



Garden Beet

Newsletter of the Jackson County Master Gardener™ Association • January 2011

Seed Picking Tips for Picky Seed Pickers

This is the seed catalog season. If it hasn't happened already, these beautifully illustrated sources of seed information will soon begin pouring into our mailboxes tempting us to buy. It seems like a good time to revisit the GMO (genetically modified organism) controversy before orders are placed.

To maintain some semblance of balance, it must first be stated that the official position of Oregon State University is that, at the present time, there is no scientific proof that seeds that contain GMO's are unhealthy or harmful to the environment. The Master Gardener Association is committed to dispersing only science-based information. So, be aware that this article contains some facts and some opinions but does not, in any way represent the opinion of OSU, OMGA, or JCMGA. It is being written by and for those who are unwilling to wait for the scientific proof and would rather be safe than sorry.

FACT: A genetically modified organism (GMO) or genetically engineered organism (GEO) is an organism whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques. These techniques, generally known as recombinant DNA technology, use DNA molecules from different sources, which are combined into one molecule to create a new set of genes. This DNA is then transferred into an organism, giving it modified or novel genes.

FACT: The Monsanto Company is a U.S.-based multinational agricultural biotechnology corporation. It is the world's leading producer of the herbicide glyphosate, marketed as "Roundup". Monsanto is also the leading producer of genetically engineered (GE) seed; it sells 90% of the US's GE seeds.

FACT: At the present time, GMO products do not have to be labeled as such. There are only two ways to be certain you are not buying GMO products: grow your own or find a local farmer and get to know their seed buying practices.

FACT: Most seeds sold to home gardeners are GMO-free. GMO seeds are created and intended for use by commercial growers.

FACT: Many seed companies buy their seeds from Monsanto. Since the seeds don't have to be labeled as GMO, many non-GMO seed companies have chosen to sign The Safe Seed Pledge, which states that they will "not knowingly buy or sell genetically engineered seeds or plants." For a list of companies that have signed this pledge and a list of those that have not, go to <http://www.garden-of-eatin.com/?s=Safe+Seed+Pledge&submit.x=28&submit.y=10>.

FACT/OPINION: Some seed companies have their regular line of seeds but also have an organic line and/or an heirloom line which, by definition, should be GMO-free.

FACT/OPINION: There is no testing being done on the effects of GMO's on humans or the environment. In her book, *Organic Manifesto*, Maria Rodale states, "The only safety testing on humans or animals for GMO's is happening right now, on you, your kids, and on farm animals around the world. Early results are showing everything from digestive failure to kidney and liver failure and accelerated aging.

FACT/OPINION: Corn, soy, and cotton are the main crops currently affected by GMO's. Maria Rodale suggests the following ways to avoid GMO's:

1. Buy USDA-certified organic food. It is currently the only official way you can avoid GMO's, since GMO's are not allowed to be used according to USDA organic regulations.

2. Avoid all nonorganic soy products. That means things like nonorganic veggie burgers, tofu, tempeh, edamame, and miso products.

3. Don't buy anything that claims to be "non-dairy" that isn't organic. Soy is used to create everything from Cool Whip to Coffee-Mate...in addition to the obvious non-dairy soy treats in your health-food store freezer. (Yup, they are filled with GMO's, too.)

4. Don't buy or eat anything with corn in it that isn't organic. That means corn chips, cereals with corn (or soy, for that matter), or even corn bread!

5. At all costs, eliminate high-fructose corn syrup (a.k.a. "corn sugar") from your diet. It is just an excuse for chemical companies to convince farmers they can keep growing GMO corn.

6. Avoid biofuels and ethanol. No one seems to care if corn is poisoned if it's just going to drive our cars.

7. Don't buy any meat, fish, poultry, or eggs unless they're certified organic or from a farmer you completely trust. TIP: Ask farmers what they feed their animals when they aren't eating grass. If a farmer feeds her animals nonorganic food, it is most certainly filled with GMO's. Those GMO's are definitely harming the animals, and they are probably harming you...we won't know for sure until we all find out together, since we are all guinea pigs in this giant experiment.

8. Buy certified-organic cotton clothing, bedding, and towels. Again, it's the only way to be certain that you are not supporting GMO's. Even though you don't eat cotton (although cottonseed oil is a part of many processed foods, so technically, you may be eating it), you are still supporting a toxic, dangerous farming system.

9. Read! This GMO arena is constantly changing as the industry tries to sneak around consumers and farmers. Be vigilant, keep an eye out, and read whatever you can to try to stay informed.

10. TAKE ACTION! Ultimately, the only thing that can stop the GMO invasion is you. All of you. Write letters. Send petitions. Speak up. Demand change and demand organic!!!!

To see a snappy little 3-minute video that nicely wraps this all up, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnN6FFjZBZQ>.

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OSU Advisor's Report

Recertification has long been a topic of confusion, both for me and for many Master Gardeners, and we've been inconsistent between counties around the state. I'm instituting some changes in recertification requirements for the coming year in the hopes that it will be more understandable and consistent.

Once an individual has completed Master Gardener training, he or she is certified as an OSU Extension Master Gardener. This certification is good for one year following graduation. Master Gardeners must then recertify annually to remain a certified Master Gardener. For instance, Master Gardeners graduating in 2010 are certified through 2011, but must complete recertification requirements during 2011 to become recertified for 2012.

Recertification is defined as: Completing educational training to further/enhance the individual's skills in the areas of community horticulture deemed important to the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program.

Why do we require recertification? As time goes by, we all forget details of diagnosis and appropriate advice. Also, information changes rapidly as new research results and products or appropriate cultural treatments become available. The goal is to keep Master Gardeners updated and available to provide high quality and up-to-date advice to the public.

Master Gardeners must be certified or recertified in order to work in a plant clinic. You can continue as a member of the Master Gardener Association and participate in all other Master Gardener activities without recertification. And, if you wish to work in the plant clinic for your personal development, you can do so as long as a certified Master Gardener is present.

To maintain a high standard in the Oregon Master Gardener Program, it is important to have some degree of uniformity for recertification requirements, while providing the flexibility needed within individual counties to meet local needs. The following are the requirements for recertification in both Jackson and Josephine Counties.

Donating a minimum of ten (10) hours of volunteer service, and

Completing six (6) or more hours of

continuing education through:

Auditing class sessions during the annual Master Gardener training program.

Participation in any approved classes during the annual Master Gardener's Mini-College (In Newport in 2011, July 13-16).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

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Jackson County OSU Home Horticulture Agent

Master Gardener 2005

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All information provided by the *Garden Beet* is believed to be accurate. Readers must assume all responsibility for their own actions based on this information. Occasionally a product or company may be named in an article but this does not constitute an endorsement of said product by JCMGA.

Ed Hume's Favorite Gardening Books

Best Encyclopedia

[Sunset Western Garden Book](#) - An outstanding garden reference book. One of the best 'Garden Encyclopedia' type books available today. Although the information is written for the West, it is general enough to be used throughout North America. Two outstanding sections are 'A Guide to Plant Selection' which outlines special situations; effects and basic landscape plant recommendations; and the 'Plant-List' section which is a detailed plant encyclopedia. It is so well done it is used by many professional organizations as a textbook.

Best General Gardening Book

[Shortcuts for Accenting Your Garden](#) by Marianne Binetti - Ideas, in fact, over 500 ideas and tips showing ways you can create accents in your garden inexpensively. There are many tips for creating a carefree landscape. An easy read, this book features many common sense, easy to create, features for the home owner.

Best NW Gardening Book

[Gardening With Ed Hume, Northwest Gardening Made Easy](#) by Ed Hume. - The most concise book on gardening in the cool short season, northwest climate. Seventeen chapters and over 400 pages of easy, effective methods for growing and maintaining a beautiful yard. Ed's time-proven techniques for cultivating colorful flowerbeds, healthy shrubs, and exquisite lawns make this book an invaluable gardening tool. Includes extensive plant lists (using common names) organized by growing size, flower color, best garden place and much more. A must for northwest homeowners.

Best Books on Flowers

[Perennials for American Gardens](#) by Ruth Rogers Clausen and Nicolas H. Ekstrom - A wonderful guide to over 3,000 species, cultivars and hybrid perennials. Color photographs make it easy for the reader to 'identify' or determine whether this is a plant they want to include in their garden. The 600 plus pages are an easy read. Information on culture; propagation; staking; location; pests and diseases; and fertilizing are covered for each plant family.

President's Message

Dear JCMGA members:

Happy New Year! 2011! Feliz Año Nuevo! Welcome to 2011! With the outstanding leadership of our past presidents, especially immediate past President Ron, the Board of Directors, and the dedication of all of our hard working members, Jackson County Master Gardener Association (JCMGA) is heading into the 2011 year in great shape. Thanks to all of you for your wonderful contributions to JCMGA!

There are many things to accomplish in 2011. With our Missions in mind and looking into the future, here are two of my top priorities for 2011:

1. To develop and implement an overall strategic marketing/publicity plan for JCMGA: As you know, JCMGA has, or supports those of Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC), wonderful programs and services for the community such as all the demonstration gardens, Children's program, Community Outreach, evening and Saturday classes, Garden Guide, Master Gardener training program, plant clinics, school grants and scholarships, Speakers Bureau, Spring Fair, Winter Dreams and Summer Gardens, etc. Every Jackson County resident and voter as well as every county and city official needs to know about these services and programs, and in order to accomplish this, we have reorganized the Marketing/Publicity Committee. There will be a talented team of Master Gardeners working together on this plan. Of course, every member is the best ambassador for JCMGA and SOREC.

2. You, our members, are our most valuable assets. Without all the efforts of each and every one of you, none of these programs would be possible. This year I would like to focus on you, your concerns, your ideas, and your needs. To accomplish this, I am planning to hold "town hall" meetings with members in order to listen, discuss, and exchange ideas. I will be looking for volunteers for these gatherings. If you are interested in hosting one of these "town hall" meetings at your home, please e-mail or call me. We also have created a new position, the membership outreach coordinator, who will coordinate quarterly membership meetings and establish a membership volunteer opportunity database. We have reorganized our social committee as well. These actions are to help us enhance our

abilities to reach out and provide programs and services to meet members' needs. We are going to try to reach out to you. I encourage each of you to reach back to us as well. Please feel free to send me any suggestions you may have at li0002@yahoo.com. The 2011 class starts on January 19th, and I hope to see many of you there. Not only to get continuing education credits, but also to welcome our new class members to our association. I am looking forward to working with all of you this year. Of course, our priorities must be straight; we first enjoy the journey and the camaraderie of fellow members. Anything else we accomplish will be a plus! I know we will succeed. We are Master Gardeners!

Li Harder

President

*Master Gardener
2009*

Garden Letter



January 2011- a new year- may it bring peace and well being to all.

Are you aware of the new succulent garden at the West end of the Extension building? It is a garden in progress. Dan Killam, a high schooler who became a Master Gardener in 2007, has been working on this garden the past year. He has been adding mostly Sempervivums and Sedums to the few Yuccas that remained. It is a slow process because of time constraints (call that school work and football and, and, being a teen).

Succulents are plants that store water in their tissues in preparation for long periods of drought. Their leaves are generally thick and fleshy although many cactus leaves are actually spiny. They are survivor plants, often living in very hot and arid conditions. Some are not hardy in our growing zone, so Dan is concentrating on only hardy succulents. Succulents make me think about the similarities of these plants and people. Their stored water provides for their needs over extended periods of drought. Our preparations help us get through bad times.

I am fascinated by the techniques succulents use to survive. The shapes of the plants collect water when it is available; their leaves expand and store water for later use. They tend to be low to the ground to conserve their energy against drying winds and the elements.

The focus of the garden is on the hardy varieties that will grow in our weather zone.

There are six botanical families that have hardy succulents. Such familiar plants as Agave, Yucca, Sedums, Sempervivums, Delospermas, Cactus, Louisa, and Portulaca will grow here. These plants are fun to grow because of their interesting shapes and unusual flowers as well as being easy to care for. The Sedums and Sempervivums are especially useful as decorative edgings and groundcovers. Rosette shapes are intricate and interesting in the Sempervivum family. Commonly known as Hen and Chicks, these plants can vary from very tiny ½ inch to 5 to 6 inch rosettes. Some of them have what looks like spider webbing woven through the plant. When they are mature they bloom in mid-summer with stalks rising above the rosette and flowers in strange star-like shapes. After they bloom, the plant dies. The open space left by the cycle of life fills in as additional chicks mature. The main growth time is spring and fall when they send out offshoots called chicks. These chicks will grow up to look just like Mama and add to the

spreading process. They are not invasive, and are easily propagated by moving the chicks to another place.

Sedums are useful groundcovers, as well as decorative edgings. They have stems and fat leaves and bloom in mid-season. Mostly the flowers are white or yellow. Some sedums spread aggressively, but they are easily pulled out. The trouble is that they propagate from only a tiny piece of plant, so they can frustrate a tidy gardener who wants them completely gone. Rarely will you find the really aggressive ones in a nursery. *S. acre* has yellow flowers and is guilty as charged. It is a happy pass along plant, but think carefully about adding it to your garden. Most sedums are very reasonable about spreading, which is what you want them to do. They can be very interesting with a variety of leaf shapes. They also have color changes with the seasons and are mostly evergreen. The fall colors range into the deep purple--reds to a range of greens. Some sempervivums also change color with the seasons.

Another succulent I enjoy is *Delosperma*, commonly called Ice plant. I have some trouble wintering this over as the clay soil makes for more drainage issues. All succulents require excellent drainage. Depending on the winter, some *Delosperma* will go completely dormant. The long summer bloom of ray like flowers in very hot iridescent colors are show stopping against their fleshy leaves.

An excellent book on the subject is 'Hardy Succulents' by Gwen Kalaides. We are fortunate to have several local sources if you are interested in growing succulents. Many rock garden enthusiasts find succulents excellent rock garden plants. Baldassare Mineo, MG 2007, is President of the Rock Garden Society, and they welcome interested people to their group. Cathy Allen grows rock garden plants, sells them at the Spring Fair, and has semi-annual sales at her garden off Taylor Rd.

Rare Plant Nursery in Talent is another source. Chuck Timberman, MG 1998, sells succulents at the Farmers Market and Spring Fair. His plants are not hardy here, but are excellent summer or house plants that can winter inside.

Next time you are out at Extension take a look at the newest of the gardens. Even in winter there is something to see in the gardens. You are always welcome.

Cora Lee
Master Gardener 1994



January Jubilation



Now, long after the carolers have sung their last song, we can finally curl up and settle in with our collection of new seed catalogs.

However, for those whose curiosity is still calling, behold! Let their cravings be cured with some culinary cultivation of the colossal cardoon.

There is nothing quite like this plant. Introduced to California soil by Italian farmers in the 1920's, *C. cardunculus* has become a favorite choice for gourmet gardeners on this continent. A close cousin of the artichoke, cardoon is grown for its fleshy leaf stems instead of the flower buds. While there is little flesh from an artichoke, several stalks of cardoon (two plants) will easily feed four guests.

Desiring conditions that promote rapid growing, seeds should be started by mid-January or early February at the latest. Early sowing also leaves a small window for reseeding that could be necessary. You'll want to sow heavily since germination is typically sparse and of those that do sprout, about 20% will not be of good quality. These are not for the faint of gardener's faith, so pull up your patience and be prepared to sit a spell. Cardoon is worth the wait!

Start by premoistening sterile seedling mix with warm water. It should be damp but not soggy. Fill 4" pots with mix, then sow seeds (one per pot) about ¼" deep. Lightly water pots with a weak 2 to 1 solution of fish emulsion and kelp. Place pots where the soil temperature ranges between 65-75°.

Hopefully you have plenty of seed catalogs to keep you occupied. Still with me here? You should be seeing the first

sprouts from 10-20 days after sowing. Once you have a fair amount of emergence occurring, and plants are an inch or two high, cull out deformed, runty, and albino seedlings.

Transfer strongest plants to a strong light source. Keep them well moistened, not waterlogged, with a 50% strength fish emulsion solution. You want your plants to have a continual growth spurt until they're ready to pot up.

Once the seedlings have reached about 4" to 5" of top growth, it's time to pot them up. One gallon containers work well since these babies will be confined for quite a long while. Fill containers with a mixture of good potting soil and organic compost. Plant seedling at same depth as it was previously grown. Water thoroughly. Keep plants protected indoors beneath a good light source and consistently moist. Fertilize once per month with fish emulsion.

Transplant the cardoon, spacing 3' apart, to beds that are well amended with lots of organic compost and located where they might receive some partial late afternoon shade. Continue regular watering and feed once per month.

You can start harvesting about 120 days after planting. Stalks can be snapped or cut off near the plant base. The early stalks are tenderer than later in the season when the plant starts to bloom. They may also be dug for consuming the root.

Since cardoon, like its close relation the artichoke, is a tender perennial, it needs to be cut back to the ground in autumn. Cover with a good layer of straw or leaves that are secured with a circle of wire.

Remove covering when you notice new growth in spring. Then be ready to savor those first sweet tender stalks.

Sources:

www.territorialseeds.com

Sydney Jordan Brown

Master Gardener 2000

Recipe:

Braised Cardoon with Pinenuts

- 1lb cardoon, trimmed, boiled for 40 minutes, then cut in 1" pieces
- 4 cloves garlic, smashed
- 1 onion, peeled, quartered and sliced
- 1 red pepper, quartered and cut in crosswise strips
- 2TB olive oil
- 3TB dry sherry
- 3TB honey
- 1TB fresh lemon or lime thyme
- ½Cup toasted pine nuts.

Heat olive oil in large sauté pan over medium heat. Sauté onions and garlic until limp and starting to brown. Add cardoon and red pepper pieces and cook for another 2-3 minutes.

Turn heat to high then add dry sherry and bring to a boil. Stir in honey and pine nuts. Let boil down to a glaze.

Turn off heat and remove pan. Sprinkle with fresh ground salt and pepper and sprinkle with fresh lemon thyme. Serve at once.

Makes about 4 servings.

HERBAN RENEWAL

Horseradish (*Armoracia rusticana*)



The International Herb Association has declared horseradish the 2011 Herb of the Year.

Horseradish, a hardy (Zones 4 to 5) herbaceous herb, has an obscure origin but is thought to have originated in eastern Europe or western Asia; probably in southern Russia. The herb is a perennial but is generally grown as an annual for the best yield of its crop, the root. Horseradish prefers a slightly acidic, fairly damp, but well drained soil that has been deeply tilled and liberally amended with compost and rotted manure. Remove all stones from the soil for well shaped roots. Horseradish likes full sun but will tolerate some shade. Because horseradish is often sterile the most common method of propagation is a root cutting having a bud or growing point and with side shoots removed. The 8 inch pieces of young root should be planted at least a foot apart at an angle and 3 or 4 inches deep. Horseradish should be placed in an isolated spot or in a bottomless deep container. If the location is to be changed, every tiny root must be removed from the old bed. Even if this member of the Brassicaceae (formerly Cruciferae) family weren't invasive, it would still go at the back of the garden because of its size. The lower leaves which are toothed, lobed and rumped are about a foot long and an

established plant can reach 4 or 5 feet. Small whitish flowers appear in mid summer and, in the unlikely event that seeds form, they may be planted. Snails and slugs can be troublesome. Although not proven, horseradish is sometimes planted near potatoes to deter potato bugs and to make the potatoes more disease resistant.

Horseradish is generally harvested in the late fall by carefully digging the horizontally growing yellow-brownish roots, scrubbing off the dirt and storing in a cool dark place. When cleaning the root, care should be taken to avoid breaking or bruising the skin. Horseradish can also be stored in the soil until used. The aroma of horseradish is thought to become more intense with cold weather but the fresh root can become bitter if stored more than 3 months. Most of the pungency of the root is in the outer portion and not the core.

Horseradish was originally considered a medicinal herb, used both externally and internally. For external use it was mixed with water and made into a compress to relieve neuralgia, stiffness and pain. It was also thought to promote hair growth. When mixed with white vinegar it was supposed to lighten freckles and, when mixed with milk, it helped improve skin clarity. Internally it was used as a diuretic, often being mixed with white wine. A syrup of grated horseradish, honey and water was used to treat hoarseness. It was given to both children and dogs as a remedy for worms. Sailors used it as protection against scurvy; it contains Vitamin C which remains stable when the root is cool. The root also contains an antibiotic.

Because of the pungency of horseradish its use as a culinary herb spread slowly. During the Middle Ages the Danes and Germans used it as a condiment and, probably for this reason, the French called it "moutardes des allemands" or mustard of the Germans. In 16th century England

it was known as Red Cole and a century later it was used as a condiment for, according to John Parkinson, "country people and strong labouring men it is too strong for tender and gentle stomachs." Isabella Beton's Book of Household Management in 1861 in this country claims "a stick of horseradish" should be taken to picnics. A caution: horseradish tarnishes silver. The volatile mustard oil of horseradish is released by grating the root and is unstable so horseradish isn't generally used in cooked dishes but rather as a condiment made by grating fresh horseradish root and adding vinegar. Mayonnaise and salt are sometimes added. Horseradish is most commonly used with beef, fish, sausages, egg and potato salads and in cocktail sauce. It is important in Russian cooking and in the Middle East is sliced and pickled. Young tender leaves can be added to mixed green salads. (Dried leaves will produce a yellow dye with a chrome mordant.) In large doses horseradish is an emetic and can cause digestive tract problems.

Linnaeus called this bitter Passover herb, *Cochlearia armoracia*, after cochleare, an obsolete word for spoon, which the leaves supposedly resemble, and *armoracia*, a Roman name for wild radish. The connection with horses is obscure and debatable. Today this plant is sometimes called mountain radish.

Chaucer is credited with having said, "Woe to the cook whose sauce has no sting." Horseradish, the herb that can clear the sinuses with one whiff, clearly fills the bill.

Ellen Scannell
Master Gardener 1986

Classes in January

January---the month that seems to say, "Calm yourself.

Get your life back in balance. Begin again." Gone are the bedazzling colors, sights, sounds and smells of the holidays. Still to come is the profusion of those found in spring, summer, and fall. January, however, with its monotone qualities in the landscape, the weather, and life in general invites us to take a deep breath, gather our wits about us, and start anew.

And so it is, too, with Master Gardeners. Saturday and Evening Classes are on hold until February. January is a good time to look that schedule over, pick the classes of interest, and get them on the new 2011 calendar. With 28 classes to choose from, there should be something for all tastes. The 2011 schedule accompanied the December *Beet*. It can also be found at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/sites/default/files/documents/2011_evening_schedule.pdf or a hard copy can be picked up from the plastic racks that hang by the Plant Clinic window.

This doesn't mean there are no classes available in January, though. Both Jackson and Josephine County begin their 2011 Master Gardener classes this month. As usual, veteran Master Gardeners wearing those trusty orange badges can sit in the back for no charge in either location. Remember to also bring your own coffee cup because the beautiful JCMGA mug collection is put out only when the general public is in attendance.

At the Jackson County **OSU Extension Auditorium**, Master Gardener **Ron Bombick** will be teaching **Basic Botany** on **Wednesday, January 19 (Part I, 1:00-4:00 p.m.)** and **Wednesday, January 26 (Part II, 9:00-12:00)**. Also on **January 26, Rogue Valley Weather and Climate (1:00-3:00 p.m.)** will be discussed. The instructor is still to be determined depending on the sabbatical schedule of Greg Jones, SOU climatologist.

Similarly, at the Josephine County **OSU Extension Auditorium** (215 Ringuette St., Grants Pass), **John Panches**, Area Staff Chair for Coos, Douglas, and Josephine Counties will teach **Basic Botany** on **Thursday, January 13 (Part I, 1:00-4:00)** and **Thursday, January 20 (Part II, 9:00-12:00)**. In the afternoon of **January 20 (1:00-4:00)**, **Bob Reynolds**, Master Gardener Advisor for both Jackson and Josephine counties, will teach **What's Sustainable Gardening?** and **Vertebrate Pest Management**. The morning of **Thursday, January 27 (9:00-12:00)** finds JCMGA member, **Claudia Hill**, teaching **Introduction to Soils** with Landscape Architect **Bonnie Bayard** teaching **Sustainable Landscape Design** in the afternoon **(1:00-4:00)**.

And so the new year begins!

Jane Moyer
Master Gardener 2005

FUNNY GARDENING DEFINITIONS TO USE IF AND WHEN YOU CHOOSE

(all are from *A Dictionary for Weedpullers, Slug Crushers & Backyard Botanists*,

by Henry Beard and Roy McKie. This book is now out of print.)

Aphid Insect pest that inphests gardens and makes gardeners phoam at the mouth, stamp their phheet and utter phour-letter words.

Autumn Delightful season that runs from the disposal of the last zucchini to the arrival of the first seed catalog.

Bed 1) Where most prized plants are located. 2) Where most gardeners are located when there are rabbits, raccoons or slugs in 1)

Dog The only garden pest to be successfully domesticated.

Gardening The art of killing weeds and bugs to grow flowers and crops for animals and birds to eat.

Grape Uninteresting larval stage of wine.

Grub Your lawn, from a hungry beetle larva's point of view.

Hose Crude, but totally safe and effective type of scythe towed through gardens to flatten flower beds and level vegetable plantings.

Mushroom Small room where vegetables are stored until they decompose into a pulpy mass suitable for composting.

Nursery The only known place where money grows on trees.

Pinching Pruning method developed in Italian gardens.

Rototiller Cultivating machine based on the principle of the mole and the gopher.

Seed Costly, but highly nutritious form of bird seed sold in packets with colorful pictures on them.

Zzzz 1) Sound produced by dozing gardener 2) Sound produced by bee trapped in dozing gardener's pants leg.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



With the start of the 2011 Master Gardener class, it seems a good time to review the reasons for this column and some of the principles that have been discussed in the past. A few years ago the JCMGA board made the decision to move towards becoming a zero-waste organization. That means we are striving to produce zero garbage (or, realistically, as little as possible). It was also suggested that a *Gardening Beet* column give suggestions for ways to carry this over into our homes as well.

The three key ideas of zero-waste are reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Reduce is the most desirable. If we reduce the “stuff” we bring into our lives, we create less garbage that will go into the landfill as well as eliminating the energy that is used to manufacture and transport all that “stuff.” At Master Gardener functions, everyone is asked to bring their own cups to reduce the amount of paper products we use and throw away. At events

open to the public, we use real coffee cups and cloth napkins instead of paper. Rather than buying these reusable items new, we asked the ever-generous Master Gardeners to donate ones they were no longer using. Paper use is kept to a minimum, and two-sided copies have replaced multiple-page one-sided documents.

At home, we can also reduce the use of paper products, reduce the miles we drive, reduce the plastic that comes into our lives, reduce the petroleum-based cleaning products we use, garden organically, etc.

Reuse is the second most desirable. Rather than throwing things out (once again to become garbage going to the landfill), finding a way to reuse items eliminates that garbage as well as the need to buy a new “thing” (once again using energy to manufacture and transport). Many at JCMGA are reusing paper by utilizing the blank side of one-sided pages before disposing of it. In the Greenhouse and Gramma’s Garden, planting containers are washed and reused. And all those cups and napkins are used and reused many times over.

At home, we can choose reusable towels instead of paper towels, reusable rags instead of those disposable dusting thing-a-ma-jigs, a reusable broom instead of the disposable sweepers. We can donate items we no longer use to charitable organizations for reuse. And we can buy gently used items rather than new. (Craigslist, anyone?)

Recycle is the least desirable of the three, but still an important option. Items that can’t be reused can often be recycled into

a new item. JCMGA has set up recycling bins in the back of the OSU Extension Auditorium for glass, plastic, paper, and vegetative food scraps. The Compost Garden recycles all the garden waste from the Extension grounds, creating much of the mulch used in the demonstration gardens. When the size of a group meal makes it necessary to use paper plates, the ones made of recycled material are used and then shredded and composted in the Compost Garden.

At home, those who live inside city limits can utilize their disposal company’s co-mingled recycling bins and yard debris bins. Their websites have lists of what is acceptable. Those who live outside city limits can take recycling materials to the Ashland Recycling Center, the Rogue Disposal Recycling Center in White City, or the Southern Oregon Sanitation Recycling Center in Eagle Point. Plastic items that are not acceptable in these recycling venues can be saved for the Plastic Roundup that is co-sponsored by the OSU Master Recyclers in October or community recycling events that are often held in the spring. A detailed guide for recycling just about anything can be found at <http://www.jcsmartworks.org/directory.html>. When necessary to buy an item, we can look for those made from recycled materials.

Individually, these efforts might seem to make little difference, but collectively, we can make a difference in our environment.

Jane Moyer
Master Gardener 2005

WANT ADS

FFEV Offers Master Food Preserver Course

Utilize Garden Bounty to Stock Your Pantry

So, you're a Master Gardener! Does your garden overflow with more veggies than you can eat and give away in a timely fashion? Isn't it wonderful? Rather than feed the excess to your compost pile, FFEV (Family Food Education Volunteers) invites you to an eight-week learning adventure in the food preservation arts.

Along the way student trainees learn how to harvest and prepare garden produce for preserving, the ins and outs of food preservation equipment, how to water-bath and pressure can safely and efficiently, as well as a host of other skills! These skills include preparing fruits, vegetables, herbs, and snacks in a dehydrator, making delicious jerky and sausage, harnessing the natural process of fermentation to create sauerkraut, crock-pickled vegetables, and yogurt, turn surplus milk into soft cheeses, and make optimal use of a freezer. Food safety and nutrition are both emphasized. Set up and use a home food storage system that works for your family, and learn a bit of seed saving as it relates to food security. Labs give students opportunities to practice learned skills under qualified supervision to gain confidence.

The Master Food Preserver Course is offered only in the spring of every other year. Classes are held on Wednesdays in the Extension Auditorium & Kitchen from 8:30am-5pm beginning May 4, 2011 and finishing June 22, 2011. Cost of Course is \$120 + \$30 for the manual (a couple may share this resource) and 40 hours of educational service time which can be accomplished in a variety of ways.

If you have questions, please contact Michele Pryse via email: pinksummer12@gmail.com

Greenhouse Program Needs

A few good Master Gardeners to be a mentor or assistant mentor in the Greenhouse program. A mentor is needed who can work on Saturdays. An assistant is needed on Mondays.

The Greenhouse program runs weekly February 10-May 8. Mentors and assistants work one morning per week instructing students in the new class on raising plants from seeds. They also attend mentors meetings on Wednesday mornings and help May 5-8 with setting up and running the Greenhouse booth at Spring Fair.

The pay is outstanding! You will receive the joy, amazement, and satisfaction of seeing the Greenhouse go from cold and empty to fairly bursting at the seams with plants, all from a few packets of seeds. You will lead students who are anxious to learn and great fun to work with. And you will have that warm feeling of having given back to a program that aims to teach the Rogue Valley to GROW!

For more information, please contact Jane Moyer at 541-665-0792 or janemoyer@connpoint.net.

Decorative Pots Wanted for Gramma's Garden

Though the weather outside may be "frightful," it's time to think spring--Spring Fair, at least. Gramma's Garden is already planning for the May event, especially Mother's Day, which falls on the Sunday of Spring Fair. Gramma's would like to include in its booth a selection of indoor and outdoor plants in decorative pots. While Gramma's is not ready for the plants yet (We'll let you know in future issues of the Beet.), it would like to start a collection of decorative pots, including hanging pots, and indoor and outdoor plant pots. We are also looking for hanging baskets and shallow pots. Leave them in the pot storage area behind Gramma's classroom.

When you do start working in your perennial beds again, keep Gramma's in mind when you are dividing your plants. For now, it has plenty of irises and daylilies, but can accept outdoor plants that are already potted.

Archivist's Request

Archiving and preserving our Master Gardener history is an on-going process. To that end, I would like to gather all our archival information in one place. If you have any binders or notebooks of Master Gardener information, please return them to Extension addressed to me.

The Secretary's notebook from 1991-1993, and any other minutes, or other useful information would be appreciated.

Thank You! Joan Long, Archivist



Home Garden Seminar – February 19, 2011

REGISTRATION FORM

OSU Josephine County Master Gardeners™

Complete one registration form for each person attending.

Name _____ Birth Date M ___ D ___ Y ___

Master Gardener?: Yes No Plan to buy a box lunch? Yes No If Yes, turkey ham veggie

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____





Phone (____) _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Registration opens January 10th - closes February 11th

No confirmations will be sent.

You may attend up to a total of 4 classes (one class per session) for the \$20 registration fee.

Mark your 1st choice with a "1", your 2nd choice with a "2" for each session.

SESSION 1 8:30-10:00 a.m.		SESSION 2 10:15 - 11:45 a.m.		SESSION 3 1:00-2:30 p.m.		SESSION 4 2:45 -4:15 p.m.	
 Mark your 1st & 2nd choice		 Mark your 1st & 2nd choice		 Mark your 1st & 2nd choice		 Mark your 1st & 2nd choice	
1-1 Food & Nutrition All Dried Up		2-1 Food & Nutrition Choosing & Preserving Culinary Herbs		3-1 Cooking From the Garden		4-1 Caneberries*	
1-2 Raised Bed Construction*		2-2 A Rose is a Rose is a Rose*		3-2 Invasive Plants*		4-2 A Short Primer on Rain Gardens*	
1-3 Landscaping with Native Plants *		2-3 Introduction to Drip Irrigation* (Part 1)		3-3 Introduction to Drip Irrigation* (Part 2)		4-3 Growing Your Soil and Compost*	
1-4 Exciting New Plants You Can Grow!*		2-4 Perennial Perfection*		3-4 Fabulous Fruits for Oregon Gardeners*		4-4 Fungus Among Us: Plant Diseases*	
1-5 Local Herbs for Medicinal Purposes		2-5 Rocking in the Rogue Valley*		3-5 Your First Vegetable Garden*		4-5 For the Love of Peonies*	
1-6 Now Beer is Not Just for Breakfast		2-6 Greenhouse – Planning, Building, & Using		3-6 Growing Tomatoes in a Changeable (and Changing) Climate*		4-6 Hypertufa	
1-7 Vegetables in Containers & Small Spaces*		2-7 Lawn Planting and Care*		3-7 Proper care of Garden Hand Tools		4-7 Melon Success in the Rogue Valley*	
1-8 Fermentation Science From Fruit to Wine		2-8 Wondrous World Of Worms*		3-8 Would You Like Onions on That?*		4-8 City Slickers Chickens	
				3-9 Green Your Gardening*			

Jackson County Master Gardener Association Board of Directors Meeting – January, 14 2011

Officers' Reports.

President (Ron Bombick). The Board agreed to revise the bylaws stating "up to 14 members-at-large plus one non-voting student from the current Master Gardeners class to be selected by the president." On next year's board, Claudia Hill will replace Honey Brown as recording secretary. Duties of board members are in Bob Reynolds' office where they may be viewed at any time.

Treasurer (Jim Scannell). Jim Scannell presented the proposed 2011 budget. This budget will be approved at the January board meeting.

OMGA Representative (Bill Hunt). Bill reported that Betty Faller, chair of OMGA, has asked each state chapter to give \$125 to OMGA to augment the Master Gardener Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund was originally set up to endow a chair, but the monies can be used by the OSU Master Gardener Program Coordinator for other purposes related to the Master Gardener program. Thus, the Coordinator has given a \$10,000 stipend to the Lane County MG chapter. Use of the Endowment Fund is a contentious problem. Betty will encourage OMGA to discuss the payback procedures. MiniCollege will be in Newport July 15-16, 2011. Get reservations in early. One can access hotels and other sites through the OMGA website. Will you be using an RV? Get your reservation in NOW!

OMGA President-elect (Dave Rugg). Dave is planning Leadership Day at MiniCollege and asked JCMGA members for ideas for classes--he's especially interested in tax service districts discussions. Contact Dave via e-mail or telephone. Job descriptions for OMGA's board members are on their website. There's a considerable thrust toward marketing in his plans.

OSU Extension Agent (Bob Reynolds). Forty-three people are currently enrolled in the 2011 class and there's more space available. On February 19, Seeds of Spring, Josephine County's home gardening seminar, will be held at RCC's Grants Pass facility. Leftover black plastic is available from Phil Van Buskirk. Contact him with your requests. The OSU Extension Service will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2011.

Committee Reports.

Membership secretary (Judy Williams). We have 207 paid members at this point; 234 including life members and associate members. She would like to reach 300 members.

Plant Clinic (Wendy Purslow). Wendy reported via e-mail that there were 56 questions in November, a reflection of deteriorating weather.

Social (Vickie Belknap). Vickie reported that the Carnival of Learning (a home gardening seminar) will be held at Scenic High School on February 19, sponsored by 4H and FCE.

President-Elect (Li Harder). Mel Harder, 2011 Spring Fair Site manager, is looking for a 2012 site manager. He or she would be trained during 2011 Spring Fair, to take on the job in 2012. He is also looking for area managers for 2011. The Area Managers will be responsible for marking out the booth spaces among other responsibilities, and will be the first point of contact between the vendors and site management for any issues that may arise during the Fair. These are great opportunities to help with the Spring Fair. If you have recommendations or you are interested in these positions, please contact him at mshiii@yahoo.com or 541-944-6792.

Nancy Hunt
Recording Secretary

Participation in county-sponsored training sessions such as Winter Dreams, Summer Gardens (Jackson County), Seeds of Spring Home Garden Seminar (Josephine County), or most of the evening or weekend classes given in both Jackson and Josephine Counties.

Participation in any other home horticulture related classes. These must be individually documented and approved by me.

Self-study programs in home horticulture related topics, but talk to me first for approval. Folks doing research to prepare home horticulture related presentations often can fulfill the requirement this way.

Scoring a 70% or better on an open book Recertification Review.

Finally, you need to report your volunteer and educational hours either on-line at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/vrs> or manually in the Master Gardener office.

Bob Reynolds
Jackson County OSU
Home Horticulture
Agent
*Master Gardener
2005*

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Friday January 14 (10:00 am—12:00 pm)

Board Meeting

Saturday January 22 (10:00 am)

Board Orientation
Rogue Regency Inn

Wednesday Jan 19 (1:00 pm-4:00 pm)

Basic Botany pt 1 *
Ron Bombick

Wednesday Jan 26 (9:00 am-12:00 pm)

Basic Botany pt 2 *
Ron Bombick

Wednesday Jan 26 (1:00 pm-3:00 pm)

Rogue Valley Weather & Climate*
Instructor TBD

*Qualifies for recertification
Unless noted, all classes will be held in the Extension Center

JACKSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center
569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR 97502

JCMGA website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/mg/>

**OSU Josephine County Master Gardeners™
with OSU Extension Service & Rogue Community College**



Learn, Plant, Grow, Enjoy

22nd Annual

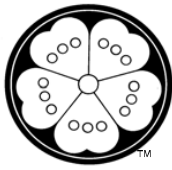
HOME GARDEN SEMINAR

Saturday ~ February 19, 2011 ~ 8:30 am to 4:15 pm

Rogue Community College/ Redwood Campus

3345 Redwood Highway, Grants Pass

The 22nd annual Home Garden Seminar is brought to you by the Josephine County Master Gardeners. Kick off that winter frost and join other gardeners in sessions that will prepare you for those glorious warm spring days in your garden.



MASTER GARDENER™

JACKSON COUNTY - 2011 PROGRAM

Central Point Wednesday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

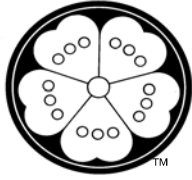
Week	Date	Time	Topic	Instructor	SG
1	19-Jan	AM	Orientation and Introduction	SOREC and JCMGA	
		PM	Basic Botany	Ron Bombick	1
2	26-Jan	AM	Basic Botany	Ron Bombick	1
		PM	Rogue Valley Climate and Weather		21
		PM	Orientation, Greenhouse Sign-up		
3	2-Feb	AM	What's Sustainable Gardening?	Bob Reynolds	
		AM	Weed Management	Bob Reynolds	19
		PM	Introduction to Soils	Marcus Buchanan	2
4	9-Feb	AM	Vegetable Gardening/Raised Beds	Marjorie Neal	7
		PM	Backyard Fruit Production	Steve Renquist	10
5	16-Feb	AM	Watershed Friendly Gardening	Frances Oyung	6
		AM	Pesticide Use and Safety	Bob Reynolds	17
		PM	Principles of Pruning	Steve Renquist	4
6	23-Feb	AM	Annuals and Perennials	Marjorie Neal	8
		PM	Vertebrate Pest Management	Bob Reynolds	18
		PM	House Plants	Marlene Javage	13
7	2-Mar	AM	Urban Tree Care	Tal Blankenship	9
		PM	Extending the Season/Greenhouses	Don Shafer	7
8	9-Mar	AM	Lawns	Pam Rouhier	12
		PM	Composting	Sam Ward	5
		PM	Vermiculture	Rhianna Simes	5
9	16-Mar	AM	Plant Diseases	Cindy Ocamb	15
		PM	Plant Problem Diagnosis	Cindy Ocamb	16
10	23-Mar	AM	Basic Entomology	Marsha Waite	14
		PM	Taxonomy/Plant Identification	Warren Lytle	22
11	30-Mar	AM	Seed Saving	Tal Blankenship	20
		AM	Volunteer Opportunities	Janet Kelly	
		PM	Integrated Pest Management	Marsha Waite	20
12	6-Apr	AM	Plant Clinic Orientation	Bob Reynolds	
		AM	Websites for Master Gardeners	Marsha Waite	
		PM	Plant Clinic exercise	Marsha Waite	
13	13-Apr	AM	Plant Clinic exercise (reports)	Marsha Waite	
		PM	Exam Review	Bob Reynolds	
		PM	Conclusion	Bob Reynolds	

Location: Jackson County Extension Auditorium
569 Hanley Road, Central Point
Phone 541-776-7371

Breaks: One hour will be allowed for lunch. Participants should bring their lunch.
There will be a mid morning and afternoon break

"SG" Refers to the applicable chapter in your "Sustainable Gardening" text

All regular class sessions are eligible for re-certification for veteran Master Gardeners



OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

MASTER GARDENER™

JOSEPHINE COUNTY - 2011 PROGRAM

Grants Pass Thursdays 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Week	Date	Topic	Instructor	SG
1	13-Jan	AM: Training overview/Introductions	Bob Reynolds	
		AM: Josephine County Master Gardener Association	Kia McQueary	
		PM: Basic Botany	John Punches	1
2	20-Jan	AM: Basic Botany	John Punches	1
		<i>Noon: Spring Fair Committee Activity</i>	<i>JoCo MG Assn</i>	
		PM: What's Sustainable Gardening?	Bob Reynolds	
3	27-Jan	AM: Introduction to Soils	Claudia Hill	2
		<i>Noon: Seeds of Spring Home Garden Seminar</i>	<i>JoCo MG Assn</i>	
		PM: Sustainable Landscape Design	Bonnie Bayard	21
4	3-Feb	AM: Houseplants: Care & Feeding	Cliff Bennett	19
		AM: Pesticide Use and Safety	Bob Reynolds	17
		PM: Vegetable Gardening	Marjorie Neal	7
5	10-Feb	AM: Backyard Fruit Production	Steve Renquist	10
		PM: Composting/Vermiculture	Rhianna Simes	5
6	17-Feb	AM: Pruning Ornamentals	Steve Renquist	4
		PM: Annuals/Perennials	Marjorie Neal	8
7	24-Feb	AM: Home Weed Management	Bob Reynolds	19
		AM: Seed Saving	Tal Blankenship	
		<i>Noon: Spring Garden Fair Sign Ups</i>	<i>JoCo MG Assn</i>	
8	3-Mar	PM: Greenhouses/Growing under lights	David James	7
		AM: Urban Tree Care/Lab	Tal Blankenship	9
		<i>Noon: Spring Garden Fair Sign Ups</i>	<i>JoCo MG Assn</i>	
9	10-Mar	PM: Gardens & Watershed Protection	Frank Burris	6
		AM: Lawn Care	Pam Rouhier	12
10	17-Mar	PM: Insect Identification	Marsha Waite	14
		AM: Plant Diseases	Cindy Ocamb	15
11	24-Mar	PM: Plant Problem Diagnosis	Cindy Ocamb	16
		AM: Plant Identification/Lab	Warren Lytle	22
12	31-Mar	PM: Integrated Pest Management	Marsha Waite	20
		AM: Plant Clinic Activity	Bob/Wilma/Pernarellis	
		PM: Plant Clinic Activity	Bob/Wilma/Pernarellis	
		PM: Exam Review	Bob Reynolds	

Location: Josephine County Extension Auditorium
215 Ringuette St, Grants Pass
541-476-6613

Breaks One hour will be allowed for lunch. Students may bring their lunch and eat in the auditorium. There will be a mid morning and afternoon break.

SG Refers to the applicable chapter in your "Sustainable Gardening" text
All regular class sessions are eligible for re-certification for veteran Master Gardeners