



# Garden Thymes

Coos County Master Gardeners™  
Myrtle Point, OR 97458

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Oregon State University Extension Service

## President's Message

On January 9<sup>th</sup> the presidency was passed to me in the form of a gavel made out of a carrot and potato (the tradition continues!) Some asked me if I had a big stick to keep everyone in line. I told them that wasn't my style. (I'm more of a katana type of guy!)

My first thought was what have I got myself into. After the first month I had a greater appreciation of all that Renee Blom had done for the Association, as president. THANK YOU Renee.

I have found out over the last two years that this is more than an association it is a group of people that are more like an extended family. Some of us have gone through a lot in the last year, happy and sad times. What makes this association work is the people in it. "YOU" This is a great group of people who have the passion and the desire to help and teach others. (and also eat!)

The Master Gardeners are becoming better known every year. "WE" have a very good reputation in the community. Having fun in a professional manner. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

Neither rain nor sleet nor snow and ice will keep a Master Gardener from the first day of class. Many braved the weather to make it to class. It sounds like the new trainee's are enjoying class and the mentoring is going well. I look forward to getting to know all the new trainee's.

The 2008 calendars are for sale now and work is proceeding on the Cook Book, we need more recipes (I know I should lead be example huh!)

There will be many opportunities for payback hours, Plant Clinic, Farmer Market, County fair, speaking engagements, writing articles for newspapers, landscaping at the extension, there will be Master Gardeners on site at the Coos Bay community

Garden (Lady Bug Landing) and my personal favorite Grown yer Grub summer day camp.

We hosted the OMGA State meeting this year on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. On Saturday March 31 had our annual seminar "**Fertilize Your Mind, The Dirt on Backyard Gardening**" at Southern Oregon Community College. The keynote speaker was Author Linda Beutler and her presentation was- Fearless Flowers, Fearless Bouquet. It was a great lineup of classes. The **Tomato- Rama & Plant Sale** our biggest fund raiser will be on Saturday and Sunday May 19 & 20. So everyone go forth and propagate (plants!)

I'm looking forward to the new year and everything it will bring. I urge everyone to find your niche in the association and be as productive as you can be. I want to especially urge the new trainees to get involved, I have had the greatest time getting to know new people and teaching what I've learned. (and of course eating) I also want to encourage the veterans to get involved, some of you I haven't seen in awhile! This association only works with people "**YOU**" volunteering your time and knowledge.

Steven Hennessey,  
MG President 2007

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### Message from Tracy

Greetings Master Gardeners,

I just have to rave about our new trainees. The 2007 Master Gardener training is complete and we have an enthusiastic group. It has been nice having the training in Coos Bay each week; the SOCC staff has been very helpful and gone out of their way to take care of all our technical needs. When a problem or request arises, they hop right on it.

Our last class was held March 22, then the following Friday night, we celebrated the hard work that the new trainees put forth to graduate at the annual Spring Fling. It was held in Myrtle Point at the extension building's conference room and it was a blast. The Veterans did a great job of providing the food and Ledadeane Hagedorn and Mary Ann Kreutzer did an amazing job coordinating the decorations and providing some fun and generous door prizes.

Remember Master Gardeners, (especially new trainees) there are an abundance of opportunities to get involved. When it comes to making up your payback hours, don't feel limited. Find something you are passionate about and role with it.

Enjoy Spring!  
Tracy Martz

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Tracy Martz  
Publisher  
Cathy Gibson  
Editor

### Suggested Seed Starting Information For May Plant Sale



#### Flowers & Perennial Herbs

Most Perennials and Biennials should be started in late January or early February. Check to see if you need to use Stratification (cold treatment to help break Dormancy, put in a wet medium and refrigerate for 3-6 weeks) or to use Scarifying (soak or nick seeds, sandpaper works well) some seeds can be started the summer or fall before. (check seed packets for instructions)

Several of your annuals that have longer germination times should be started in mid to late February. (Ex. Asarina, Coreopsis, Petunias, Coleus, and Alyssum) again check seed packets.

Faster growing annuals can be started in mid to late March (ex. Marigolds, Cosmos, Zinnias) Sunflowers or Nasturtiums in mid April.

#### Vegetables & Annual Herbs

Tomatoes and Peppers should be started in a warm greenhouse, on a heat mat in a sunny window or under lights about the end of February or first week in March for the plants to be of good size in 4" pots for the plant sale size. Peppers take a little longer to germinate.

Parsley and Sweet Basil should be started about the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March in a warm location.

Cole crops like Broccoli, Cabbage and Cauliflower should be started the end of March or first week in April.

Lettuce seeds can be started early to mid April.

Cucumbers & Squash should be started the last week in April.



### “The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly”

Mantids are much larger than mantispids. They both have raptorial front legs for grasping. They also both have triangular heads with large eyes. They are both predators.

Mantispids belong to the Neuroptera Order, thus they have two pairs of membranous wings with a network of veins. The wings are held tent-like over the body. They go through complete metamorphosis from egg to larva to pupa to adult.

The female lays many stalked eggs on leaves and wooden structures. As soon as the larvae hatch, they search for spiders. The larvae are predators of spider eggs. They enter the spider’s egg sac either directly by penetration, or they climb onto a female spider and enter the sac when she builds it, before she can spin a protective web around it. While waiting on a spider, the mantispid larva will enter the spider’s book lungs\* and feed on the spider’s blood. Once inside the egg sac, the mantispid will eat the spider eggs and grow. The mature larva will spin a cocoon and metamorphose into a pupa. All this takes place within the spider’s egg sac. It emerges as an adult a few weeks later.

Mantids are in the Order Orthoptera. They have a pair of leathery forewings that lie flat over the abdomen. The hind wings are membranous and folded beneath the forewings. They go through simple metamorphosis with egg, nymph (that resembles a miniature adult), and adult.

The female lays eggs in an egg case that is usually attached to wood. The case protects the eggs throughout the winter. When weather warms sufficiently, 200 or more mantid nymphs may emerge from the egg case. The nymphs look like adults except they are tiny.

Do not take an egg case indoors. I learned that lesson the hard way when I was a child. I put an egg case on the windowsill of the screened porch at my parent’s house. The very first warm spring day, we discovered tiny green mantids crawling all over inside the porch. We had quite a time herding them outside.

Preying mantids are able to camouflage themselves by changing color to resemble the color of the plants where they live. They are predators and feed on a variety of insects including moths, crickets, grasshoppers, and flies. They will even eat each other. The female usually eats the male after or during mating.

**Betty Ann Jones**

Sources: [www.insected.arizona.edu/](http://www.insected.arizona.edu/)  
[www.Spiders/InfoNed/](http://www.Spiders/InfoNed/)  
[www.waynesword.palomar.edu/](http://www.waynesword.palomar.edu/)

\* Spider’s book lungs are hollow leaf-like structures through which blood flows. They hang in an open space that is connected to a tube. The other side of the tube is in open contact with the air. The entrance is located below the abdomen.



Mantispid

Preying Mantid

### Looking Ahead

**Mini College \*OSU Campus\* August 1-4.** This is a 3 day event that is a State Convention for Master Gardeners. Many great classes available. Garden tours and chances to visit great nurseries. Cost is around \$200 to attend. Applications will be available in May in the state newsletter. We are applying for the “Search for Excellence Award.” for the Ladybug Landing Community Garden.

**Coos County Fair \* Myrtle Point \* July 24- 28' *Ewe Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet.*** Join us at our booth and plant clinic for 2 hour shifts. Ground covers will be showcased. We need presenters who want to teach at the fair. Pick your own topic. Volunteers receive pass for your day at the fair.



### Slugs and Snails



According to a study published in Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment you can deduce slug and snail damage dramatically by watering in the morning instead of the evening. The study showed lettuce watered only in the morning had only 1/5 the damage that lettuce watered in the evening had.

Here are some additional guidelines that will help you control the slug and snail population in your garden:

- Encourage reptiles to take up residence in your garden. Toads, turtles and snakes all prey on slugs.
- If you see evidence of these pests, avoid dense groundcovers and mulches that provide a hiding place. Oak leaf mulch will deter slugs and snails.
- Handpick slugs and snails at night. Use a flashlight, and drop them in a bucket with salty water.
- Lay boards in the garden to trap slugs and snails. Check your trap early in the morning and remove the slugs and snails as they collect.
- Diatomaceous earth sprinkled around the base of the stems will deter slugs and snails, but keep in mind that it will also discourage beneficial insects.
- Drench the soil with wormwood tea.
- Line the garden with copper strips. Slugs receive a shock when they touch copper, and they will not cross the barrier. When using this method, make sure you trap the slugs OUT and not IN.

Slugs love beer. Bury a shallow container of beer in the garden, with just the lip above the ground. When they go in for a drink, they will drown.



### Ladybug Landing Community Garden



This year the Master Gardeners will be available for questions and assistance at the community garden probably starting in April on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We will have a sign-up sheet before then.

There will be an Earth Day event on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. The Community Garden board meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the Coos Bay Library.

The three garden talks at the Coos Bay Library have been very successful and well received by the public. The last one scheduled will be on April 7 at noon. It will be about Coastal Gardening given by Diane O'Brian.

### Shamrock

**Shamrock** (Irish *Seamrog*, "little clover"), common name for any of several trifoliate clovers native to Ireland (*see* Clover). The shamrock was originally chosen as the national emblem of Ireland because of the legend that Saint Patrick used the plant to illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity. Most shamrocks, particularly the small-leaved white clover, have been considered by the Irish as good-luck symbols since earliest times, and this superstition has persisted in modern times among people of many nationalities. Shamrocks or various representations of the plant are worn by celebrants on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17 of each year. The hop clover is widely accepted as the original shamrock picked by Saint Patrick.

**Scientific classification:** Shamrocks belong to the subfamily Papilionoideae, family Fabaceae (formerly Leguminosae). The white clover is classified as *Trifolium repens* and the hop clover as *Medicago lupulina*.



### OMGA Quarterly Meeting

The Coos County Master Gardener Association™ hosted the OMGA state meeting March 3, 2007: The meeting was held at the Ohlsen Baxter Building (Extension office) in Myrtle Point. A delicious lunch was catered by the MPHS Bobcat Catering. About 50 people from 20 counties attended. Everyone loved the facility in Myrtle Point. Overall it was a very successful meeting.

### Hands Calendar 2008



The Hands Calendar 2008 is now available for sale. The photographs taken by Don Blom are beautiful. They are all pictures of master gardener's hands doing a variety of gardening activities. They are \$10.00 each and can be purchased at any function sponsored by the master gardeners. They are also available for sale at the Myrtle Point Extension office. T-shirts are also available for purchase. See any veteran about purchase.



## Coos County Master Gardeners™ Association 4th Annual Tomato-Rama Plant Sale



**Where:** Pony Village Mall

**When:** Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 10-6,

Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> 11-3

We will have 45+ tables for plants

Plant Clinic for garden questions

Hats Project for kids

South Coast Community Garden

Association table Biggest Fundraiser for the Association, it pays for projects, books for the Plant Clinic, tools, scholarships, support of projects and more.

**Who is in charge of organizing the sale any questions contact:**

Renee Blom 269-7468 [back40four@earthlink.net](mailto:back40four@earthlink.net)

Kay Davis 572-2896 [paulkay@harborside.com](mailto:paulkay@harborside.com)

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Anita Straus 347-3037 [aniterf1@aol.com](mailto:aniterf1@aol.com)

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Carol Dominick 396-1516 [ntcarol@earthlink.net](mailto:ntcarol@earthlink.net)

Sandy Gonzales 756-5565 [shortreinranch@aol.com](mailto:shortreinranch@aol.com)

### **How you can help**

Start plants from seeds (some suggested dates attached)

Divide plants in your yard

Take cuttings from your houseplants or garden

Package up seeds-label well

Seed tape 5 ft. lengths \$2.50 each

Sign up to work at the plant sale (many bodies are needed)

### **What you need to do**

Bring your plants to Pony Village Mall, Friday May 18<sup>th</sup> TBA for setup

**All plants must be labeled with the plant name, basic info, and priced.**

Color price stickers & labels will be available.

**Colored Pictures** on 3 x 5" cards really help sell the plants!!!

Give a list of **Tomato varieties** to Loree Gehrke 2 weeks before sale

### **Volunteer to work at the sale (we will need many people)**

Collect & bring plastic grocery bags & flat boxes from markets for people to put plants in (beer and pop flats work great)

**Wear your MG tee-shirts and badges**

### **What Kinds of Plants**

**Tomatoes** that grow well here (determinate, cherries, short season), Other vegetables like broccoli, peppers, lettuce, squash, cucumbers, Flowers (annuals (unusual) perennials and biennials), Herbs, Houseplants, Groundcovers, Small shrubs, Vines, Bulbs & tubers, Grasses & Ferns, and MORE!

### **Price to Sell (labels will be provided)**

4" pots \$1 (unless something special) plants need to have 2-3 sets of true leaves

1 gal. pots about \$3 (unless something unusual)

multi-packs \$1 (unless something special)

Houseplants in about 6-8" pots \$3-5

Larger pots more \$

Misc. items use your judgment but remember

### **PRICE to SELL**

Save **Pictures** from catalogs, or download **Pictures** from Google Images and cut out, and glue to a **3x5" index card**. Sticks with clips will be provided to hold them. The cards should have the name of the plant. A **Picture** helps sell the plants a lot better. You can write the name on the labels (#2 pencils work well) or use small computer labels. (Avery makes smudge proof labels) Make sure the ink does not run when wet. Some ink jets are waterproof. **Price stickers will be provided.**

### **Pay Back Hours**

**No payback hours** are given for raising plants or for set up time. This is not considered educational.

**1/2 of your time will be payback hours** for the shifts you work for the plant sale as it is a fundraiser for the Coos County Master Gardeners™ Association, but you are also answering garden questions.

**Full payback hours** for the shifts you work at the Plant Clinic and helping with the kid's project.

**REMEMBER PLANTS MUST BE HEALTHY AND LOOK GOOD AS YOU  
ARE REPRESENTING MASTER GARDENERS!!!!!!**



## Garden Tips



### Are Last Years Seeds Still Good

If you plan to use seed from the previous years it is a good idea to test the viability before committing your time and garden space. To test your seeds, place ten seeds an even distance apart on a damp paper towel. Roll up the paper towel and place it in a plastic bag. Leave the bag in a warm spot in the kitchen and check every other day for signs of germination. Even with fresh seeds you can't expect them all to germinate, but the percentage of seeds that germinate on the towel will give you an idea of how the seeds will do in your garden.

For best results, when saving seeds from year to year, place them in a jar with powered mild at the bottom to absorb moisture. Screw the lid on tightly and store in the refrigerator.

(2-22-07)

### Fox Gloves

Foxgloves will grow well in a sunny location. But for striking drama plant a mass of yellow foxgloves in a shady recess. They always seem to glow! Foxglove is a plant with a history, and folklore about its origin abounds. One interesting story suggests that woodland elves and fairies distributed the plant to foxes to wear as gloves during raids on chicken coops. To find the guilty fox, farmers would look for the one wearing the 'gloves'.

Never plant foxglove in areas where children play. The flowers are extremely toxic, and little ones simply can't resist sticking their fingers in the fingered-shaped blossoms. (2-7-07)



### Plant German Chamomile

The chamomile that is used to make tea is German chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*). The seeds can be planted as early as the soil can be worked. It makes a lovely ground-cover in areas that receive light to moderate traffic, and you'll have an abundant crop for tea!

Chamomile is also a great bath herb. Steep 1/4 to 1/2 cup of chamomile in a quart of boiling water for 10-15 minutes, then allow it to cool. Add the water (flowers and all) to your bath water. This makes a soothing bedtime bath for babies. (1-24-07)



Submitted by Renee Blom  
From: <http://today.excite.com>

### Strategies for the Small Garden

Here are some ideas to help you get more vegetables from a small garden space.

Grow your garden up. Place vining vegetables like cucumbers on a trellis. Grow pole beans rather than bush beans – you'll get three times the yield from the same space.

- Make use of spot gardens. These are sunny spots where you can plant a few vegetables. Salad greens are ideal for spot gardens.
- Don't plant too much of one vegetable. Two zucchini plants will produce more than enough.
- Choose tomato and pepper varieties that produce small fruit. The smaller the size of the fruit, the more fruit the plant will produce.
- Interplant fast maturing crops such as lettuce, spinach and radishes with slower crops such as beans, squash and melons. By the time the slow crop grows to full the space, the quick crop will be harvested.

(1-31-07)



### Pets and Plants

If you share your garden with a pet or pets, particularly cats and dogs, you should keep in mind that some plants can be rather toxic to our furry friends. A few of the more frequently encountered toxic plants are the following:



Angels Trumpet	Avocado	Asparagus Fern
Azalea	Baby's Breath	Bird of Paradise
Begonia	Caladium	Calla Lily
Clematis	Cyclamen	Daffodil
Draceana Palm	Easter Lily (in cats)	Elephant Ears
English Ivy	Foxglove	Fig
Geranium	German Ivy	Hyacinth
Hydrangea leaves	Impatiens	Ivy
Jasmine	Lily of the Valley	Lantana
Morning Glory	Peace Lily	Philodendron
Poinsettia	Pothos	Primrose
Rhododendron	Sago Palm	Spider Plant
Star Gazer Lily	Wisteria	Yew

For more information and a longer list of toxic plants you can check the website for the Animal Poison Control Center [napcc@aspc.org](mailto:napcc@aspc.org).

If you think your pet has eaten any toxic plants and is showing any of the behaviors you should contact your vet.

- Refusal to eat
- Pale gums or tongue
- Abdominal pain
- Convulsions
- Diarrhea
- Severe or persistent vomiting



### Spring Fling

Spring Fling 2007 to celebrate the graduation of this year's class was held on Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the OSU Extension Office. The room was decorated with a Hawaiian theme and we were entertained by several local hula dancers Ledeade H. and Mary Ann K. did an outstanding job of coordinating the evening. Many door prizes were won and of course the food was great.



### Here They Are Again \* Nag, Nag, Nag LAST CHANCE!!!

It's us again. The cookbook recipe pests. We would say We hate to be pests, however, it wouldn't be true. We find we have kind of a natural talent for the job. But our pestering is about over. You all have until March 31st to get your recipes to us. We hope to send it out for publication by the first of April and have it back in time for the plant sale. Yahoo! Please submit at least one recipe to any of the committee members. They are; Betty Jones at [bettyann.jones@verizon.net](mailto:bettyann.jones@verizon.net), Carol Dominick at [NTcarol@earthlink.net](mailto:NTcarol@earthlink.net), or Joanne White at [samlucy@charter.net](mailto:samlucy@charter.net). The recipes do not have to be about cooking dinner or making cookies. They can be something like a recipe for compost tea or a favorite concoction you have for treating any number of things in the garden or around the house. The recipes we have already received do not represent the majority of our members....only about 35%. You know you want to see your name in print...so get busy and get that recipe to us.



Signed:

The cookbook recipe pests.....



### Plant Clinic

Mondays & Thursdays from 9-12.  
Starting May 1, it will be open from 9-3.  
Please sign up to volunteer.

### Other OSU Extension Happenings-

### 20th Annual 4-H Spaghetti Feed and Auction

Coquille Community Building

Saturday, April 21st

5: 30 pm Dinner and Silent Auction

7:00 pm Oral Auction

All proceeds benefit  
4-H Youth



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

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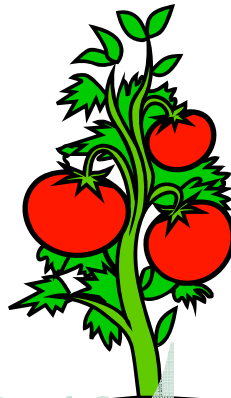
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Garden Thymes

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.

## Coos County Master Gardener™ Association 4th Annual Tomato-Rama & More

Many Varieties of  
Tomatoes  
Annuals & Perennials  
Flowers  
Herbs



Vegetables  
Vines & Shrubs  
Houseplants  
Succulents and More  
Kid's Activities

Saturday  
May 19th 10am-6pm  
Sunday  
May 20th 11am-3pm

# Plant Sale

Pony  
Village  
Mall