

Metro Master Gardener Newsletter



OSU Extension Service Metro Master Gardener™ Program

Serving [Clackamas](#), [Multnomah](#), and [Washington](#) Counties in the Portland metro area since 1976.

Mission Statement

Our goal is to educate the public about plant-based solutions for social and environmental problems by providing relevant, research-based gardening education and outreach to the citizens of the Portland metro area.

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Dear Metro Master Gardeners



... So you're a 2008 Master Gardener trainee participating in your first phone clinic shift as part of the volunteer practicum. A veteran Master Gardener (MG) volunteer is also on your shift. They have shown you the resource binder, introduced you to key office staff, and described the general procedures of the office. The phone rings, the veteran MG answers, "Good morning, Master Gardener volunteer, how can I help you?" "Phew," you think to yourself, "that was close." You listen in on the conversation that the veteran is having with the client. You begin to relax a little bit and thumb through the [PNW Insect Management Handbook](#). Just as you're starting to understand how to use the book, the other telephone line rings. "Gulp." Your heart is racing and your palms are sweaty. You think to yourself, "I've only been at this Master Gardener thing for a couple of months. I don't know anything about garden pests. How am I going to help this person?" You take a deep breath and answer the phone, "Master Gardener volunteer."

I imagine that this scenario might be intimidating for new trainees as they think about the many ways to serve in the volunteer practicum. I want to assure both new trainees and veteran Master Gardeners alike that phone clinics and plant clinics need not be an overwhelming experience. There are many levels of support for all MGs in helping to answer the public's questions.

As with most fields of study, the body of knowledge in horticulture has expanded exponentially in the last 50 years or so. There is no way for any one person to know everything about everything in regard to growing and caring for plants. However, Master Gardeners are expected to answer questions about what seems to be everything under the sun (yes, pun intended). Fortunately, your first level of backup includes the many, many resources that are available to you in the phone clinics and in the resource boxes that go out into the community for remote plant clinics. If you take the time to get to know these resources, you will likely feel much more comfortable in your role as a gardening "expert."

Another level of support for Master Gardeners serving in clinic settings is our referral system. If you are at a farmers' market and are stumped by a question, then advise the client to call one of our hotlines where MGs have access to more resources. If you are at the phone clinic and are stumped by a question, then use the appropriate referral form (green, blue, or yellow sheets that are now standardized in each of the phone clinics) to pass the case on to the next shift.

The referral forms will then be addressed by subsequent shifts of MGs and our resident diagnostic aces will likely have a chance to investigate the issue. If MGs in the offices cannot come up with a tentative diagnosis, then the case is referred to me for further investigation. I am pretty handy with the resources and can often help to answer the question. But, if I am stumped by a specific question, I can consult with one of my colleagues who has expertise in a particular area and/or send the question to the Distance Diagnostic Clinic in Corvallis, where scientists with incredible experience and resources in plant problem diagnosis will address the issue.

Thus, as a Master Gardener in a plant clinic, you are supported by other Master Gardeners, Metro Master Gardener staff, and Oregon State University in answering consumer horticulture questions. So, you have no reason to worry. You are not expected to be an expert. You are expected to politely assist clients in finding answers to their questions about growing and caring for plants and household pests.

Here's one last suggestion for clinic-based volunteer activities: take your time. It is perfectly acceptable to call a client back after you have spent the time needed to wade through the many possible causes for various plant problems and household pest issues and come up with a tentative diagnosis and possible treatments. We would rather have you provide accurate information to a client by taking your time than an inaccurate answer because you felt pressured by the situation to come up with an answer on the spot.

In closing, I am excited that so many new Master Gardener trainees have signed up for both phone and remote clinic shifts. These activities can be intimidating, but if you maintain your composure, take your time, and enjoy the process of discovery, you will likely learn a lot about gardening . . . and yourself. Be well, Weston

OPPORTUNITIES FROM JORDIS

503-678-1264 x 147 or Jordis.Yost@oregonstate.edu



CLASS OF 2008

March brings the end of our training for 2008. Only 3 more classes and our new MGs are ready for their volunteer practicum. As each new class 'graduates' out of the classroom and into the volunteer activities, they go forward with a great new energy and a bit of anxiety.

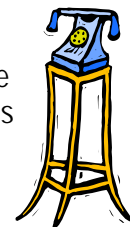


We always suggest that new trainees jump right in and don't wait too long to schedule their time. There are several reasons for this...one is that the classroom information is still fresh in your mind and second is that it gets more difficult to get your hours in if you delay in contacting the coordinators for your chosen activities.

Don't wait to be called because that may not happen. Be proactive and seek out activities that fit with your interests, location and personal schedule. You will also be having so much fun in the continuation of the learning process and working with other MGs that you will be surprised at how fast the time goes!

OPPORTUNITIES

Each month in this newsletter, I try to include some upcoming events or ideas for some volunteer activities. There is a long-standing invitation to pick up some volunteer time working on the two phone hotlines. For the Clackamas County Extension Office phones in Oregon City, contact **Linda O'Toole** at **503-659-5309**. For the Washington County Extension Office phones, contact **Heidi Nichols** at heidinichols@comcast.net or **503-774-6888**.



Be sure to check out the activities and speakers at the chapter meetings. The 2008 trainees are definitely invited to go to any (or all) of the meetings (as are the veterans) regardless of the county in which you actually reside.. We are a metro county program, so we are lucky to have THREE active and energetic chapters. Watch the chapter pages that appear later in this newsletter for more information.

RESOURCE FAIR

The new class heard from many event coordinators in February at the resource fair and had a nice introduction to some of the activities that are available for volunteering. There wasn't time or space to have all events represented, so be sure to watch for more opportunities in the newsletter, by email or at chapter meetings.



For veterans who weren't at the resource fair, I will be sending an announcement soon that the volunteer interest forms will be available on line. Check all the activities that you are interested in and mail copies to the program office. Watch for our new address at the Clackamas County Extension office starting in late April or May.

DATA ENTRY

The volunteer interest forms that are being returned from the new trainees and the veterans need to have all that data entered! This is done at the program office and I will try to squeeze it in before we tear things up and move our office. This data is essential for pairing MGs up with activities that interest them. I use this information to make lists for coordinators, generate email messages, and so on. If you want to help with this in-office task...let me know and I can work out the details with you. The data goes into a Microsoft Access program, but with instructions...anyone comfortable with a PC can do it! Call Jordis to get scheduled for some office time from March 31 to April ??.



2008 COORDINATOR LIST

This is a list of the coordinators for the 2008 volunteer season. There may be some events that you are interested in that don't have a coordinator name and number. This may be due to either not having a coordinator at the present time or the event isn't currently being considered.

Remember to check chapter pages in the newsletter and also your chapter roster for information on *their* activities.

➤ FARMERS' MARKETS



Beaverton - Barbara Watson
503-292-6515
Cedar Mill - George Vennes
503-645-2596
Hillsboro - Kim Culbertson 503-681-9469

Lake Oswego - Phyllis McCanna 503-638-6109
Kathy Whitman- kathywhitman@juno.com

Milwaukie (Sundays) Linda O'Toole 503-659-5309

Oregon City -
Janet Weber - 503-658-3403 weberjanet@hotmail.com

Sherwood - Suzy Wood 503-538-9947

Tigard (Sundays) Carole Watkins 503-639-0058

➤ OTHER CLINICS

Crystal Springs Rhodie Garden
Bev Watkins 503-244-0537
Mothers Day Show
Dan Beasley 503-246-2727
Jean Aalseth 503-771-2537

Trillium Festival and Fall Home and Garden Show
Cynthia Marshall 503-246-4715

Portland Nursery Events (June and October)
Susan Greco 503-287-9089

Raleigh Hills Fred Meyer
Carol Grasvik 503-246-3978

Rose Test Garden Clinic
Pat Troyer 503-257-8526



Rose Test Garden Tour Guide
Bill Bradley 503-624-8435

Clackamas Spring Fair (1st week-end in May)
Jane Collier 503-266-1191

Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
Jean Erickson 503-636-3967 bjeanerickson@msn.com

Oregon Zoo
Roger Williams 503-475-2709

➤ PHONES

Clackamas County Office -
Hotline # 503-655-8631
MG Schedule Coordinator - Linda
O'Toole **503-659-5309**

Washington County Office -
Hotline # 503-725-2300
MG Schedule Coordinator -
Heidi Nichols 503-774-6888
heidinichols@comcast.net



FAIRS

Clackamas County Fair (Aug 12-17)
Gerry Emerson 503-656-9726

Washington County Fair (July 24-27)
David Rullman 503-292-1603

Oregon State Fair (Aug 22-Sept 1)
Belinda Reagan 503-244-2200



➤ SHOWS OR TOURS

Metro 'Gardens of Natural Delights' Tour
Sabrina Gogol 503-797-1938 (Metro office)

Yard, Garden and Patio Show - Clinic
Sue Stevens 503-668-7853

➤ HANDS ON

1860's Heritage Kitchen Garden - Champoeg State Park
Marie VanPatten 503-678-1251 x223

Doernbecher - Kids Garden Activities
Nancy Nagel - 503-228-4897
Marilyn Adair - 503-246-7277

Pittock Mansion - Heather Kibbey 503-620-7239

Oregon Food Bank - Learning Garden / Wash. Co.
Leticia Yniguez 503-439-6510

➤ SPEAKER BUREAU

Clackamas County -Karen Davis 503-635-6072

Washington County - Kim Beaudet 503-697-8624



Natter's Notes

Soils – Drainage, Amendments, Mulch, & pH

Jean R. Natter



That sought after “moist but well-drained soil” you’ve heard about is attainable, even if you have what you consider to be “awful clay.” Such soil is moist enough for root growth but also has sufficient aeration that roots will thrive.

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

First, deeper soils drain better than do shallow soils.

The guideline for pore size is similar, in that larger pores (e.g.: sand or loam) drain better than do smaller ones (e.g.: clay).

Then, too, interface can complicate matters.

Recall that interface is where one texture changes to another, either from a fine texture to coarse, or the other way around. You might consider an interface similar to a barrier because it inhibits both root growth and the movement of water.

After you understand these principles, it becomes easier to explain to clients why the following guidelines are valuable:

- Don't add several inches of “good” soil on top of poorly drained soil. (Illustrates shallow depth, also interface.)
- Don't put coarse stuff in the bottom on the pot or planting hole. (Illustrates decreased depth, also interface.)
- Don't remove a lot of the clay soil, then fill the hole with “good” soil. (Illustrates shallow depth, interface, and also no drain hole.)
- Don't use garden soil to fill pots. (Illustrates small pore size combined with shallow depth and interface.)

That said, the following are excellent techniques to improve drainage: Use raised beds, with or without a rigid edge or border; install a berm; and/or install a drain line. With a berm, it's best to match the soil of the berm with the underlying soil. And, if you intend to install drain lines, it's wise to obtain professional assistance.

A soil amendment is something you mix into soil. And to be effective, a minimum amount is 25%, or 2 inches. The most commonly used physical amendment is compost, purchased or homemade. Other materials include composted manure and mushroom compost. Or one might grow, then mix into the soil, a cover crop (green manure). (See the MG Handbook, page 56, for a suggested list.)

If you're determined to add sand to your clay, mix in at least 30% by volume, but also mix in organic amendment. To avoid a mucky mess, it's important to follow this sequence: Mix in 2” compost, then 3” sand, then another 2” compost.

But when you mulch, you add something that will sit on the surface of the soil. Appropriate materials could again be compost, but might also be bark dust, rocks, and as is oft suggested for blueberries, sawdust.

Far too often you hear that bark dust or sawdust will “rob soil of nitrogen.” Well, not so when it's used as a mulch because the contact between soil and bark is minimal.

On the other hand, if you mix in that bark dust, sawdust, or not-yet-composted leaves, then yes, that “robbing” occurs. More correctly, the soil organisms which break down the raw organic material, need lots of nitrogen to grow and multiply. And, because they can acquire nitrogen more easily than can plant roots, the result is that plants will need supplemental nitrogen, at least on a temporary basis.

The Silver Bullet for every kind of soil is to mix in an organic amendment. At least 2 inches. The nastier the soil, the more compost you should mix in. Four inches is a good choice, but mix it in two inches at a time.

For seasonal beds, mix in more compost each year – at least two inches – before you plant. But maintain a two-inch deep mulch, perhaps of compost, for shrubs, trees and established perennial beds.

You may also have heard something about mixing a gravel called quarter-ten (1/4-10) into clay soil to improve drainage.

Yes, it does work. Do it this way: Rough dig the soil, mix in two inches of compost, then two inches of ¼-10, then two more inches of compost.

The gravel is a one-time addition but, as noted above in the no-gravel method, more compost should be mixed in each year for seasonal beds – at least two inches – and also maintain a two-inch deep mulch for perennials, shrubs, and trees.

pH affects availability of fertilizer elements and of toxic metals, also soil micro-organisms.

Hereabouts, the general suggestion is to apply lime every second or third year in order to maintain somewhat increase pH from the prevailing 5.5 to 5.8.

To obtain a rather dramatic increase in acidity, such as for blueberries, mix agricultural sulfur into the soil.

In most instances, folks can follow label recommendations for the amount of lime or sulfur to apply. But to fine tune the amount to your soil, you may want to obtain a professional soil test. That cost of about \$30 will be minimal compared to the guess-and-by-goshing methods you might use in an effort to fix it yourself.

I advise caution if you intend to use aluminum sulfate, the oft suggested remedy to turn hydrangea flowers blue. (To be truthful, I suggest you don't use it.) First, our soil is sufficiently acid to produce nicely blue hydrangeas, especially when you begin with a suitable cultivar. But the dark side of aluminum sulfate is that it can be toxic to plants. One person managed to kill a choice rhododendron by using the recommended dose.

Oh yes; I also need to add a few words about gypsum.

Gypsum won't improve drainage in local soils in spite of what the label says. That effect occurs only in clay soils which have an excess of sodium. Ours doesn't.

Further, gypsum doesn't acidify soil. Yes, I know it contains sulfate. But that's not what decreases pH. (Instead, it's the conversion in the soil of sulfur to sulfate which produces an acidifying effect.) Then, too, gypsum's pH is about 6.9 – inadequate to decrease the pH of any soil.

One of the bottom lines: Master Gardeners have the opportunity for many a “teachable moment,” a phrase coined by Extension Agent Emeritus Ray McNeilan to help MGs understand how important they are when they offer clients reliable, research-based, regionally appropriate information.

Another bottom line: Clay is a valuable soil. Work with it, and cherish it.

4/19 Master Gardener Continuing Education (Recertification)

Topics

- Soils in new development projects – Neil Bell
- Ecoroofs – Eric Shrolle (OSU graduate student)
- Diagnostic clinic Exercise – MGs
- Master Gardeners in Schools (break-out session) with Maureen Hostee (OSU Program Wildlife Stewards) and Weston Miller

Final Schedule will be published in the April Newsletter



2008 MG Marching Unit

"IT'S PAYBACK TIME!" For only one night each year the OSU Master Gardener Marching Unit and Drill Team (we carry shrub rakes) emerge from hibernation to strut their stuff through the streets of downtown Portland during the annual Starlight Parade. Entrants (OSU MG's only) come costumed as a favorite insect, plant or in your finest gardening togs. It's worth 6 hours of hilarious payback time, practice is on-site and carpooling is arranged. Hours are about 7 to 10 pm on Saturday May 31st, 2008. For questions or to sign up please contact Stephanie Scott at (503) 292-2198 (s.r.scott@comcast.net) or Bob Blaedel at (503) 658-7450 (machinewayback@hotmail.com).

PROGRAM OFFICE MOVE

Most Master Gardeners know that in 2003, the program office moved from southeast Portland to our present location at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora. It is a wonderful 160-acre research facility (farm) and we have had lots of room to have classes, meetings and even some research plots.

It is now time to make another change. The research mission of the 'farm' isn't a perfect fit for our active volunteer based program. We have been asked to find a new home...and the Extension Office in Clackamas County has stepped up and invited the Master Gardener Program to share space in the Oregon City office.

Weston and I will be moving the program office after the 2008 training classes are over, most likely the first part of April. During this move, we will have slightly less access to our files, computers and phones. This shouldn't affect the overall program, but may cause a few short delays in some communications.

After April 15th (approximately), our new program office address will be:

OSU Extension MG Program
200 Warner-Milne Rd
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-655-8631

We are really looking forward to being in an office environment with Master Gardeners again. It has been 5 years since I've heard MGs answering garden questions on the phones! Stop by and say 'Hi' if you're in the Oregon City area.



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR IN THE METRO AREA

March 3	Help with your garden and landscape animal pests – Chip Bubl, Milwaukie Center
March 6	Washington Chapter – Tim Fischer – Timber Press
March 10	Clackamas Chapter – Potluck for new graduates; Emma Elliot, Succulents For All Seasons
March 11	Multnomah Chapter – Rodney Bender – Growing Gardens
March 26	Metro Advisory Council, education subgroup 9AM – Noon at NWREC
March 29	Tomato Workshop – Clackamas Chapter, Milwaukie Center
April 3	Washington Chapter - Cynthia Haruyama, Executive Director on Hoyt Arboretum
April 5	Soil Testing by Clackamas Chapter – Milwaukie Center
April 12,13	Hardy Plant Society of Oregon (HPSO) Spring Plant Sale, EXPO Center
April 14	Clackamas Chapter – Chris Williams, Heirloom Roses, virus free roses
April 19	MG Continuing Education (Recertification) PCC Rock Creek Campus
April 26	Washington Chapter Plant Sale (see Chapter page for details)
May 3-4	Clackamas Chapter Spring Fair – Canby Fairgrounds
May 12	Clackamas Chapter – Linda McMahan, Yamhill Extension Agent, Every Plant Has a Story
June 20-22	Hardy Plant Society of Oregon (HPSO) Study Weekend (more info to follow)
July 23-26	MG Mini-College Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

SAVE THE DATE!

25th Annual Gardener's Mini-College "Going Green On Our Silver" Wednesday July 23-Saturday July 26, 2008 Oregon State University Campus, Corvallis Oregon

This outstanding conference is dedicated to improving the knowledge of Oregon Master Gardeners™ and other dedicated gardeners. "Going Green On Our Silver" honors the 25th anniversary of this event as well as sustainable gardening techniques promoted and utilized by Oregon Master Gardeners.

Thought-provoking sessions presented on diverse topics and in a range of formats:

- **Leadership Forum** will support life skills and develop the capacity of Oregon Master Gardeners to serve as officers and leaders in their local or statewide chapter.
- **Seminars**, on Gardening for Ecosystem Services, Pollination in the Home Garden, Gardening with Native Plants, Composting and more.
- **Tours and Workshops**, including the OSU Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture.

Conference Registration Rates

Postmarked by June 6, 2008
A 10% discount

Postmarked June 7th through July 7, 2008
Prices Same As in 2007!

Prices vary, see website or registration packet (available May 2008) for selections and procedures. Registration ends July 7, 2008

Visit the OSU Master Gardener™ website for updates and information on sponsorship opportunities.
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/>



Oregon State University Extension Service
Master Gardener™ Program



*Washington County
Plant Sale*



Saturday, April 26

8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Kinton Grange

19015 SW Scholls Ferry Rd

5 miles west of Washington Square

(see Washington County chapter page for details)

From The Hardy Plant Society

Breaking the Rules, the 2008 Study Weekend, will be in Eugene, Oregon, this year, June 20-22! There is a great line-up of speakers, including author and plantswoman **Helen Dillon** from Dublin, Ireland; plant collector and explorer **Bleddyn Wynn-Jones** of Crug Farm Plants in Wales; our own clematis expert extraordinaire, author **Linda Beutler**; botanist-designer-ecologist **Whitey Leuck** from U of O Department of Landscape Architecture; and well-known garden photographer **Allan Mandell**.

Special events include a pre-weekend **sit-down dinner at Gossler Farms**; 'Seeing', a series of sensory exercises which will redefine seeing in the garden, a **workshop with Allan Mandell**; **plant sales, garden art sales**; sales of **new and used books by J. Michael Books**; and over **20 open gardens**.

For more information, go to the Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group website, <http://www.thehardyplantgroup.org/studyweekend.html> Because the Olympic Field Trials and the Bach Festival begin the following week, accommodation will be tight. Housing is available at a number of hotels in the area with special rates guaranteed until March 31. More information about hotels holding space for Study Weekend participants is also available on the same webpage.

If you'd like to attend this special event, register early. It's sure to sell out quickly!



Pat Smith demonstrating ladder safety at the Clackamas Chapter pruning clinic

Japanese Knotweed

By Becky Lovejoy, MG – 2002

What grows faster than a speeding bullet, leaps tall buildings in a single bound, and is called 'Super-Weed' by weed-warriors? Meet Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), a perennial herb from the buckwheat family. It's classified as a noxious weed in OR, WA and CA, and is found in 39 states. The UK has a pronounced infestation of these vigorous plants which grow up through the tarmac, engulf cemeteries and empty lots, and can add 10% to construction costs where they've gone wild. Web photos show knotweed growing up through rain gutters and coming into open house windows — this has the makings of a horror movie!



Known as Mexican bamboo, wild rhubarb, crimson beauty, itadori, Japanese fleece-flower, elephant ears, or Hancock's curse, knotweed was introduced in England in the early 1800's and the U.S. by 1890 for animal feed, soil stabilization, and as an ornamental. Its growth was controlled in its native lands (Japan, Korea, Taiwan, N. China) by competing vigorous plants and insects such as root weevil. In the Pacific Northwest it grows unchallenged, although our cold, damp weather rots the seeds and limits reproduction to spreading by rhizomes and cuttings. Three kinds now flourish — Japanese, Bohemian and giant knotweed — as well as hybrids.

Japanese knotweed has reddish-brown bamboo-like hollow stems, arching branches up to 10-feet tall, heart-shaped leaves, and pretty cream- or greenish-white plumes of flowers. The fruit is 3-sided, black and shiny. In some areas, flowers are an important source of nectar for honeybees in late July and August when little else is flowering. Young stems are edible in spring and are rich in vitamin C with a tart rhubarb-like flavor.

www.wildmanstevebrill.com has recipes for ice cream, sherbet, soup and cobbler! Medicinally, it's used as a mild laxative and blood tonic, and in-vitro tests have shown anti-cancer, anti-viral and anti-inflammatory benefits.

Despite its beauty and health-giving properties, knotweed is one of the most extraordinary examples of an invasive plant due to its fast growth and adaptability. Plants can grow up to 10 feet in a single spring before dying back with the first frost. They spread by rhizomes or root/stem fragments as small as ½ inch, so they're easily distributed in contaminated fill dirt or along waterways, especially after flooding. Knotweed grows in soils ranging from river cobble to clay soils. It likes sun, it likes shade, and it even does well in salinity and drought! It crowds out native species, hinders movement of wildlife in thick stands, and clogs waterways and fish habitat with dead growth. In urban areas it grows up through streets and sidewalks, and costs for its removal are time-consuming and enormously expensive.

Knotweeds became recognized as severe threats to watersheds in the Pacific Northwest in 1999 and the Nature Conservancy is currently heading a successful eradication effort in the Sandy River Delta. Plants are repeatedly sprayed/injected with glyphosate or dug out. The same methods work in urban areas where smaller patches can be cut back and covered with plastic. Be ready to cut back new growth every couple of weeks from April until August, and then once a month until the first frost. Dispose of root fragments carefully because small bits can sprout. Inspect the area for re-growth over the next 2-3 years and re-plant with moisture-loving non-invasive natives like *Douglas spirea*. For more information, see: <http://www.4countycwma.org>, www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu, <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/Weeds/knotweed.htm>, www.japaneseknotweed.co.uk.

Extension Service District Discussions Moving Forward

by Mike Bondi, Extension Agent and Staff Chair; OSU Extension office—Clackamas County



A special district to fund the Extension Service in Clackamas County has been proposed by the County Commissioners. Such a district and its accompanying permanent tax base funding structure would replace the county's general fund support for Extension and provide a long-term and stable budget for programs and activities in the county.

Starting this past September, discussions about the proposed county-wide special district began with city governments to seek their consideration of a resolution that would include their city areas within an Extension special district boundary—and, thereby, allow the voters within these cities an opportunity to express their opinions at the ballot box. Clackamas County is home to 17 incorporated cities. The Clackamas County Commissioners have instructed Extension to complete the city visits and have responses from City Councils by the end of February.

By mid-February, 13 cities have approved resolutions supporting the proposed Extension special district. In every city, except one, the City Council votes have been unanimous. Although an on-going challenge is trying to describe what Extension is and what we do in the community, many (if not most we've talked to on the city councils) are quick to acknowledge that they know of or have heard of our 4-H program and the Master Gardener program. Clearly, there is support in the community for these Extension outreach programs.

It is hoped that the remaining cities will be voting on their resolutions by the first week of March. The results of the city resolution process will go to the Clackamas County Commissioners for their convening of public hearings before determining if they will officially form a special district for Extension.

For more information, contact Mike Bondi at 503-557-5524.

Summer Position in Rare Plant Conservation in the Pacific Northwest

DESCRIPTION: This 10-week internship provides experience to people who are interested in rare plant conservation and have completed at least one year of college coursework, including relevant science classes. Interns work with the conservation staff on a variety of projects involving Pacific Northwest native plants, with a focus on rare plants. 2008 field work includes seed collection, research on possible impacts of grazing on a rare plant, and one or more rare plant reintroductions. Laboratory work includes germination trials and the many tasks required for running our Seed Bank for Rare and Endangered Plants. This position will also include computer data entry and other documentation, and greenhouse work. This position requires the ability to work outdoors on some days, sometimes in difficult weather or in remote areas. Conservation interns and staff work long days when field research or seed collection are performed and when travel is required to get to the research site. Visit our website, www.berrybot.org, for more information on 2008 projects.

The start date is flexible (typically between June and September) and is determined by Berry Garden staff and the intern. Priority will be given to current life science undergraduate students, recent college graduates and individuals considering a career change into the field of conservation biology.

The conservation intern receives a stipend of approximately \$2,800. Housing and transportation to and from work are the responsibilities of the intern. Transportation to field sites and lodging for overnight stays are

provided by The Berry Botanic Garden.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

To apply, please send us the following items:

- 1) 2008 internship application completed with your information (download a Word or text file from the blue sidebar on our website in the Internship section: <http://www.berrybot.org/administration/internships.html>),
 - 2) your resume,
 - 3) a cover letter stating your interest in an internship at The Berry Botanic Garden,
 - 4) contact information for two references and
 - 5) official copies of your transcript(s) (please send through standard mail).
- Non-U.S. residents must also include a copy of their work visa or an application for a work visa.

Send your application materials via email, standard post or fax. If sending your materials electronically, send them as an attachment in either Word format or plain text format. Please label attachments with your name or initials (do not label your file generically as "resume.doc," for instance). Send application materials to Andrea Raven at andrea.raven@berrybot.org.

If sending them via standard mail, please mail materials to "The Berry Botanic Garden, Attn: Andrea Raven, 11505 SW Summerville Avenue, Portland, OR 97219" and write "Internship application" on the envelope.

If sending them via fax, please write "Internship application, Attn: Andrea Raven" on the cover sheet. FAX: 503-636-7496.

Applications must be received by March 1, 2008.

Contact Andrea Raven with questions. andrea.raven@berrybot.org or 503-636-4112 ext. 104

Volunteers across the Nation to Track Climate Clues in Spring Flowers

Starting this week, citizen-scientist volunteers will be able to help track climate change by observing and recording the timing of flowers and foliage.

Project BudBurst, operated by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) and a team of partners including the U.S. Geological Survey's USA National Phenology Network, allows U.S. students, gardeners, and other citizens to enter their observations into an online database that, over time, will give researchers a more detailed picture of global climate change.

The project, which will be launched on Feb. 15, will operate year-round so that early- and late-blooming species in different parts of the country can be monitored throughout their life cycles. Project BudBurst (<http://www.budburst.org>) builds on a pilot program carried out last spring, when a thousand participants recorded the timing of the leafing and flowering of hundreds of plant species in 26 states.

The Chicago Botanic Garden, University of Montana, and the USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) are collaborators on Project BudBurst, which was funded in part with a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The project is also supported by the National Science Foundation and Windows to the Universe (<http://www.windows.ucar.edu/>), a UCAR-based Web site that will host the project online as part of its citizen science efforts.

“Climate change may be affecting our backyards and communities in ways that we don’t even notice,” says project coordinator Sandra Henderson of UCAR’s Office of Education and Outreach. “Project BudBurst is designed to help both adults and children understand the changing relationship among climate, seasons, and plants, while giving the participants the tools to communicate their observations to others. Based on the success of last year’s pilot program, this project is capturing the public’s imagination in a way we never expected.”

Project Budburst is one of the citizen-science partnerships of the newly created USA-NPN (www.usanpn.org), which is managed by the U.S. Geological Survey, and includes partners such as the National Science Foundation, the University of Arizona, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many other agencies. The goal of the USA-NPN is to engage governmental agencies, environmental networks and field stations, educational institutions, and mass participation by citizen scientists in collecting phenological information on plants and animals.

Phenology is the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal and interannual variations in climate, said Dr. Jake Weltzin, executive director of the USA-NPN. Examples of phenological events include the timing of leafing and flowering, agricultural crop stages, insect emergence, and animal migration.

“By observing these cycles through time, researchers can better understand and predict global climate change, and monitor drought conditions, wildfire risk, invasive species, and the spread of infectious diseases,” said Weltzin. “In the long-term -- and with enough data -- such information can help us better understand, mitigate and adapt to ongoing and future climate change.”

The USA-NPN will begin enlisting the help of working professional scientists and training citizen volunteers for more intensive plant-phenology monitoring later this spring. In addition, Weltzin said USA-NPN is closely collaborating with other already-existing networks – such as Project Budburst – to maximize the data collected.

How Project Budburst Works

As described on the Project BudBurst webpage, each participant selects one or more plants to observe. Participants begin checking their plants at least a week before the average date of budburst -- the point when the buds have opened and leaves are visible. After budburst, participants continue to observe the tree or flower for later events, such as the first leaf, first flower and, eventually, seed dispersal. When participants submit their records online, they can view maps of these phenological events across the United States.

Along with the partners noted above, Project BudBurst collaborators include the Plant Conservation Alliance and the universities of Arizona; California, Santa Barbara; Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and Wisconsin-Madison.

USGS provides science for a changing world. For more information visit www.usgs.gov.

Gail Langellotto
Urban and Community Horticulture Specialist
Statewide Coordinator, OSU Master Gardener Program
Department of Horticulture
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Cell: 541-602-5175

Bob Nelson demonstrating how to prune an Asian pear at the Clackamas pruning clinic



Haggen Planting Days!

March 15th & 29th & April 19th & 26th

Event Hours are from 10 – 4

Master Gardener Education Pay Back Opportunity!

Shifts 9:30 to 1:30 or 1 to 5

*You are welcome to help for the whole 10 – 4,
but I would like to ask you to commit to one or the other, (or both).*

Please help by volunteering your time to plant and create beautiful planters for our guests. It is fun for all and some Guests will turn your talents loose to create spectacular planters!

They will bring in their empty planters and pick out new plants, with your help and advice. Then you will be planting them up for them with the supplied Black Gold Premium Soil, showing them proper techniques. Four stores are requesting your help, cookies, coffee and lunch too! Choose the store that is most convenient for you and contact that stores Garden Manager. They are all anxious to hear from you.

Please ask to be put through to the Manager's extension to leave a message with your info.

Thank you!

Tualatin Haggen, Contact Susan Chamberlain

503-612-8400 Ext 6154

Murray Hill Haggen, Contact Janet Smith

503-521-5800 Ext 3154

Tanasbourne Haggen, Contact Tim Pennel

503-690-5900 Ext 5954

Oregon City Haggen, Contact Marsha Thanem

503-451-7900 Ext 7954

Help with Your Garden and Landscape Animal Pests

Moles, voles, raccoons and deer can all be a nuisance when they're in your garden or home landscape. Ever wonder what attracts these critters to your yard or garden? And, once you have them, how can you control their damage?



These are all questions to be answered at a free special public education program to be held on Monday, March 3 at the Milwaukie Center, located at the North Clackamas Park, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie. The 1 ½ hour presentation will begin at 7:00pm.

This program is sponsored by OSU's Master Gardeners in Clackamas County. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers of the Oregon State University Extension Service and work throughout the county helping citizens with garden and landscape questions. The Clackamas County Master Gardeners staff a walk-in clinic held Mondays through Thursdays at the OSU Extension office at 200 Warner Milne Road in Oregon City.

The instructor for this special Master Gardener program will be Chip Bubl, Columbia County Extension Agent. Chip has been working with agriculture, small farms and home, yard and garden questions for more than 25 years. For more information, contact the Clackamas County Master Gardener Chapter President, Bill Bradley, at 503-624-8435 or apswlb3@comcast.net.

The Clackamas County Chapter will hold its spring Soil Testing Clinic on Saturday, April 5, from 10 AM to noon at the Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive in Milwaukie. This event is open to all Master Gardeners as well as the general public, and is free to all.

There will be a "10 Minute University" class to enlighten and inspire those waiting for soil testing results. You may bring in several samples from different areas of your garden. A properly adjusted soil pH is crucial to a beautiful garden.

For information on taking a soil sample, please go to our website, www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org.

Spring Garden Fair 2008



May 3 and 4, 2008

Clackamas County Fairgrounds

The Clackamas County Master Gardeners again are holding the exciting, fun and educational Spring Garden Fair, May 3 and 4, 2008 on the Clackamas County [Fairgrounds in Canby](#), Oregon. If you are a vendor and want information please [email us](#). For your reference we have posted [last years vendor map](#) so that you can see what a variety we have.

Vendors

We had last year over 170 vendors selling hanging baskets, annuals, perennials, bedding plants, herbs, shrubs, trees, garden art and almost anything else garden related you can think of.

10-Minute University

Back again will be short educational classes called "10-Minute University" where classes are short but filled with great gardening information. It will allow you time to take a break from shopping and learn how to care for you purchases.

Class Schedule

	Saturday May 3, 2008			Sunday May 4, 2008
11:00	Pruning Basics		11:00	Pruning Basics
11:30	Container Planting		11:30	Container Planting
12:00	Hanging Baskets		12:00	Hanging Baskets

12:30	Vegetable Sampler		12:30	Vegetable Sampler
1:00	Annuals and Perennials		1:00	Annuals and Perennials
1:30	Planting Tips		1:30	Planting Tips
2:00	Herbs		2:00	Herbs
2:30	Pruning Basics		2:30	Hanging Baskets
3:00	Hanging Baskets		3:00	Vegetable Sampler
3:30	Vegetable Sampler		None	None

Food and Refreshments

We will be offering even more food options for 2008. We have invited a vendor to sell food outdoors near the 4-H Building. Together we will have pizza, hamburgers, subs, sweets, lattes, coffee, soft drinks and more.

Master Gardener Clinic's

The Master Gardeners will have two places available to you for your gardening questions. One will be in the 4-H Building and the other outside near the food tent in the vendor sales area. Bring you questions, samples of problem or your insect for identification.

Soil pH Testing

We will test soil samples taken from your garden for proper pH and make recommendations how to correct low or high pH. Please bring to us in a plastic baggie about 1/4 cup of soil. Mark each bag where in the garden it was collected. You may bring us several samples from various places in the garden. Please click on this to go to an [OSU web site about how to take soil samples](#).

New! ... The Potting Station

New this year is another Master Gardener innovation, "**The Potting Station**", designed to allow you to leave the potting mess at the fair. Located near Plant Raffle and New Plant Introductions on the blacktop, we'll feature containers filled with potting soil available for sale and ready for planting your new purchases. If you choose we'll help you create containers for your deck or garden.

New Plant Introductions

Last year we tried something new and what a success it was. We will have **New Plant Introductions** again located very near "Plant Raffle" and they will be up for bid at our auction. These plants have not yet been in the nursery so you will want to be one of the first to have them.

Plant Raffle

If you take a chance a buy raffle tickets for the "Plant Raffle" you have a most excellent chance of winning a very nice plant that was donated by one of our many vendors.

Plant Check

In order for you to more fully enjoy your stay with us we will again be offering a free plant check with drive-up pickup.

Sunday Discount Coupon Click this link and you will find a [coupon good for \\$1](#) off the regular single admission of \$3 on Sunday May, 4, 2008.



Clackamas County Chatter



March 2008

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

March Chapter Meeting

Monday, March 10

Milwaukie Center 7:00 p.m.

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie

Succulents for All Seasons

by Emma Elliot, Wild Ginger Farm, Beavercreek

Most gardeners know that succulents are easy to grow, but few are well versed in using succulents to spice up the garden every season of the year. Emma Elliott is the co-owner of Wild Ginger Farm, a nursery that specializes in growing alpine plants, dry-land plants, and many succulents. She will share her favorites, discuss how to incorporate them in the landscape, and provide the recipe for growing media that will sustain these treasures over time.

Wild Ginger Farm is located in Beavercreek, where Emma and her husband Truls Jensen select and propagate plants on five acres.

New MG Welcome! Pot Luck

Master Gardener trainees will join the March meeting for a Welcome! Pot Luck at 6:00. Veteran MGs, please bring a dish to serve 10-12 people. EVERYONE, please bring own utensils. Napkins and drinks will be provided.

April Preview

Hardy roses for the Northwest

By Chris Williams, Heirloom Roses

After years of searching the world for worthy roses, Heirloom Roses propagates and sells rose worldwide. Come learn how to deter deer, grow roses at high altitudes, and much more!

February Speaker Review

Weston Miller, OSU Consumer Horticulture Agent, shared sage advice about water conservation – something we all want to do to help the environment and lower our water bills! His emphasis was on choosing the right plants from similar climates world wide, adding them to the landscape with other plants of like water needs, and watering them conservatively with drip irrigation. In addition to Oregon natives, plants from similar latitudes in North and South America, Africa, Australia, and the Mediterranean will all do well in the Willamette Valley.

Weston also discussed and showed several photos of rooftop gardens, bioswales, and water gardens.



Green Glove Award goes to **Marianne Kahl** in appreciation for many years of chapter support.

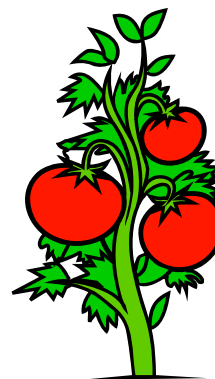
Marianne most recently volunteered to chair the Potting Station at Spring Garden Fair – a great opportunity to try out those new gloves!

Web Site

Be sure to take a tour around the Clackamas County Master Gardener web site at the link below. You'll find Meeting Information; Events Calendar; links to the Clackamas Office, Metro MG Program, OSU MG Program; and much more!

Thanks to Rodger Sanman for keeping our site up to date!

<http://www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org/>



Tomato Workshop

Saturday, March 29, 10 – noon
Milwaukie Center

Learn growing techniques, heirloom varieties, and make and take a tomato cage (about 5' tall and

over 2' diameter) at this popular free workshop. Space is limited to 32 people and additional cages can be purchased for a \$5 material fee. Those wishing to register in person may do so at the chapter meeting on March 10 or the MG training in Oregon City on March 14. You may also mail contact information (name, phone number, email) to Sherry Sheng. See chapter handbook for Sherry's mailing address. Questions? email Sherry at ysherrys1@peoplepc.com or call 503-655-1822.

2008 Open Gardens

Sign up for 2008 Open Gardens will be available at the March meeting. Anyone who wishes to host an open garden may also contact Carol Zinsli at 503-694-6181 or email her at zinsli31550@comcast.net. The schedule for this year's open gardens is posted on the chapter web site under Chapter Events.

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.	OPEN	
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
Newsletter	Holly Pederson	503-701-5816

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



Washington County Chapter Chat

Oregon Master Gardener™ Association in cooperation with

OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

UPCOMING PROGRAMS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 6th

Tom Fischer, Editor-in-Chief at Timber Press, will talk about Timber Press and gardening books. 7:00 PM at the CAPITAL Center, 18640 NW Walker Rd (185th & Walker Rd), room 1411. The public is welcome.

April 3rd Chapter Meeting: Cynthia Haruyama, Executive Director on Hoyt Arboretum

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

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

Has your address, phone number or email changed lately? Notify Database Manager **Cathy Mankus** at 503-705-8795 or e-mail cathy@cathymankus.com

SPECIAL POSITIONS OPEN

Volunteer Chairs are needed for these special positions in 2008: Historian, Metro Tour, Phone Tree, Mentor, Parliamentarian, The Real Dirt, The Gardener's Pen. Request a 'job description' from Ken Keudell.

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

We need more involved members. Do you have time and expertise that you can contribute to our Chapter activities and projects? Please give this request consideration and call or e-mail me or any Board member with questions, comments, and commitments. Ken Keudell at 503-292-6519 or e-mail keudellkennethk@msn.com.

KINTON GRANGE PLANT SALE APRIL 26

Your donations = our success ! First week of April is the cutoff time for dividing your perennials for our Chapter's major fundraising event. We need good quality, gallon size perennials in categories such as: spring & summer blooming, waterwise (new offering), shade, bog, natives, ferns, and butterfly/ hummingbird attracters. Please bring your plants to the March or April Chapter meetings. Questions ? call **Jane Miller 503-590-3598** or **Cindy Muir 503-245-3922**.

If you cannot donate plants, you can participate in our fundraiser by donating NEW items or \$\$'s to purchase items for our "customer enticing" raffle drawings at the sale. We can use garden gloves, tools, ceramic pots, potting soil, yard art etc. Cash & items will be collected at the March & April Chapter meetings. Details? Call **Barbara Knopp** at 503-641-0429 or e-mail barbknopp@comcast.net.

Most perennials are \$3/gal. Also offering small shrubs, ferns, natives, bare-root trees, \$1-a-pot table, yard art and great raffle items. Come visit us 5 miles west of Washington Square at Kinton Grange, 19015 SW Scholls Ferry Road Saturday, April 26th from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

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
Treasurer	Rachel Arjavac	971-219-9777
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

To Submit Chapter Chat Announcements contact **Gini Lang**, Chapter Chat editor, by the 11th of the 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>



MULTNOMAH CHAPTER GRAPEVINE

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

11 March, 2007 Chapter Meeting

Tabor Heights Methodist Church
SE 61st and Stark

6:30 Gather

6:50 pm – Announcements

7:00pm – Rodney Bender – Growing Gardens –
Garden Program Manager

Coming Attractions

**Board Meeting – 4 March - 6:30 pm at Jean
Edmison's home – 7606 S.E. Ellis**

During the April Board Meeting – 1 April – We will have a facilitated discussion of where the Chapter is going and how we want to get there. Everyone is welcome to come be a part of this.

At the February chapter meeting, we did some great brainstorming about fundraising ideas. If you have more ideas or want to comment, you may contact Jean 503-771-2486 or email: HouseJEM@aol.com. We are hoping to get reusable shopping bags printed with the logo and available for sale at the Clackamas County Spring Fair.

Multnomah County Chapter has been given a booth at the **Clackamas County Spring Fair** the first week in May. We will be doing something that is an activity for children. Stay tuned for more info and how to sign up to work.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT by Jean Edmison – Part 2

- Attendance at a chapter meeting gains you one hour of support time toward your volunteer practicum.
- Some chapter activities are fundraisers such as the bus to the Seattle flower show and the fall seminar. As a member, you get first knowledge of these events, thus the first chance to participate.
- The chapter gives three scholarships to OMGA's mini-college currently held in the summer at OSU. All members are eligible. No financial report is needed. Eligibility is based on completion of program hours,

participation in chapter activities, and membership in the chapter of one or more years.

- Hours toward your volunteer practicum commitment are earned when you participate in the planning or execution of a chapter activity. An example: as a member of the hospitality committee, you earn an hour of support credit because you arrive early to help with room set-up and stay after the meetings to do room clean up. (A personal aside: this is my favorite committee. You get to meet and greet all the people who come to the meeting and it's a great opportunity to connect names and faces.)

Your chapter membership also enrolls you in the Oregon Master Gardeners Association (OMGA). This is the organization of all OSU Master Gardeners chapters in the state. Statewide meetings are held quarterly where representatives from all chapters share concerns, wins, and losses. Currently, a committee is forming to work on the tax of developing continuing education modules for Master Gardeners. (If you are interested in working on this committee, contact me.) Our chapter will host the state meeting on June 7. Louise Kasper and Joyce Hemmerling, our OMGA reps will need your help. You will receive the OMGA newsletter "The Gardener's Pen" with news of chapter activities throughout the state.

Directories are out. Come to the meeting to get one.

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

Gardening information online—<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening>
Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

MARCH 2008

- *Western Oregon:* If soil is dry enough, begin vegetable garden soil preparation and plant cool season crops (peas, lettuce, cabbage, onions, kale, chard).
- Divide hosta, daylilies, and mums.
- Plan and plant an edible landscape or flower bed.
- If you lack in-ground gardening space, plan a container garden: grow radishes, carrots, lettuce, and tomatoes during the warm season.
- Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Do not treat unless a problem is identified.
- If necessary, treat crowns of raspberry plants with registered insecticides to control raspberry cane borer.
- *Western Oregon:* Plant berry crops (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, and other berry-producing crop plants). See OSU Extension publications for varieties.
- *Western Oregon:* Fertilize caneberries (broadcast or band a complete fertilizer or manure).
- Prune gooseberries and currants; fertilize with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Spray trees and shrubs for webworms and leafrollers, if present.
- *Western Oregon:* Take geraniums, begonias, and fuchsias from storage. Water and fertilize. Cut back if necessary. Move outdoors next month.
- Fertilize rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas with acid-type fertilizer.
- Spray to control leaf and twig fungus diseases in sycamore, hawthorn, and willow trees.
- Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
- Treat lawns for European crane fly if damage has been confirmed.
- Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.
- *Western Oregon:* Best time of year to thatch and renovate lawns.
- Plan the vegetable garden carefully for spring, summer, and fall vegetables that can be eaten fresh or preserved.
- Learn to identify the predatory insects that can help to keep aphids and other pests under control.
- Protect new plant growth from slugs. Use bait or traps.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blossoms fade.
- Trim or shear heather when bloom period is finished.
- Start tuberous begonias indoors.
- Plant insectary plants to attract beneficial insects to the garden.
- Do not compost grass clippings from lawns where weed-and-feed products or herbicides have been used.

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.