



Metro Master Gardener™ News

July-August 2008

**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 Master Gardeners,

Here are some updates about the upcoming Mini-College and Master Gardener program in the metro area and beyond:

2008 Mini-College

If you have attended the Master Gardener Mini-College in the past, you know that it is a fun and informative conference for gardeners in Oregon. If you have not attended Mini-college before, please consider making the trip to Corvallis July 23-26 to join the fun. Here is some general information about this year's gathering:



The 25th Anniversary of the Annual Gardeners Mini-College will be held from July 23-26, 2008 at the OSU campus in Corvallis, OR. This event is the Statewide Master Gardener Conference for Oregon gardeners. The theme for this year's Mini-College is 'Going Green on our Silver'--a theme that pays tribute both to the illustrious history of the Oregon Master Gardener Association, as well as the sustainable gardening techniques that the Master Gardeners teach and promote. Seminars, workshops and discussions will highlight both of these areas.

Mini-College Schedule

- July 7, 2008: Registration ends.
- July 23, 2008: OMGA Leadership Forum, Kick Off Banquet
- July 24, 2008: General Session, County Master Gardener of the Year Awards, Seminars, Tour
- July 25, 2008: Seminars, Tour, Annual Banquet, Keynote Speaker
- July 26, 2008: Workshops and Tours

Registration ends July 7, 2008! If you want to attend, make sure to register soon.

For more information about the Master Gardener Mini-College, go to:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/mini-college>.

Metro Master Gardener Program Receives Grant

Good news! In support of the new relationship that we are forming with Portland State University around the [Learning Gardens Laboratory](#) in SE Portland, we received a significant grant from OSU Extension's Advancing Metro Programming initiative. With the Salary savings that I have accumulated from my work on the Garden Enhanced Nutrition Education (GENE) project and the upcoming work at PSU and a generous donation from the Multnomah County Master Gardener chapter, we were awarded this cash-match grant for a total of \$90,000 that is specifically allocated toward this new partnership with PSU. The money will go toward supporting Beret Halverson as a ¾-time program assistant and toward tools and supplies for the Learning Gardens site. The partnership with PSU begins July 1, 2008.

Organic Gardening Certificate Program

Part of the PSU partnership includes the development and implementation of a new program called "Organic Gardening Certificate Program." This educational programming will provide a comprehensive training in organic gardening and ecological landscaping. Participants will learn both the knowledge and skills of organic gardening, urban agriculture, and ecological landscaping. This program is similar in scope and scale to the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program . . . with an organic gardening focus. It will utilize a hands-on and active-learning format to teach participants about all aspects of growing and caring for plants without synthesized chemical fertilizers and pesticides. This 57-hour training was created by OSU Extension and other program partners to

support the groundswell of interest in organic gardening, ecological landscaping, and food security in the Portland metro area. We are in the final stages of creating a formal agreement with Oregon Tilth as our primary partner for this program. Metro and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation district will also serve a supporting role.

Volunteer Practicum

Participants will also have the opportunity to serve as garden educators by connecting with a variety of local gardening projects and organizations through a 30-hour volunteer practicum over the course of 2009.

Course Topics Include:

Soils, compost, plant biology, plant propagation, garden planning/design, vegetable gardens, ecological landscapes, ornamental plants, rain gardens, entomology, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and fruit and nut production.

Program Details

Classes will coincide with PSU's Fall Semester 2008. Dates Include:

- Thursday October 2nd from 6-9pm.
- Saturdays October 4th –December 6th (except November 29th) from 9am - 4pm.

The program will take place at a number of locations in the metro area. Likely training sites include:

- Luscher Farm
- Learning Gardens Laboratory
- PSU Campus
- A rain garden tour

The cost of the program is

- \$500 for training with the volunteer practicum.
- \$750 for training only without volunteer practicum. There will be limited scholarships available. Please ask.

All participants that complete 57-hour training will receive a certificate of completion. Participants that complete the 30-hour volunteer practicum will receive additional recognition for their service.

Please note that participants in this program will not receive Master Gardener badges. Trainees from this program will not be able to serve in Master Gardener plant clinics unless they already have an MG badge or take the MG training in the future.

We hope that interested MGs will participate in this new training. This is a great opportunity to learn knowledge and skills specific to food production and landscaping without synthesized chemical fertilizers or chemicals. The volunteer practicum will provide diverse opportunities to serve as garden educators.

Registration will open soon. Please stay posted for details!



OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS

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

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

This edition of the newsletter covers activities for July and August. Master Gardeners should be on several schedules by now and enjoying the variety of volunteer opportunities that have been offered. Keep watching the newsletter and emails for updated information. Remember to let me know if your email address changes...you don't want to miss out on any of the exciting events available.

Here are some activities to check out:

FAIRS COMING!

I always look forward to fair season and all the great memories from childhood. Homemade quilts, gleaming jars of canned fruit, and roosters crowing...there really isn't anything else like it. Master Gardeners are planning to have clinics at both the Washington and Clackamas County Fairs and the Oregon State Fair. Passes to get into each of the fairs are provided. Get these dates on your calendar before the summer gets away from you.

Clackamas County Fair is August 12 – 17 (Tuesday – Sunday). The MG booth is located near an entertainment stage and a lovely garden display and plant sale. Call coordinator Gerry Emerson at 503-656-9726. There are morning, afternoon, and evening shifts available. You are going to want to be part of this really great rural fair!

Washington County Fair is July 24 – 27 (Thursday – Sunday). Master Gardeners are located next to the demonstration gardens and really have a lot to brag about. This area of the fairgrounds owes its planning and attractive appearance to the Washington County Master Gardeners and is a popular stop for fairgoers.

Call David Rullman to schedule a shift 503-292-1603



Oregon State Fair is August 22 – September 1. We typically have the Labor Day week-end shifts, the other days will be staffed by MGs from around the state. This fair is in Salem. Call Belinda Reagan at 503-244-2200 and ask for a morning, afternoon, or evening shift. Bring your family and spend the day.

ON-GOING

- **Crystal Springs Rhododendron Gardens**
Dan Beasley 503-246-2727
- **Pittock Mansion**
Heather Kibbey 503-620-7239
- **Washington Park Rose Garden**
Pat Troyer 503-257-8526 (clinic)
Bill Bradley 503-624-8435 (tour guide)
- **Phones**
Linda O'Toole 503-659-5309 (Clackamas Co)
Heidi Nichols- heidinichols@comcast.net
(Washington Co) 503-774-6888
- **1860's Heritage Kitchen Garden- Champoeg**
Marie VanPatten 503-678-1251 x223
- **Oregon Trail Interpretive Center –Oregon City**
Jean Erickson 503-636-3967
- **Oregon Zoo**
Roger Williams 503-475-2709 cell
- **Oregon Food Bank – Washington Co.**
Leticia Yniguez 503-439-6510



Natter's Notes
Vegetables and Water
Jean R. Natter



Although vegetables aren't drought-tolerant, a few guidelines can help you get the most from the least water. The first step is to condition the soil before you plant by mixing in at least two inches of compost. Then consider these tactics:

- Abandon single-file rows.
- Use wide beds, then plant densely so that the plants' canopies nearly touch at maturity. (Doing so provides the same yield in less space or, looking at it from another angle, a much larger yield in the same amount of space.)
- If using containers, use those that are as large as possible, then shield the container from direct sunlight. When roots get hot, they're damaged and may die.
- Whenever possible, seed directly into the garden.
- If you transplant, use vigorous, very young plants.
- Always seed or transplant into moist soil.
- Mulch when your seedlings are up and growing, or at transplant time.
- Irrigate with a low-flow system.
- Ensure that the entire root zone is moist.

Don't allow your veggies to run short on water. And never, ever, let them wilt. Wilting damages plants permanently, even if they perk up after you water. Be alert for the subtle changes that precede obvious drooping – leaves appear more dull, blue or gray than normal.

The duration and frequency of successive irrigations depend upon the kind of soil you have, the plants' root depth, your irrigation system, and the weather. Overall, the goal is to maintain adequate moisture throughout the entire root zone, thereby assisting your vegetables in attaining the abundant harvest you expect.

And, as is noted for every vegetable discussed in the OSU Commercial Vegetable Production Guide (<http://hort-devel-nwrec.hort.oregonstate.edu/vegindex.html>), "Soil type does not affect the amount of total water needed, but does dictate frequency of water application. Lighter soils need more frequent water applications, but less water applied per application."

When it comes to root depth for home garden vegetables, we're talking about 15 to 18 inches, but only inches for seedlings. (And yes, I've read about tomatoes with roots to four feet; but that's a bit of wishful thinking when it comes our clay soils.)

Various drip, trickle or ooze systems can help you water efficiently, in part because the slow output moistens soil uniformly. The end result is that you'll irrigate less often than with a sprinkler or a hand-held hose.

Install a 150-mesh filter at the head of the line to avoid clogging. And use pressure-compensated drippers which, although they'll add to your cost, ensure that every outlet releases the correct amount of water.

In a pinch, you can make do with a somewhat rather primitive setup. You might sink a pot into the ground alongside the plant, then fill it with water as needed. Or you can rig a crude drip system for a potted plant by poking two pinholes near the bottom of a plastic bottle, fill it with water, then set it on the surface of the potting mix where it will leak slowly.

If you use sprinklers and have clay soil, it's likely you'll need to use several consecutive on-off cycles during a single irrigation. Then, to cut evaporative losses from heat and wind, as well as decrease the likelihood of leaf disease, run the system early in the day.

It's especially helpful to automate run times with an irrigation clock, either hard-wired or battery-powered. The latter attaches to the spigot where your soaker or dripline is attached.

Even though automation eases frees up some of your time, it's wise to occasionally run a visual check to see if the sprinklers are sprinkling, the drippers dripping, the soakers oozing. If the clock is scheduled to water at night, occasionally override the controls during the daytime to verify that all is well. Plants can self destruct before you realize a sprinkler or dripper isn't functioning.

And a word to the wise: Allow plenty of time before your vacation to install the system and then ensure it's set up correctly for your plants and soil. (Hint: The day or two before you leave isn't a good time! Several weeks is better.)

Realize that any system can wastes water. Surface run-off is obviously wasteful. But so, too, is the unseen runoff below root zones that occurs when you run a soaker or drip system for far too many hours.

The only way you'll know where your water went is to look at the soil about an hour or more after you irrigate.

Stick a finger into the soil. Or use a trowel. Or push a slim probe into the soil, perhaps an extra long screwdriver or a pointed 3/8-inch steel rod. The probe will stop when it encounters dry soil. To be certain the probe didn't hit a rock or other impediment, try again nearby. Then adjust the run time if needed.

Although adequately moist soil plays an obvious role in preventing wilt, plants can also wilt when a hot, dry spell arrives. The reason is that water loss from the plant's surface via transpiration occurs more rapidly than the roots are able to absorb water. Such an episode can also explain why tomatoes get blossom end rot in spite of having sufficient calcium and moisture available to their roots. Simply put, the calcium wasn't transported to the end of the line, the tomato's far end.

In summary, in order for vegetables to meet your expectations, of abundant yields, provide them with adequate water at critical points in their life cycle, namely these:

- Germination: all vegetables
- Pollination: lima beans
- Pod enlargement: lima beans, snap beans and edible-podded peas
- Head development: broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower
- Root, bulb, and tuber enlargement: carrot, onion, parsnip, potato, radish and turnip
- Flowering and ear, fruit and seed development: sweet corn, cucumber, pea and squash
- Fruit set and early fruit development: melons
- Uniform supply from flowering to harvest: eggplant, pepper and tomato



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

July 12	Oregon Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Sale – Portland Nursery, Stark St.
July 12	Washington Chapter picnic – see Chapter Page for details
July 12 – 13	Oregon Lavender Festival
July 13	Metro ‘Gardens of Natural Delights’ Tour
July 14	Clackamas Chapter Meeting at Leach Botanical Garden
July 22-23	Cracked Pots Garden Art Show – McMenamain’s Edgefield in Troutdale
July 23-26	MG Mini-College Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon
Aug 2	Home Orchard Society Fruit Tree Budding Workshop
Aug 8-10	Multnomah County Chapter garage sale – see Chapter page for details
Aug 11	Clackamas Chapter picnic
Aug 17	Northwest Cactus and Succulents Open Nursery 6775 SW 201 CT., Aloha
Sept 4	Washington County Meeting - Kaaren Demorest <i>Gardens of the British Isles</i>
Sept 9	Multnomah County Meeting – Oregon Tilth
Sept 24-25	Advanced Training – Insect Identification – pre-registration ends September 5. See the June newsletter for more information

Invasive grass called false brome, threatens Oregon native plant diversity

By: Davi Richards

Source: [Brad Withrow-Robinson](#)

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Some invasive and unwelcome plant pests are easy to spot. Himalayan blackberry and Scotch broom are both flagrantly present throughout large areas of the Pacific Northwest.

By contrast, it’s difficult to imagine at first glance that false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) could cause the harm it’s already begun to visit on parts of Oregon. A slender bunch grass that grows to 18 inches to two feet tall, it’s a perennial that stays green into the fall and even through the winter in milder years. Its leaves and seed heads tend to nod and droop gracefully rather than stand stiffly upright.



This innocent-looking invasive grass is native to North Africa and Europe. It was first discovered in Oregon near Eugene in 1939 but didn’t become a problem until the 1990’s. Now some researchers estimate that it has taken over at least 10,000 acres in Oregon, mainly in Linn and Benton counties. It is known to be as far south as Josephine County, just north of the California border and has recently been found in the San Francisco Bay Area. Oregon is the first state to list false brome as a noxious weed.

At first glance, false brome looks to a layperson like most other grasses. But with a little practice, you can begin to spot it. One clue is that it stays green longer into the fall and even into winter. To be sure, pick a leaf and hold it up to the light. If there’s fine fuzz growing along the edges of the leaf, it’s likely to be false brome.

“The problem is that once a few large clumps become established in an area, they gradually spread and can eventually form a solid mass that overwhelms native vegetation,” explained Brad Withrow-Robinson, forester with the Oregon State University Extension Service. “False brome can just take over a woodland, and as it displaces the native plants, you lose a lot of the diversity that gives a place much of its aesthetic charm and its ecological vitality.”



Unlike most grasses, false brome grows in shade as well as sun. Dense stands have been found growing in mature forests with a closed canopy. It thrives at elevations from 200 to 3,500 feet and in moist or dry conditions.

Unpalatable for grazing, it quickly reduces the productivity of rangeland and eliminates wildlife forage. Even tree plantings are harmed by infestations of false brome, which can out-compete seedlings for moisture.

Digging or pulling the plants can effectively control small, newly established populations of

false brome. This works best when the soil is moist. It is a perennial plant and seems to come back if many roots are left behind, but especially from recently formed seed, said Withrow-Robinson.

For larger populations of false brome, an option is to spray it with an herbicide containing glyphosate, he said.

“The best time to spray it is in the late spring or early summer, when it’s growing vigorously but has not yet set seed,” said Withrow-Robinson. “But as long as it’s green and the temperature is above about 60 degrees Fahrenheit, glyphosate will probably kill it. It just may take more time.”

The most critical strategy is to prevent seeds. So whatever control you choose, follow-through is very important. Plan to go back and clean up a problem area for each of several seasons in order to exhaust the seeds and small plants that are probably there. Doing this follow-through before seed-set in early summer is key.

For photographs and more information about how to identify false brome, download the [report](#) (3.9 MB PDF file) or visit the False Brome Working Group’s [website](#).

The False Brome Working Group is a partnership of the OSU College of Forestry, including the OSU Extension Service, the USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Oregon, Department of Agriculture, US Army Corps of Engineers, Institute for Applied Ecology, Starker Forests Inc., The Nature Conservancy and the Native Plant Society of Oregon.

2008 Starlight Parade Wrap-up - 2nd Place Award!

On the evening of May 31st the Metro Master Gardener Marching Unit once again carried the MG banner through the streets of downtown Portland for 250,000 people to see. Kaarin Thompson trained and then led this year's motley crew of insects, vegetables and lower life forms through the Rake Drill Team maneuvers thereby clinching a 2nd place title for our category. Co-chairs Stephanie Scott and Bob Blaedel would like to thank all who marched and particularly Jordis and Weston for their participation in this year's parade. We'd also like to acknowledge the Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas county MG chapters for their financial support of this important Metro event. We're planning for 2009 to be best ever!

Steph and Bob

These ornamentals can be much too successful in Oregon

By: Davi Richards

Source: [Linda McMahan](#)

CORVALLIS, Ore. - Dreams of a garden filled with banks of bright flowers all spring and summer comfort many gardeners through drab winter months. But in gardening as in life, be careful what you wish for.

The beauty of ornamentals, perennials and shrubs grown for their attractive foliage and flowers, has enticed traveling gardeners throughout history to carry some of them home. And more recently, with modern travel and commerce, plants have been imported and sold in parts of the world where they never grew before.

In their new surroundings, free from their normal predators, competitors, and environmental constraints, some of these lovely new arrivals become unruly and nearly impossible to control, says native plant specialist Linda McMahan of the Oregon State University Extension Service.

A large percentage of plants that are now considered "invasive" were originally introduced for horticulture. A study by a University of Washington investigator found that of 235 non-native woody plants that had escaped cultivation, 82 percent had been introduced for horticultural purposes. The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board estimates that 50 percent of the plants on the state's noxious weed list are escaped ornamentals.

In fact, McMahan explains, the very qualities that might make some non-native ornamentals attractive for your garden – vigor, the ability to spread rapidly or reseed and survive our summer dry periods – are the very qualities that may allow them to escape and out-compete the native plants where you live. That's when they join the growing list of "invasive ornamentals" and start showing up on state noxious weed lists instead of in gardening catalogs.



Yellow-flag iris, recently added to Oregon's noxious weed list. Photo by Nancy Loewenstein, Auburn University, Bugwood.org

"Invasiveness is highly regional," McMahan said. "Plants that are invasive in one area can be very well-behaved in another. There are even differences in Oregon, depending on the region."

One of the most familiar non-native invasive plants in the Pacific Northwest is Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). Native to Europe and northern Africa, it was imported as an ornamental some time in the early 20th century. It produces large numbers of hard-coated seeds, which can survive for decades, traveling by wind, water, animals or human traffic. Eventually, the seeds settle and germinate into seedlings, establishing new colonies.

Scotch broom now covers large tracts of open areas and shows no signs of slowing down. Left undisturbed, it can grow into a dense stand more than six feet tall with trunks a few inches in diameter. These evergreen stands crowd out grasses and other native vegetation, destroying habitat for grazing wildlife, such as elk. Miles of highway and square miles of grasslands are now densely packed with its intense yellow blooms in the late spring.

Some invasive plants are still favorites of unwary gardeners, who continue to cultivate them. Even after they are recognized as invasive, it may take years to regulate their sale. And gardeners continue the age-old tradition of trading and sharing their favorite plants with each other.

Examples include:

- **Purple loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*), a showy perennial, native to Eurasia. It thrives at the edge of ponds and waterways. It self-sows freely and now clogs waterways in the northeastern, northwestern, and mountain regions of North America. In the past decade, this species has become increasingly troublesome here in Pacific Northwest wetlands.
- **English ivy** (*Heeder helix*) is another Eurasian native, introduced to North America more than 200 years ago. A traditional favorite with gardeners as an evergreen groundcover, this perennial vine grows rapidly, needs little care and suppresses weeds. Once loose from cultivation, it may engulf other vegetation, even covering and harming shrubs and trees. Ivy produces seeds that can be spread by birds. Large portions of Portland's Forest Park, the largest urban forest park in the country, have been overrun with escaped ivy.
- **Butterfly bush** (*Buddleia davidii*), native to China and Japan, reached North America via England, probably in the early 20th century. Butterflies are strongly attracted to this large shrub, accounting for its common name. While some other species of *Buddleia* are better-behaved, *Buddleia davidii* reseeds so prolifically that it has become invasive and is now on several state noxious weed lists. Several other *Buddleia* species are also being watched for invasive potential.
- **Yellow-flag iris** (*Iris pseudacorus*), recently added to Oregon's noxious weed list, grows three to four feet tall and makes a stunning display in late spring along ponds and creeks. But its seeds are carried downstream, where it displaces native plants and reduces the carrying capacity of wetlands.

Other ornamentals that have become invasive include English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), and sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*). Although they are not on the Oregon noxious weed list, both dwarf periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) and *Verbena bonariensis* are both capable of taking over your garden and areas beyond.

Unfortunately, non-native invasive ornamentals continue to be introduced and escape into the wild. One of the most recent arrivals in Oregon is Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*). The Oregon Department of Agriculture believes it was introduced in a wildflower seed mix in 2003. With blue-

gray foliage and pretty blue to pink flowers that bloom all summer, Paterson's curse looks harmless. But it's poisonous to livestock and extremely invasive. Australia, where it is rampant, is losing an estimated \$30 million annually because of it. To see pictures of it, go to http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_pcurse.shtml.

There are some simple ways all gardeners can be responsible and help combat invasive plants.

First, do some homework. Know what you're buying or accepting from a friend. Look up new plants on the web or in gardening references. Become familiar with your state's noxious weed list. In Oregon you can find it at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/statelist2.shtml>. The Washington State list is at http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed_list/weed_list.htm. You can find the federal list and several other state lists at <http://plants.usda.gov/java/noxiousDriver>.

Don't buy or share plants on these lists. If you have them already in your garden, consider replacing them with a better alternative. Look into crinkle leaf creeper (*Rubus calycinoides*) as a good replacement for English ivy, especially in sun or part-shade. Try Ceanothus or red flowering current (*Ribes sanguineum*) as a colorful blooming shrub.

At the very least, control any potentially invasive plants you have. Dead-head them promptly before seeds can form. Keep them from spreading beyond a strictly defined and monitored area. Don't compost them. The seeds of many invasive plants are not killed by composting.

"As we move more toward water-wise gardening, we need to be extremely careful about the new plants we use," McMahan cautions. "Some of our favorites may yet become problematic."

For more information, you can download a booklet that describes over a dozen invasive ornamentals and better alternatives for them at <http://www.invasivespeciescoalition.org/GardenPlants/Garden%20Wise>.

OSU Extension has many publications on invasive species and weeds in Oregon. Go to our online catalog at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/details.php?search=weeds>.



THE HOME ORCHARD SOCIETY'S FRUIT-TREE BUDDING WORKSHOP, ANNUAL PICNIC & FRUIT TASTING

Saturday, August 2, 2008

- 9 a.m. to noon - Free Budding Workshop
- 1 p.m. potluck & fruit-tasting (bring cold foods and your home fruit)

At HOS Arboretum, N corner of Clackamas Community College campus, in Oregon City. For directions, see website or call.

Budding instruction; budding, grafting, & fruit-growing books & rootstock for sale--make your own tree. Bring grafting tools & budding wood if you have them.

QUESTIONS:

- Website <www.homeorchardsociety.org>
- Ted Swensen (503) 293-1468, <tlswensen@earthlink.net>
- Jerry Shroyer (503) 266-6745, <shroyers@att.net>



Horticulture Department Summer 2008



Our classes are for individuals desiring information to improve job skills, for completion of Certificate and Associate Degree programs, community education and personal interest. Classes meet for 11 weeks, unless otherwise indicated. **Open registration begins 5/13/08.**

Visit the **Clackamas Community College Horticulture** website at:
<http://depts.clackamas.edu/hort/>

Campus Map and driving directions at:
<http://www.clackamas.edu/documents/campusmap.pdf>

Summer Courses and Workshops

WONDERS OF WILDFLOWERS – Elizabeth Howley, Instructor,

Elizabeth Howley will bring to life the complex, sub-alpine ecosystem of Timberline Lodge and share ways in which this unique landscape has forever inspired artists and nature lovers. All presentations are free and open to the public. No need to register. This workshop will be offered multiple times over the summer, plan on attending either **June 25, July 9, July 23, August 6, August 20 or September 17** from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Wonders of Wildflowers will be held at Timberline Lodge Amphitheatre, find directions at http://www.timberlinelodge.com/more_info/faqs.php. Free.

WESTERN HERBS – HOR 250-01—Elizabeth Howley, Instructor

1 credit, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **Tuesdays June 24, July 1 & July 8.** Instruction will focus on how to use common herbs and spices as food and for craft.

NATIVE PLANT IDENTIFICATION—HOR 211-01 – Elizabeth Howley, Instructor

1 credit, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., **Wednesdays, June 25th through July 23rd.** Identification and garden use of plants native to the Pacific Northwest will be studied. Students will learn to use plant keys. The class will visit plants studied on the CCC main campus as well as several area gardens and parks.

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS—HOR 215-01– Linda Beutler, Instructor

8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, **Tuesdays, June 24th through August 12th.** Plant identification, propagation, selection and garden culture of perennials will be covered in this class. Individual attributes of herbaceous plants, including the evolution of perennial garden design and current garden styles will be studied.

HERBAL PRODUCTS –HOR 251-01—Elizabeth Howley, Instructor

1 credit, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., **Tuesdays, July 15, 22 and 29.** Make herbal teas, skin salve, tincture, infused oil, vinegar and syrup. Students will learn which ingredients to use and why each is important.

ADVANCED TREE CLIMBING TECHNIQUES—Joe Mendez, Instructor

This advanced climbing techniques class will be covering knots, hardware, ascenders, redirects, false crotches, and single and double rope climbing. The class will meet 9:00 am - 4:00 pm **Saturday July 12th** at Clairmont hall room 117. There is a requirement that you need to have taken HOR239 or have 1 year documented climbing experience. \$ 90.00

PROFESSIONAL
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CCC has the only
PLANET accredited
program in Oregon.

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How to keep butterfly bush from spreading noxiously

By: [Carol Savonen](#)

Source: [James Altland](#)

AURORA - Butterfly bush, also known as summer lilac, Buddleia or Buddleja, is a very popular garden plant in the Pacific Northwest and other temperate regions of the world. Photos of its beautiful blossoms grace the pages of slick gardening magazines and catalogs, television programs and garden center displays. Garden writers laud the butterfly bush as a fast-growing, robust, easy-to-grow shrub that attracts a wide variety of butterflies.



But there's a dark side to this popular plant. Butterfly bush can be a very aggressive, or invasive non-native shrub that, in certain situations, can overtake native vegetation, according to horticulturists with the Oregon State University Extension Service and weed biologists with Oregon's Department of Agriculture (ODA).

In Oregon, the ODA officially classified it as a class "B" noxious weed in 2004. Its strategic plan includes efforts to eradicate butterfly bush in the wild, but not from people's yards.

James Altland, nursery crops researcher at OSU's North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora, and his student Julie Ream, are studying the relative invasiveness of cultivated species of butterfly bush in Oregon.

Butterfly bush is extremely invasive in natural areas. There are serious infestations on the North Fork of the Willamette River near Oakridge and along the Coquille River near the coast. It has spread to most of the counties in western Oregon and Washington. It has been a huge problem in England, where it is one of the top 20 weeds, having overtaken large tracts of disturbed land 50 years after it was introduced from China. It is a terrible problem in New Zealand as well, especially in areas prone to frequent flooding.

"We want to know if there are types of Buddleia that can be grown safely without escaping and threatening the natural environment," said Altland.

In reviewing the scientific literature about the invasiveness of butterfly bush in the United Kingdom, the OSU researchers found that seed there requires a long time to develop and release from the plant. British researchers have discovered that flower heads from a previous summer do not release seed until dry weather occurs the following spring, said Altland. Practically applied, this means that if nurseries and home gardeners prune all the spent blossoms off their butterfly bushes in the fall, it is a way of controlling the release of seed from the plant.

Altland and Ream are conducting trials on five cultivars of butterfly bush commonly produced in Oregon to see exactly when seeds are released in the Willamette Valley, as seed releases may be slightly different from England. They also conducted research on the soils, and habitat of butterfly bush-infested sites to determine and describe what factors favor these infestations in Oregon.

So far, they have found butterfly bush infestations in a wide variety of sites, from floodplains to mountain slopes, said Altland. They found the densest infestations in burned sites in reforestation areas and in frequently disturbed floodplains and riparian areas. They found few escaped seedlings

from nurseries, as production nurseries often cut back plants at the end of the year to encourage branching.

Both OSU and ODA scientists are encouraging home gardeners to pay close attention to choosing butterfly bushes that are cultivated varieties, not the straight wild species *Buddleia davidii*. Only this species *Buddleia davidii*, not specially bred cultivars are subject to Oregon's noxious weed listing. It is most commonly seen growing wild along roadsides, in riparian areas and in forest openings.

Some cultivars have been found to produce much less seed than others. For example, a study at Longwood Gardens in southern Pennsylvania found large differences in the amount of viable seed produced by *B. davidii* varieties. For example, cultivars 'Summer Rose' and 'Orchid Beauty' produced 20 times fewer viable seeds than 'Potter's Purple' and 'Border Beauty'. The study also found that a single flower cluster of 'Potter's Purple' was found to produce more than 40,000 seeds. In the Longwood study, some *Buddleia* species and hybrids produced fewer viable seeds than *B. davidii* and likely have lower potential for escaping gardens and colonizing natural areas.

Altland would like to conduct similar studies in Oregon.

If you already have butterfly bush on your property or are planning on planting some soon, there are ways to keep it in control.

Don't let *Buddleia* go to seed. Deadhead, or clip off all flower heads in the fall. Do not wait until spring.

Do not leave the clippings on the ground, as they can easily take root and create a new plant. Dispose of plants by sending away in your yard debris pickup service, where it will be ground up and composted. Or burn the branches. Whatever you do, don't dump the clippings along a roadside or along a creek or river, as these are preferred habitats for escaped butterfly bush.

Watch your property for new seedlings. Dig up and get rid of any volunteer bushes. Don't give them away to friends.

Buddleia or *Buddleja* are both considered correct spellings of the Latin name of the genus of the butterfly bush, according to the gardeners' encyclopedia of ornamental plants called *Flora: A Gardeners Encyclopedia*, published by Timber Press. The genus has about 100 species in the wild. Most grown in our region are native to Asia. Others originate from South Africa. And some are from South America. Only a few species in the genus are domesticated and garden-grown in our region.

In addition to ODA's "B" noxious weed listing, *Buddleja davidii* appears on the "Most Invasive" species list of the Pacific Northwest Exotic Pest Plant Council and the Native Plant Societies of Oregon and Washington. The OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program no longer recommends it for butterfly gardens because of its invasiveness.





Washington County Chapter Chat

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with

OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

UPCOMING PROGRAMS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 4th Chapter Meeting: Kaaren Demorest

Gardens of the British Isles

Presentations are from 7-8 PM at the Capital Center, 18640 NW Walker Rd (185th & Walker Rd), Rm 1411. The public is welcome.

ANNUAL PICNIC Saturday -- July 12th 3:00 p.m.

Brats, Beer 'n Bluegrass

Remember to join us at the Miller's at 17745 SW Cooper Mountain Lane, Beaverton for our annual potluck picnic. Festivities include fun & games with prizes and awards. Great food will be provided by all. Brats, eating ware, bottled water, iced tea & some canned pop provided. Bring salads, casseroles, desserts & your own serving utensils labeled with your name. Music will be provided by the "New Old Friends" group. **Come have fun.**

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

Hosts may still be needed at the Fair Demonstration Gardens. The dates are July 24th – 27th.

Help is always welcome every Tuesday, 9-12 pm. Come visit the MG demo gardens during Fair hours and lend a helping hand. Contact Joanne DeHaan **503-649-1683**.

Chapter Positions Available

We still want a Newsletter Editor for "Real Dirt" and a Historian. Please contact Ken Keudell if you would like a job description. You can **Call Ken at 503-292-6519** or send him an email **keudellkennethk@msn.com**.

Calendar of Events

Chapter Garden Tour June 28th
Metro Floral Clinic July 5th
Annual Picnic July 12th
Metro Tour of Gardens July 13th
Master Gardener Mini-College July 23 – 26th
Washington County Fair July 24th – 27th

2008 Officers

President	Ken Keudell	503-292-6519
Vice President	Alan Strong	503-690-1882
Recording Secretary	Gini Lang	503-407-6422
Corresponding Secretary	Barbara Bixler	503-646-9627
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OMGA Rep	David Rullman	503-292-1603
Alternate Rep	Jerry Knott	503-292-1939
Dir.#1 Audit	Larry Schick	503-524-2494
Dir.#2 Program	Fred Dorr	503-645-1665
Dir.#3 Publicity	Sylvia Butler	503-246-8725
Dir.#4 Planning	Alan Strong	503-690-1882
Dir.#5 Chapter Relations	Anna Stubbs	503-643-9474
Editor:	Gini Lang	503-407-6422

June Golden Trowel Award

Bob Luck was awarded the Golden Trowel for his work on the Capital Center landscape project since 2001. Thank you Bob for your dedication.

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: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington/mg/mgchap/index.php>



Clackamas County Chatter



July/August 2008 A chapter newsletter for the Oregon Master Gardener Association in cooperation with OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

Surprise!

Summer Outing!

July Chapter Meeting Preview

Leach Botanical Garden
Monday, July 14, 4 – 7 p.m.

Master Gardeners and guests are invited to explore the Leach Botanical Garden on Monday, July 14, as part of Clackamas Chapter's summer outing. Although this garden is normally closed on Mondays, Executive Director Karen Young (MG class of 2008) will open their gates for an exclusive MG event. Between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., we will have the garden all to ourselves to explore fantastic plants and enjoy camaraderie.

Highlights of the evening include:

- Five acres of landscaped garden, with meandering paths for easy exploring;
- Special guided tours at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., each lasting 45 minutes;
- Special sale of rare plants propagated at Leach's greenhouse; and
- An assortment of food and drink, courtesy of Clackamas Chapter.

Don't miss the chance to explore this urban oasis while having fun learning about native and exotic plants. Leach is only 10 minutes from the I-84 and I-205 intersection, so it's a short drive for most. **Karen Young has offered the use of the upper parking lot for ample and convenient parking. Look for directional signs. Hope to see you there.**

Picnic Monday, August 11th, 6pm

Milwaukie Center Picnic Shelter
Please come join us as we thank all who worked the Spring Garden Fair and have helped the chapter by being on Chapter Committees. Bring *potluck food* to share and your plates, cups and utensils.

Note that the date listed in the directory of August 13, is incorrect.



Green Glove Award for June goes to **Sherry Sheng** for a terrific job on 10-Minute University, Soil Testing classes, Tomato Workshop, classes at the Oregon City Farmer's Market, and Program Committee leadership. WOW!

Thank you, **Sherry!**

Open Nursery Sales 6704 SE 122nd Ave Portland

Leach Botanical Garden is pleased to announce its third annual "Open Nursery" Sales this summer at the Garden. Visitors are invited to explore the nursery and purchase new and unusual treasures. We offer special plants from the Garden itself, recent horticultural introductions, old favorites and miscellaneous one-of-a-kind plants. Garden staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer your horticultural questions.

Open Nursery days will be every first & third Saturday of the month through September from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

For further information contact Scotty Fairchild, Head Gardener at 503-823-1671

Spring Garden Fair Vendor Events

Oregon Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Sale
July 12 8-8 and July 13, 8 – 7

Portland Nursery, 5050 SE Stark St.
For more information, contact James or Deborah 503-259-0580.

Cracked Pots Garden Art Show
July 22-23 1-8 p.m.

... the more glamorous side of recycling
Two days of recycled garden art at Mc Mennamin's Edgefield in Troutdale.
For more information, call 257-2042

Northwest Cactus and Succulents Open Nursery August 17 2 – 7

Our nursery will open to the public for tour. 6775 SW 201Ct, Aloha. Contact information is James and Deborah (503) 259-0580.



2008 Open Gardens

July 5	Sharon Nichols	10 – 3
July 12	Luscher Farm Garden	1 – 4
July 19	Bill Bradley	10 – 5
July 26	Cheryl Borden	12 – 4
July 26	Sherry Sheng	12 – 4
July 26	Susan Carley	12 – 4
July	Nancy Cutler Fridays	9 – 5
	10897 SW Merlin Ct., Wilsonville	
Aug 3	Holly Pederson	2 – 8
Aug 10	Madeline Forsyth	12 – 5

Clackamas County Chapter Officers

President **Bill Bradley** 503-624-8435
 Vice Pres. **Rick Mishaga** 503-557-4491
 Secretary **Cheryl Borden** 503-723-4257
 Treasurer **Kathy Long** 503-632-0131
 Asst. Treas. **Mary Butler**.....503-632-1532
 OMGA Reps **Denise Dwan** 503-632-3035
 OMGA alt. **Sherry Sheng**, 503-655-1822

Advisory Board

Rodger Sanman 503-659-3212
Dale Eggers 503-557-3152
Martha Waldemar 503-698-2519
Holly Pederson 503-701-5816

Newsletter

Websites:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas/homeHort/homeHort.php>
www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org



MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program
4742 SE 39th Ave. Portland, OR 97206

9 September, 2008 Chapter Meeting

Tabor Heights Methodist Church
SE 61st and Stark

6:45pm Gather

6:50 pm – Announcements

7:00pm – Oregon Tilth - "Organic Certification
Process"

No meetings in July and August.

Upcoming events:

**October 14 - Dr. Greta Binford, Assistant
Professor of Biology, Lewis & Clark College**
"The Diversity of Spiders Around the World and
Here at Home"

**Next Board Meeting – 2 September, 2008 - 6:30
pm at Jean Edmison's home – 7606 S.E. Ellis**

Garage Sale

We're planning a **garage sale** and we need your help to make it a success. The Multnomah County Chapter is holding a garage sale this summer as a fundraiser to replenish our slightly depleted treasury. The dates are August 8-10th. We are also hoping to have an earlier sale in the church parking lot. At this time, we ask that you start collecting all gently used items to contribute to our sale. It's your opportunity to do spring-cleaning and help our organization at the same time. Ask your relatives and neighbors for unused items. We're looking for donations of household, garage, and gardening items, plants, tools, toys, and anything else you have that is clean and working. **No clothes, please.** Watch for details soon! Co-chairmen are Bonnie Lynne and Alice Hull.

If you wish to sign up for the Farmer's Markets at PSU, Westmoreland, OHSU, or People's, contact Vicky Wilson 503-317-6259 or mycharmedviolet@yahoo.com

Silent Auction Items for Mini College

We have things for Mini College that will be great. Thank-you to everyone who made it possible for us to have nice things for the auction and door prizes.

The Leach Botanical Garden English Tea will be July 16 and 17. It's a relaxing time in a wonderful setting with good food. Price is \$25 per person.

Call Jean at 503-771-2486 for reservations. This is a major fundraiser for a hidden treasure of Portland.

Plant Sale with Fall Seminar

If you divide anything this summer, keep some for the plant sale. We are hoping for a number of gallon pots although any size plants will be appreciated. Maybe you could save seeds also? We are excited about the possibilities. Call Joyce Hemmerling with any questions. Also, if you don't have room in your yard, Joyce has volunteered her yard space.

Summer Picnic

There will be a picnic on August 5 at Carolyn Blackmore's house in Estacada. This outing will also include visits to a couple of nurseries on the way and potluck dinner at Carolyn's. Will meet at Tabor Heights Methodist Church at 2:00 and car pool to nurseries and Carolyn's home.

2007 Officers

President – Jean Edmison - 503-771-2486
Vice President – Sharon Baker - 503-284-5189
President Elect – vacant
Secretary – LindaRose Allaway – 503-255-5553
Treasurer – Claudia Groth - 503-235-0669
Past President – Patrick Adams - 503-287-9071
OMGA Rep. – Louise Kasper - 503- 282-4277
OMGA Rep. – Joyce Hemmerling - 503-331-0824
Historian – vacant
Grapevine – Lorna Schilling – 503-293-2445

July

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.

- Control hollyhock rust by sanitation, picking affected leaves, or spraying with a recommended and registered fungicide. Read and follow label directions.
- Early morning is the best time to water vegetable and flower gardens to reduce evaporation. Water deeply and infrequently.
- Hanging baskets of flowers or vegetable plantings need careful attention to watering and feeding during extended periods of hot weather.
- Watch for cutworm damage in garden. (In July, climbing cutworms become a problem and large portions of foliage will begin to disappear on established plants.) Use barriers, remove by hand, use beneficial nematodes when soil temperature is above 55°F, or spray with *Bt* according to label directions.
- Midsummer plantings of beets, bush beans, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, kale, and peas will provide fall and winter crops.
- Place traps to catch adult apple maggot flies. You can use pheromone traps to monitor presence of pests.
- July 10: spray filbert trees for filbertworm.
- July 10-15: spray peach and prune trees for root borers.
- July 17-23: third spray for codling moth in apple and pear trees.
- Cover blueberry bushes with netting to keep birds from eating all the crop.
- Stake tomatoes, watch for blight (prune for air circulation, pick off affected leaves, treat with approved fungicide).
- First planting of Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, rutabagas on Oregon coast.
- Monitor camellias, holly, maple trees for scale insects. Treat if necessary.
- Monitor rhododendrons for root weevil adults. Look for fresh evidence of feeding (notching). Try sticky trap products on plant trunks to trap adult weevils.
- Check leafy vegetables for caterpillars. Control with *Bt* or Sevin. Never use Sevin during bloom period or in the presence of bees.
- Mound soil up around base of potatoes, gather and eat a few "new" potatoes from each hill.
- Weed and fertilize rhubarb and asparagus beds, water deeply to develop crowns for next year. A mulch of compost or rotted cow manure works well.
- Mulch to conserve soil moisture with paper, plastic, sawdust, etc.
- Spider mites can become a problem on ornamental plants, vegetables, and fruit plants during hot, dry weather. Watch for dusty-looking foliage, loss of color, presence of tiny mites. Wash infested areas with water or spray with appropriate pesticides.
- Dig spring bulbs when tops have died down; divide and store or replant.
- If a green lawn is desired, make sure lawn areas are receiving adequate water. Deep watering less often is more effective than frequent shallow watering.
- Stake tall-growing flowering plants such as delphinium, hollyhocks, and lupine.
- Aerate lawns for more effective water and fertilizer usage.