the opportunity to shop for fresh produce.

Our Fair display took a second place ribbon this year. Kay Davis did a wonderful job organizing the fair booth. There were some interesting plants brought in, and the demonstrations in the afternoon went very well. Start thinking of great ideas for next year.

"Grown' Yer Grub" day camp was fun. Kid's in Coquille and North Bend had lots of fun, making bread, salsa, herb vinegars, pressed flower bookmarks, and seed tape, just to name a few. I am not sure who has more fun, the volunteers or the kids.

As fall is fast approaching we are looking forward to our annual Bulb Sale on October 14th and 15th at Pony Village Mall. We are adding some other bulbs to our usual daffodils and tulips this year and hope to have some garlic and shallot bulbs available. Also, look for the addition of a couple of demonstrations (at noon and 2 pm on the 14th) on forcing paperwhites and potting multiple kinds of bulbs in one pot. So, stay tuned

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Renee Blom
Coos County Master Gardener President 2006

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Message from Tracy

Tracy Martz
Coos County Extension Agent
PH (541) 572-5263
Fax (541) 572-5963
Email:
tracy.martz@oregonstate.edu

Officers

Renee Blom
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OMGA State Representative

Cathy Gibson
Alternate OMGA State Representative

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Kay Pace
Publicity

Roland Ransdell
Plant Clinic Coordinator

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Tracy Martz
Publisher
Cathy Gibson
Editor

It has been a very full summer for both the Master Gardeners Program and myself. As many of you know I was married at the beginning of the summer and recently went back to OSU to pursue my MS in Agriculture Education. I want to personally thank many of you for supporting me in all the endeavors I have been embarking on lately. Some of you may have experienced the same support and encouragement as I have from this group of passionate people. The Master Gardeners not only have a passion for gardening, but this group truly knows the meaning of giving. Giving of their time, efforts and knowledge to make our community a better, more connected place to live. As always, I am very proud to be serving such an outstanding group.

As some of you have realized, we are nearing the end of the Master Gardener year and payback hours are due October 31st. The Policy Guidelines For Payback Hours and the Payback Hours Log Sheet can both be found on the Coos County OSU Extension office website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/coos> Look to the menu on the left side of the page and click the Master Gardener link. There you will find a link to the two documents at the bottom of the page.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your own payback hours, please feel free to contact me. I can provide you with any information or reassurance you need.



Fund Raiser for Lady Bug Landing Community Garden



Sponsored by South Coast Community Garden Association

Thanks to everyone who helped out with the Harvest Fundraiser at the Community Garden on Wednesday, September 20.

Whether you donated produce, gave your time working at the event, or supported the garden by coming to eat, it was all great.

It was very successful and we are well on our way to being able to get a shed for the garden.

Special Thanks to:

Chef Jardin and Kristin of Black Market Gourmet

Who prepared a special dish using the

Best of the Garden

If not for them this event would not have happened.





My Favorite Tool

Every time Renee' mentioned doing an article about a favorite tool, I thought, "Oh, yes, my favorite tool is ----." The only problem was, it was a different tool each time, depending on the season and what I happened to be doing in the yard at the time. But yesterday, I had one of those lucid moments, you know, when the light goes on. Of course, I have a favorite tool. It's just that I don't always think of it as a tool. I usually refer to it as a "work horse".

My favorite tool is the Gator. It is John Deere green and yellow. It is a 6x4 diesel. It has 4-wheel-drive when I need the extra power or traction. It has 6 high flotation tires. That means they are soft and wide for an easy ride. It will go from 1 to 18 miles per hour. You should see me racing up and down the street, hair flying in the wind! Yes, it is a convertible mine does not come with a top. Some Gators actually come with what is called a "Croc-top". It actually looks like the top half of a crocodile's head complete with teeth. That is certainly not my style.

The Gator has an electronic dump bed with 1000-pound load capacity. It is great for hauling away unwanted debris such as rocks and dumping them where I need some fill. It is much easier on my back than the wheelbarrow when it comes to moving sand, mulch, concrete blocks, and anything else that the supply truck leaves in the front yard.

I use the Gator to deliver garden produce to my neighbors or just to go by to say hello. Yesterday, I used it to deliver garden produce from a neighbor's yard to other neighbors.

Everyone loves to ride the Gator. Some gals even let out a squeal when riding with my husband who is a real "Dale Yarborough" when he gets behind the wheel. Good thing the Gator has a governor because there are no seatbelts. The first few times I rode in the Gator, I felt like hanging on, but I soon got used to it and realized he wasn't going that fast, or we weren't going to tip over. Of course, the first time I rode with my husband driving, he took the Gator through a roadside ditch and up the bank on the other side. The Gator has tandem wheels in the back, so as we topped the bank, the two front wheels went up in the air. Just as I was ready to bale out, we had gone far enough forward to counterbalance and bring the front wheels back to solid ground. After that we learned to put it into 4-wheel drive and go a little more slowly so that it wasn't like riding a bucking bronco.

Our granddaughter has always loved to ride the Gator. When she was smaller, she would sit on the driver's lap and steer. She is now big enough to sit on the seat and reach the gas and brake pedals. On her last visit, I taught her how to drive the Gator. She took a few laps of our street, and then asked if she could give her mother a ride. She drove off with her mother beside her. I'm not sure who had the biggest grin. Next came her dad's turn. Scout, their 85-pound dog, leaped into the back and away they went.

My little dog also loves to ride the Gator, but his favorite place is the passenger seat. He will sit there for hours while we are working in the yard. The Gator is not only our workhorse; it's also a source of enjoyment for the whole family.

Betty Ann Jones



Questions Answered

A couple of things I've been wondering about for a long time have finally been clarified. One was "what the heck is a 'heat zone' and the second was how to handle legume roots to maximize their nitrogen fixing properties. Both questions were answered in recent publications.



In reading about one of my favorites, astilbe, Garden Gate magazine defined Hardiness as Heat zone 8 to 2. But what does that mean? Dulcy Mahar explains it all in her Down to Earth column (August 17, 2006) in The Oregonian as she describes details of zones for both cold and heat. (Edited for space.)

"I now grasp the limits of the plant hardiness system developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.. The USDA system bases plant hardiness on tolerance of cold temperatures and divides the county into 10 zones, with 10 the warmest. (Here in Coos County we are considered zone 8 or zone 9 along the coast -Ed note.)

But, as the Sunset Western Garden Book, which has developed its own zonal system, points out, a lot of factors affect plant survival, such as latitude (which determines the number of daylight hours), elevation, ocean influence, continental air influences, and mountains and hills.

According to the American Horticultural Society, help for determining heat tolerance is on the way. The society has developed a heat-zone map that divides the country into 12 areas based on the number of days over 86 degrees. That's the temperature, according to the society's literature, at which plants begin to suffer physiological damage.

The society is in the process of coding thousands of plants, and we can expect to see the heat-zone numbers appearing in plant catalogs and garden centers very soon.

Locate our heat zone map in the AHS A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants revised edition (2004), purchase for \$9.95 from the society or just Google the Web site www.ahs.org/publications/heat_zone_map.htm, click on "heat zone finder" and enter your zip code."

Now I know that my astilbe will be heat tolerant in my heat zone 4.

My questions on maximizing the nitrogen-fixing properties of legumes were clarified in a letter to the editor column in the May 2006 issue of Organic Gardening magazine. Written, interestingly enough, by Linda J. Brewer, Oregon State University.

"Legumes *do* fix nitrogen, but *not* in the soil as stated in the Dig In section of the February/March 2006 issue: "Golden chain tree is a legume, so it fixes nitrogen in the soil." Alas, nitrogen fixation occurs in nodules within plant roots. None of this nitrogen becomes stored in the soil or taken up by other plants until the plant dies and is decomposed by bacteria and fungi, and nitrogen-cycling bacteria transform the organic forms held by plant tissues back into organic forms—ammonium and nitrate."

Now I know that the pea and bean roots need to stay in the soil and do their work as they decay.

All my questions answered, for now.

Kay Davis



Cooking up a Fundraiser We Want to Publish Your Favorite Recipes!

We need your help to create a group cookbook of the Coos County Master Gardeners favorite recipes. To contribute a recipe on-line is simple and can be done in just a few minutes.

Following are the instructions for contributing on-line:



- Find the recipe that your family loves to eat and you love to make.
- Go to www.cookbookfundraiser.com
- In the log in area in the left hand column, enter your name as contributor as you would like it to appear on your recipe. Next enter your email address so we can keep you up-to-date with this project. Finally, enter **“Coos County MGA”** as our group name and the password **“recipe”**.
- Once on the cookbook homepage click on “Add a Recipe” under the recipes tools.
- Enter the ingredients and directions for the recipe, check the box that says, "Make Private", and click on the submit button.
- To help us know how many cookbooks you would like to order, click the Home button. On the right side you'll see a quick dropdown. Choose your amount of books and click 'OK.' You are not ordering the books at this time, just letting us get an indication of the number of books that might be ordered by the CCMGA members. We will know the price at a later date when the design of the book is finalized.

The Deadline for entering Recipes is Sunday, April 01, 2007 in order to have our cookbooks printed in time for the Plant Sale.

If you don't have Internet access, or don't want to enter your recipes on-line, but still want to contribute recipes, please bring copies of your recipes to the next MG meeting or get them to Betty, Carol or Joanne.

Please help us to make this fundraiser a success and enter at least one recipe before the deadline.

Habits and the lifecycle of a slug?

Slugs are most active at night or early mornings, during cool, wet periods. They remain mostly inactive during hot or freezing weather, hence the increase in slug damage during the fall and spring. During periods of inactivity, they like to hide under the rims of pots, in crevices and under rocks. They are territorial and will return to the same area over and over unless disturbed or it becomes too dry for them.

I doubt that anyone has ever desired to know this much about slugs, but the more you know, the better chance you have at keeping them away, so here it goes. Slugs have both male and female parts, so they can reproduce without another mate. They start laying eggs at three months of age and you will generally find them in a cluster near the soil surface or between a pot wall and the soil. In a lifetime (usually 1-3 years), one slug can lay 500-1000 eggs. These hatch in 2-4 weeks, but may over winter if laid in October-November. The greatest egg production occurs after the first late summer to early fall rains. 60% of eggs are laid in the fall, 25% in the spring, and the rest are laid during warm, humid weather. To control your slug population, it has to be a year round effort with special emphasis during the fall. Prevention is definitely the key and should include cultural as well as chemical methods.



Cultural Control Methods

- Clean up debris around your plantings. Limit the number of places that slugs can hide.
- Space plants enough to reduce humidity and moist conditions surrounding your plantings.
- Keep area free of weeds to reduce refuge and habitat. Stomp and crush any egg masses you discover.
- Go on regular slug patrol early in the morning or after dark and destroy the slugs you find.

Organic Control Methods

- Use slug traps (replace bait regularly) and destroy any you find.
- Install copper bands or copper pipe around your planting area to prevent or at least reduce re-entry into the area.
- Use an organic slug bait. Sluggo is an excellent, organic product to use because it is highly effective, yet still safe around pets and young children. Sprinkle it freely around plantings and watch the slugs die. When slugs ingest even a small amount of this product, it causes them to cease feeding and they then die within 3-6 days.



My Mother-in-Law's Happy Fall From Grace

My mother-in-law was a good woman. She was Swiss-German, born in the U.S. but strongly imbued with the virtues of the old country. She wasn't a Julie Andrews type, though, frolicking in Alpine meadows throughout "The Sound of Music." Her people didn't frolic. Neither did they scale jagged peaks to find edelweiss, or yodel merrily back and forth across deep valleys. They milked their cows at precisely the same time every day and grew the flowers in their window boxes to precisely the same height. They were the stiff backbone of society, unable to stoop to crime, sloth, nonsense, or excessive merriment.

Naturally, she worked hard at being a kind and courteous mother-in-law. I had my doubts when I saw her fists clench whenever she talked to me, but I soon learned that her fingers were gnarled from arthritis and a lifetime of gardening and the only thing she hated about social occasions was that she couldn't be in her garden.

Everything grew for her, even the miserable, neglected plants she rescued from my apartment. Weeds shrank from her, sensing that, momentarily, her gnarled, rapier-like index finger would curl twice around their stalks and wrench them – roots and all—from the earth. She had a greenhouse full of begonias sprouting from leaves, pots of perennials started from clippings, and flat after flat of seedlings dated exactly when they should be planted outside.

I don't know what we would have talked about if it hadn't been for her garden. In those days, my husband and I preferred dreary, depressing foreign films while she preferred happy Disney ones. We hiked and camped on our vacations while she went on guided tours and stayed in hotels on hers. We laughed at black humor and New Yorker cartoons and she laughed at – well, I never figured that out. It certainly wasn't those wicked Alec Guinness movies we loved in which the criminals always prospered. "Crime shouldn't pay," she'd declare grimly. "Movies like that send the wrong message."

Then one February she signed up for a summer tour of European gardens and talked about it for months ahead. Included in the literature sent by the tour's Swiss-German promoters

was the information that many seeds would be made available for the tourists to buy.



"How thoughtful!" I said, but my mother-in-law said "Nein! It's so we won't filch seeds from the gardens. That's forbidden." She read from the pamphlet: "Achtung! Tourists must obey local customs and have respect for the gardeners so willing to offer their homes to public view." The morality was right up her alley. She, herself, always asked permission to collect seeds, unlike "So and So," she said, "who carries tiny envelopes on garden tours for that very purpose."

Well, she went off on her tour, full of excitement and moral rectitude, and when she came home there was a light in her eyes I had never seen before. She could barely wait to get out of the airport before showing us what she had. "Look," she said, unwrapping – not an official seed package but a bit of Kleenex -- "a whole seedpod from a *Pseudonymus prevaricus* on an old Bavarian estate."

"You filched a seedpod?" I asked, incredulous.

"No," she declared, her eyes still shining with a joy untouched by guilt, "it fell into my hand while I sat on a brick wall."

Nothing could fall *into* those tight, arthritic fists, I knew. On the other hand, I'd seen them move with the speed of a coiled snake to trap bugs on her begonias so maybe it had happened.

"And you *kept* it?" I asked, pretending to be shocked.

My proper Swiss-German mother-in-law just nodded and grinned. She was absolutely gleeful, a word I had never expected to apply to her. Did I remind her of her remarks about those wicked English movies? Not on your life.

She planted her seeds and they grew vigorously – what else? – and every time she looked at the flowers, a gentle smile lit up her stern face. Then her shoulders and back would move, twist ever so slightly, and relax, as if remembering an old stiffness that had magically fallen away.

Valerie Cooley



Why do slugs thrive in our area and how can you tell if damage to plants is due to slugs?

Unfortunately, the nice, rainy weather that makes the Pacific Northwest so beautiful in the winter time also lends itself to these common pests who thrive in moist areas of the country. However, with a little forethought and early intervention, our slug problems could virtually disappear or at least significantly decrease. This is why baiting for slugs in the fall is essential.

You can tell slug damage usually by the slime trail they leave but sometimes it can be difficult and can be mistaken for other pest damage because the trail is hard to see with juvenile slugs. Damage can occur in four stages: seeds, seedlings, young plants, and mature plants and fruit. On roots and tubers look for shallow to deep, smooth-sided pits. On foliage, look for removal of tissue between veins, or skeletonization, usually near the central area rather than the edge of the leaf. They also attack flowers, such as pansies, taking chunks out of the petals. They can eat 30-40 times their weight in one day!



Slug hints and information from Al's Garden Center Website, Woodburn, OR www.als-gardencenter.com

Check us out on the web at
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/coos/Mg/index.php>

Coos County Master Gardeners™ Association
OSU County Extension Office
631 Alder Street
Myrtle Point, OR 97458

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Your Extension Service is the United States Department of Agriculture, Oregon State University and Oregon Counties and Communities cooperating in: Agriculture, Family and Community Development, 4-H Youth, Forestry, and Extension Sea Grant Programs.

Master Gardeners 3rd Annual Bulb Sale

Saturday October 14th 10-6

Sunday October 15th 11-3

@

Pony Village Mall



Tulips, Daffodils, Paperwhites, Iris, Hyacinths, Shallots and Garlic
Books on Bulbs and Fertilizer too!

Demonstrations on Saturday the 14th @ noon and 2 pm

‘How to force Paperwhite Narcissus’

and

‘Planting Different kinds of Bulbs in Multiple Layers’

