

Tillamook County Tiller

HORTICULTURAL NEWSLETTER FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY

WINTER 2009



Becoming a Master Gardener™

What does it mean to be a Master Gardener? People who become Master Gardener Volunteers are often asked, "What makes you a Master Gardener?" Often followed by "I've been gardening for 50 years so why are you a Master Gardener?"

Master Gardeners™ are volunteers trained by Oregon State University Extension Service faculty, specialists, and experienced Master Gardeners. They receive 60 to 70 hours of instruction over a 10-12 week period during the winter. This intensive course is roughly the equivalent of a college "short course" but is made attainable to most by its reduced cost because of the volunteerism factor. Trainees volunteer an equivalent number of hours during their first year.

Anyone who has a sincere interest in gardening (you don't have to be an expert) and a willingness to learn and to volunteer in their community is encouraged to take the Master Gardener Training. This is a great way to make new friends, learn more about gardening on the coast and to make a difference in our community.

Master Gardener Training is currently conducted in 27 Oregon counties. While each county offers some of the same basic courses such as botany, plant disease, and entomology; programs are tailored to different climates, soils and local needs. Thereby Master Gardener Volunteers receive training with information specific to gardening in their own bioregion.

OSU Master Gardener Volunteers educate people about the art and science of growing and caring for plants. They use a variety of resources to arrive at unbiased and research based answers to plant problems and provide sustainable solutions. They present educational programs on subjects such as: integrated pest management practices, yard waste management and composting, water quality protection, and

gardening with children, youth, seniors and the physically impaired. People look to the Master Gardeners to give them straight answers to questions that are very important to them.

In Tillamook County the OSU Master Gardener program had 95 volunteers in 2009. These volunteers spent more than 4200 hours on horticulture related activities. They were contacted at the Extension Service and at Farmers Markets to answer more than 500 questions and answered approximately another 2000 other non-recorded questions.

These volunteers maintain office hours every week March through October. On Mondays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 4:30 they are available to take horticulture questions and problems from the public.

The Master Gardeners have a Learning Garden for the "lab" or hands-on portion of their training as well as for a demonstration tool for the general public. The food produced in it is given to the local food bank.

The Master Gardeners teach in classrooms, and at meetings of clubs and groups. In the spring and fall they help offer home and garden classes to the public. They perform community service horticulture projects throughout the county as approved by the OSU Extension Agent.

If you would like to receive an extensive gardening education (and earn the privilege of wearing a badge and calling yourself a Master Gardener) and help in making what you learn available to help other people with their home horticulture problems and questions, don't hesitate to take advantage of the opportunity to take the 2010 Master Gardener™ classes ☺

*For registration information see Page 2.
Class Schedule is on the last page - Page 12*



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President's Corner

As we reviewed articles to include in this issue of *The Tillamook Tiller*, it always surprises us that it's been two sometimes three years since we've covered a particular timely topic ... seems like we just did that article! This time of year (the holidays) we always include an ever helpful "Gifts for Gardeners" list, and this could also be a gifts that you *receive* from gardeners.

Over the years, my family and friends have made my gift-giving easy – they always request some of our homemade goodies – hot oil made from dried peppers from our garden, applesauce made from our apple tree, raspberry jams and syrup from, you guessed it, our raspberries. This year I'll be able to add some blueberry items as our blueberry plants were very productive. Homemade items (and especially edibles) really embrace the idea of the holidays, sharing with others the bounty of our yards and gardens. Besides edibles, we also give handmade cards from pressed flowers, polished rocks from special places, plant starts and other little things such as twisted willow and dried hydrangeas. Look around your yard and home, and you're sure to find some things that would make wonderful gifts with little or no effort. Flavored oils and vinegars are REALLY easy to make – and if you don't have the

Tillamook County
Master Gardener Association 

flavorings, the chilies or fruit, it's easy to find! The Extension Office has very informative publications on how to safely make these items.

Not that my holiday shopping is complete. Our homemade, canned goods are always received with a big smile and "thank you", and comments like, "I was hoping that you'd give us this stuff again." Our spicy pickles, canned tuna and smoked fish are at the top of many wish lists. In years past, I've also shopped for gifts for everyone, but as we all acquire so much "stuff", it became more and more difficult to find that "perfect" gift for each person. The things everyone wanted were my homemade goodie baskets, so a few years ago I gave myself a break and just did baskets, and viola, my holidays became much more fun and relaxed. The specialness of the things we make are, as the commercials say, "priceless", and we giving a little bit of ourselves with each gift.

So as you consider the mall and the headaches of shopping, consider some easy homemade gifts, with ingredients and supplies bought or grown locally, and you will truly experience the blessings of the holiday.☺

Laura Swanson,

TCMGA President 2009

Master Gardener Classes

Registrations for the 2010 Master Gardener Training Program are now being taken. The classes will start on Tuesday, January 12th with a mandatory orientation. Classes begin on January 19th and continue on Tuesdays through April 6th.

The cost for the class is \$100 which includes all class materials and the comprehensive 526 page gardening handbook for the Pacific Northwest, *Sustainable Gardening: The Oregon- Washington Master Gardener Handbook*. The TCMGA is offering ten scholarships of \$50 each to help those who

otherwise would be unable to take the classes. For the person who wants to have the instruction but is completely unable to do the volunteer service time, the training is available for \$300.

To obtain registration forms, call 503-842-3433, come by the OSU Extension Service at 2204 Fourth Street, Tillamook, OR 97141, or go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/tillamook/sites/default/files/documents/mg/MGRegistrationPacket2010.pdf> .☺



Flowering Houseplants - Great Gifts

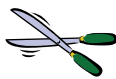


If you are looking for a special gift for someone who loves indoor plants, Ross Penhallegon, home horticulturist with the OSU Extension Service, suggests the following houseplants as great holiday gifts because of their pro-clivity for flowering during many parts of the year:

- "Shrimp plant" or *Beloperone* is an easy-to-grow shrubby plant that has salmon-colored, prawn-shaped flowers at the end of arching stems. Needs warm days, cool nights, and a sunny window.
- "Yesterday, today and tomorrow plant" or *Brunfelsia* is a slow-growing evergreen shrub (to two feet tall). Flower clusters start out purple, fade to pale violet, then to white. Like semi-shade in summer, well-lit spot in winter. Does not like sudden temperature changes.
- African violets will bloom on sunny windowsills with as little as two hours of sun per day.
- Wax Begonia needs only two hours of sun per day.

- Cape Primrose, if grown with supplemental light, will bloom virtually all year.
- Impatiens can be grown from cuttings of plants grown outside in the summer or purchased. Will bloom indoors under artificial light.
- Lantana blooms all year in a window with good sun exposure.
- Lobelia blooms all year in a window with good sun exposure.
- Firecracker vine blooms periodically through the year in a window with good sun exposure.
- Oxalis, Hoya and Peace lilies are all easy to care for plants that will reward your efforts with an occasional bloom.

For year-round color, don't ignore the flowering potted plants that have been forced into bud in the greenhouse and can be brought home to burst into color. For example, you can get chrysanthemums anytime of the year. They sure cheer things up in January. ♪



Gardening Gift Suggestions



- A Gift Certificate for Master Gardener Classes;
- A gardener's journal to record planting dates, varieties, successes from year to year;
- Hand soaps and creams designed especially for extra dirty, chapped hands;
- Interesting hand-painted flower pots, bouquets, or dry arrangements;
- A nice pair of leather gardening gloves to prevent injury and chapped, rough skin, or flexible, rubberized cotton gloves that keep fingernails clean and hands dry while mucking about in the garden;
- A water timer for hose-fed sprinklers for carefree watering;
- A gift certificate for plants from a favorite nursery;
- A high-quality pruning saw to make winter pruning a pleasure;
- Easy grip or smaller hand tools for gardeners with arthritis;
- A collapsible compost bin to recycle kitchen and yard waste;
- Some small, beautiful vases to display special single blossoms;
- A long spouted water pot for easy house plant care;
- A new ever-sharp pair of garden scissors for snipping herbs and flowers;
- A hand-woven basket with a handle for gathering herbs and vegetables;
- A large garden cart to carry tools and soil amendments out to the garden in one trip;
- Knee-pads or a gardening stool to make weeding and low work less of a strain;
- Metal supports for tall spring tulips and later for supporting tomato plants;
- Permanent tags to mark the sites of your favorite perennials and bulbs or to mark the rows in next spring's vegetable patch;
- A seed sower to easily set tiny seeds into soil at exactly the proper interval;
- A soil thermometer to measure soil temperature, vital for spring planting;
- A small soil home testing kit to test for plant nutrients essential for good growth;
- A long-handled bulb planter to make digging small deep holes for bulbs a cinch;
- Gardening books or a gift certificate for a store that carries oodles of garden books - there are so many!
- Bulbs to plant in bowls and vases for early indoor bloom;
- A donation to a food bank in a friend's name. ♪

Dormant Spray Fruit Trees

Prevention is the first step in controlling diseases and insect pests in home orchards. Many problems can be avoided by choosing resistant fruit tree varieties and providing them with proper care. That care includes removing all dropped fruit and leaves that might be harboring pests.

Even the most vigilant gardeners may need to spray their trees during the dormant season to reduce over-wintering pest and disease organisms. When cultural controls alone don't control pests and diseases, organic producers may need to consider spraying as well. **Several dormant sprays are approved for organic production.**

Spraying fruit trees during the cool seasons, November through March, can help control pests that take up residence in the cracks and crevices, according to Ross Penhalligon, horticulturist with the OSU Extension Service. Such dormant spraying is more effective than waiting until the weather warms and pests become active.

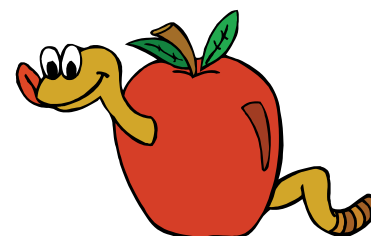
Below are some least toxic sprays and treatments for fruit trees. These products are widely available at garden centers. Always follow label directions.

Dormant Oil: Apply when trees are dormant, November through March, after all the leaves have fallen. Mix with water as directed and spray to all surfaces of the trunk, branches and twigs. Apply when the temperature is expected to rise during the day; temperatures below 35 degrees can damage the bark. Dormant oil controls aphids, scale, spider mites, and many other insects by desiccating or smothering eggs and larvae.

Lime-Sulfur: Spray to control fungal and bacterial diseases such as peach leaf curl, fire blight, scab and anthracnose. Do NOT apply sulfur sprays to apricots.


Fixed Copper: Spray on apples, pears, cherries, peaches, and plums to control canker. Allow two


weeks between applications of copper and any sprays containing sulfur. Add a spreader-sticker product to help copper adhere to the tree surface.





Latex paint: Coat the trunks of young trees with white latex paint mixed half-and-half with water. The paint reflects strong sunlight that, once the leaves fall, can cause cracking, a favorite place for pests to overwinter and can cause substantial winter damage.


Here are some tips for specific fruit trees:

 **Apples:** Spray copper before fall rains; dormant oil once or twice from January through March; lime-sulfur in January or February (just before buds open) and wettable sulfur just after petal fall.

 **Apricots:** Spray copper before the fall rains and dormant oil in February.

 **Cherries:** Use wettable sulfur or lime-sulfur applied weekly during blooming for brown rot. Information on synthetic sprays to control cherry fruit fly is available at your local county office of the OSU Extension Service.

 **Pears:** Spray copper before the fall rains; spray lime-sulfur two to three times beginning in fall, again during winter, and finally in March just before buds open; spray dormant oil in early spring before buds open and wettable sulfur just after petal fall.

 **Peaches:** Spray copper or a good dormant fungicide three to four times between December and bud break. Spray copper or lime-sulfur before fall rains and in spring just before bud break; apply sulfur weekly during blooming and again after all petals have fallen. ♪

New Kiwifruit Variety

A new breed of hardy kiwifruit is becoming popular in Oregon as it becomes a commodity for commercial growers is well-suited to the home garden. The relatively new kiwifruit has a smooth skin and is about one inch long, according to Oregon State University Extension berry crops professor Bernadine Strik.

It's smaller and rather different looking than the traditional 'fuzzy' kiwifruit, but it looks the same on the inside, has a nice tropical flavor and is high in vitamin C. More important for the Oregon growing season is that the new variety produces fruit in mid-to late-September, whereas fuzzy kiwifruit will not ripen on the vine in Oregon.

Drawbacks exist, growers and home gardeners will need to protect newly emerging shoots from frost in late winter. Growers need to use overhead irrigation to protect plants after buds appear, perhaps as soon as early March.

You may want to download more information from the OSU Extension publication, "[Growing Kiwi-](#)

[fruit](#)," which is available online. The publication is based on hardy kiwifruit field trials conducted at OSU's North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora. It provides descriptions of kiwifruit varieties, their performance and characteristics such as ripening date, fruit weight and how well they grew in Oregon. The 26-page publication was written for both commercial growers and home gardeners.



Commercial growers will be interested in chapters on establishing and maintaining a kiwifruit orchard. They include sections on site selection and preparation, vineyard planning, irrigation, fertilization and trellising, as well harvest, handling and storage.

Between 80 and 100 acres of hardy kiwifruit are growing commercially in Oregon, most of which is marketed fresh. Hardy kiwifruit requires male plant(s) as well as fruit-producing female plant(s).



Growing Grapes in Home Gardens

Grapes grow both domestic and wild over the entire globe. "It's phenomenal that a plant can be so geographically disposed and thrive in the tropics as well as in the temperate zones of Canada and Russia," said Steve Renquist, horticulturist in the Oregon State University Extension Service office in Douglas County. "Many wine and juice grapes don't even need rich soil; if it's too fertile it can be a detriment to the quality of the fruit."

Grapes are a healthy food. The resveratrol polyphenolic in grapes is an antioxidant with potential health benefits, such as reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Home gardeners can grow grapes in a small place as long as the plants **get a minimum of six to eight hours of sun daily** for good fruit bud development and sugar production. Table grapes do need healthy soil. Well-drained soil is important, as is air

circulation to minimize the threat of disease. Plant grapes away from the house, a tree or a solid fence. They can be grown on a trellis, in a spot that shades the patio or even in a large container.

Understanding grape growth and pruning are needed to make sure vines produce high-quality fruit, according to the illustrated OSU Extension publication "[Growing Grapes in Your Home Garden](#)," (EC 1305), which is available online. The publication provides detailed instruction in planting and propagation, care of established plants, pests and harvest.

Although grapes can be grown worldwide, varieties adapt to rainfall, frost and climate in different ways. With many from which to choose, it's important to select only those known to perform well in your area. For descriptions of grape varieties that grow in most areas of Oregon, see another OSU Extension publication, "[Grape Cultivars for Home Gardens](#)," (EC 1309).



Asian Lady Beetles

Some years large numbers of ladybugs may converge on your house – at your windows, outside walls or on the garage. These large swarms don't occur every autumn. Some years large numbers are found, in others, few may be seen.

Ladybug, ladybird and lady beetle are a few of the common names for this well-known beneficial predatory insect. There are more than 450 species of these colorful beetles in North America alone. The most common native species of lady beetle found in Oregon is the convergent lady beetle, *Hippodamia convergens*, according to Amy Dreves, entomologist in the Department of Crop and Soil Science at Oregon State University. Other species found in Oregon include the imported Asian lady beetles, of the species *Harmonia axyridis*.

People often think of lady beetles as only being red with black spots. But these adult Asian lady beetles are quite variable in color from individual to individual, ranging from red, orange or yellow to black with as many as 19 black spots or none at all. Some are all black with a red spot on each side of their wing covers. Be careful not to mistake the 12-spotted cucumber beetle or Mexican bean beetle for a beneficial lady beetle.

All types of lady beetle adults eat harmful insects, including many types of aphids. As aphids feed on plant sap, they excrete a sugary sticky substance called honeydew. Honeydew is eaten by ants as well as by lady beetles. A lady beetle can eat more than 5,000 of these little plant-sucking pests in its lifetime.

If lady beetles are swarming to your shed or house in the autumn, they are most likely these multi-colored Asian types. Unlike Oregon's native lady beetles, which migrate to the mountains to over-winter, the Asian lady beetles remain in western Oregon to find a winter home. They appear to prefer light-color or sunny sides of buildings, windows and fixtures this time of year. They like to hang out together in groups, preparing to hibernate and spend the winter kind of shut down. They don't feed. Instead, they live on their fat reserves that they store up during their

feeding stage. In the spring they will wake up and disperse, mate, lay eggs and then die.

Asian lady beetles typically produce about three generations per year, taking about six weeks to grow from the egg stage through the larval stage to the adult stage. In the spring, they wake up, fly about and reproduce. After laying eggs, the next generation of larvae, or immature life stage of the Asian lady beetle, begins feeding on soft-bodied pests found in gardens and greenhouses, such as aphids, whiteflies and mites.

Found throughout the spring and summer, ladybug larvae resemble miniature carrot-shaped alligators with minute flexible spines. They are one-eighth to one-half inch long, somewhat flat, warty in appearance and are usually black or gray with a little orange color on four or five segments of the abdomen. They do not have wings or wing covers.

Asian lady beetles do not sting or carry diseases. But in large numbers, they are somewhat of a nuisance to many people. They can produce an odor and leave a discolored "spit." If you disturb them they may bleed a yellow-orange slimy fluid through their joints that may smell, stain walls, paint and fabrics. And they can pinch your skin with their mandibles.

Choices for coping with ladybug invasions:

- Repair damaged screens, gaps, leaky door cracks, broken seals on windows and other openings that may allow lady beetles in. Seal up openings with silicone caulking, weather stripping and/or foam. Install insect screening over your attic and exhaust fans. Install door sweeps.
- Collect lady beetles off walls and building sides by sweeping them with a soft brush into a container that you can put air holes into, such as a paper sack, jar or coffee can. Place straw or some



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Control Garden Pests with Less Toxicity

Horticultural oils are an effective, "least toxic" method of garden pest control that can be used safely and effectively if used carefully. They are most effective in controlling overwintering insect eggs, larvae such as caterpillars and soft-bodied adult garden pests including aphids, mites, scales, mealy bugs, psylla and whiteflies on perennial plants.

Home gardeners may be more familiar with the use of horticultural oils as "dormant oils," applied during the winter to control pests. These oils are used on woody plants during the dormant season, before the buds swell. They can also be sprayed on the leaves during the spring or summer to control pests.

Sometimes called "narrow range oil" or "superior oil," most horticultural oils are highly refined petroleum products, manufactured to control pests on plants. They are lighter than fuel products, evaporating quickly. Some vegetable oils, citrus oils and fish oils are also used as horticultural oils and some of these can be used by organic growers.

The oils kill insects and other soft-bodied invertebrates by suffocation, clogging their "spiracles," or breathing holes. The oils may disrupt the functioning of cell membranes. Or they may confuse insects and prevent them from laying eggs.

Horticultural oils have advantages over chemical-based pesticides:

- They degrade rapidly by evaporation. They have very low toxicity and have almost no toxicity to humans or wildlife at the rates recommended for use to control garden pests.
- They can be useful in controlling a wide variety of

soft-bodied pests. But beware - they eliminate a broad array of pests. Care must be taken not to eliminate overwintering or slow-moving larval beneficial insects.

- They act as an excellent surfactant and wetting agent for fungicides such as lime sulfur and copper, also used during the dormant season.
- Pests have developed little or no resistance to horticultural oils, unlike numerous other pesticides on the market.
- Horticultural oils are relatively inexpensive.
- They are less harmful to adult beneficial insects.
- They are certified for organic use. Horticultural oils are by no means perfect. Under the wrong conditions, horticultural oils may cause some damage or burning to certain plant foliage.

To ensure against harm to your foliage, spray a small area first and wait a few days to see the effects. The oils may cause some bluish plants, such as blue spruce, to lose their bluish cast, though the color will return within a couple of years.

The best time to spray oils is on a calm, cloudy morning. Do not use them when it is windy or when the temperature is greater than 90 degrees F or below freezing or when it is raining or extremely humid. Do not use dormant sprays during freezing weather. Spray when the temperature is above 40 degrees and before any green tissue is present. Do not apply horticultural oils to plants under drought or insect stress.

If in doubt about drought stress, water the plant before spraying it with horticultural oil. ♪

Source: Gail Gredler;
By: Carol Savonon



Asian Lady Beetles (Continued)

Continued From Page 6

other kind of dry substrate into the container with a lid. Keep them in the fridge all winter, and then let them go in the spring after it starts warming up. There is no guarantee that they will survive or stay around, but they may fly away and feed on pest insects somewhere.

- If they become intolerable nuisances, vacuum them up. But remember, this may kill them.

There are no registered pesticides for use on these beetles, so **do not use pesticides to try to control lady beetles.** ♪

Easiest Way to Control Plant Disease

Look around at what flourished this year in the garden and yard and what succumbed to disease. You will save yourself heartache and money next year if you choose disease-resistant varieties.

"Planting resistant varieties is the easiest means of disease control," according to Jay Pscheidt, plant pathologist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. "Roses, fruit trees and many vegetables such as tomatoes are susceptible to a variety of diseases caused by fungi and viruses. Choose those marked 'disease resistant' or 'certified virus-free' whenever possible."

For example, tomato seed packages and start tags often are marked with the letters V, N, T or F. V signifies resistance to *Verticillium*, a fungal disease causing premature wilt and reduced production. N stands for a nematode-resistant variety. Nematodes are small wormlike pests that puncture root cells. T indicates resistance to tobacco mosaic virus, which causes mottled leaves. An F means the variety is resistant to *Fusarium*, another fungal disease that causes wilt.

Tomato varieties known to be resistant to all of these diseases include Carmen, Carnival, Casino Royal, Cavalier, Celebrity, First Lady, Milagro and President.



As weather turns cold, many types of small insects will make their way into homes. Most of these insect pests are a simple nuisance, but some can cause problems in the home. Some insects that may damage clothing and household furnishings include earwigs, sowbugs and pillbugs, carpet beetles, silverfish, firebrats, and clothes moths.

Non-damaging insects that migrate indoors to overwinter may include spiders, centipedes, millipedes, box elder bugs, and quite an assortment of insects that are found in and around firewood.

Insects come in through open doors, windows or on firewood and other objects carried inside. The key to controlling these unwanted visitors is sanitation. If you suspect your firewood contains insects, leave

Other vegetables also have disease-resistant or disease-tolerant varieties, including green beans, peas, cucumbers, peppers and spinach.

The fungal diseases rust, powdery mildew and blackspot are common in rose gardens in the Pacific Northwest. Roses known to be resistant to these diseases include the hybrid teas Electron, Keepsake and Las Vegas; the floribundas *Europeana*, Liverpool Echo and Play Girl; and climbers Dortmund and Dublin Bay.

Apples are susceptible to several diseases including apple scab, fire blight and powdery mildew. Varieties that grow well, have shown good scab resistance and are of good quality include Akane (Tokyo Rose), Chehalis, Liberty, Prima and Tydeman Red. Crab apples have the same problems, and Pscheidt recommends planting disease-resistant crab apple cultivars David, Indian Summer, Red Jewel or White Angel.

Consult catalogs and local nurseries for other disease-resistant varieties, new ones come out each year and some old ones get discontinued. For more information about disease resistance call the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program. 503-842-3433. ☞



Insect Visitors in the Home

the wood outdoors until burned. A vacuum cleaning under furnishings, along the base of walls, in corners, and the edge of the ceiling, will help control insects.

Insects that contaminate foodstuffs include ants, cockroaches, bran bugs, and meal moths. Control of pests that infest foodstuffs is similar. Keep all cereal products in glass or metal containers with tight fitting lids. Keep food storage and preparation areas clean.

Spilled foods provide a ready source of food for insect pests. Don't forget to clean under and around the stove and refrigerator. The packaging that most food materials, including pet food, are contained in when purchased usually is not sufficient to prevent an infestation of insect pests. ☞

By: Bob Rost; Source: Jan McNeilan

Houseplant Care

The most important factor in the care of houseplants is to match their needs to their environment, and the most common mistake is to overwater, according to Ross Penhallegon, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service in Lane County.

Avoid placing plants near direct sources of hot or cold drafts, he recommends. A sudden change of temperature from doors, windows, furnace ducts, candles, wood stoves or television sets can hurt a plant. Wilting foliage and brown-tipped leaves could suggest a temperature problem.

To keep foliage green during the winter, fertilize lightly every other month, compared to every-month summer applications during the active growing season. Use a water-soluble medium-strength fertilizer (10-5-5) all times of the year for indoor plants.

Water each plant according to its needs rather than by a regular schedule. Plants in containers with drainage holes can be thoroughly watered because the excess drains out (if you add too much water, the catch basin will overflow). If there are no drainage holes, stick your finger two inches into the soil to detect dampness. Water the plant only if the soil feels dry. Pots without drain holes often will cause lower leaves to yellow, and the plant will gradually decline; too much water encourages root rot. Move plants to better-drained pots if you suspect inadequate drainage.

All plants require natural light. Flowering plants generally prefer stronger light; foliage plants will tolerate very low light conditions. On the whole, it is best to avoid hot direct sun rays for long periods of time. A bleached out area on leaves indicates too much light. Thin, leggy growth means not enough light. Place plants near a south- or west-facing window to get a good indirect light source.



Light source, light intensity, temperature and total room environment are all crucial to houseplants. Each plant has its own individual cultural requirements but will tolerate a few changes. Once a houseplant is happy and adapts, try not to move it much.

Insect pests can move in unexpectedly. Check indoor plants for pests including mites, thrips, mealybugs, scales, whiteflies and aphids. Stressed plants encourage pest problems. For example, high nitrogen favors aphids, dry and dusty conditions promote mite outbreaks. Isolate infested plants from others so they don't spread from plant to plant. If whiteflies are present, you can vacuum them off. Then freeze the bag contents.

Few pesticides are registered or considered safe for indoor use on houseplants.

Use yellow sticky traps, available at garden centers, for winged aphids. Blue sticky traps are good for detecting adult thrips. White sticky traps work best for fungus gnat control.

Check the undersides of leaves regularly, especially on plants brought in from outdoors. Wash the foliage regularly with a mild soapy solution, taking care to rinse soap off completely. A fine water spray or wiping the leaves with alcohol-soaked cotton will take care of most insects. Rinse off all the alcohol.

Remove and destroy plant parts that are totally infested, if you can't or don't want to remove pests in any other way. Discard infested soil and clean the pot or container as well. If an entire plant is badly infested, think about getting rid of it.

Few pesticides are registered or considered safe for indoor use on houseplants. Read labels carefully for where and how to use a pesticide. If indoor use is not listed on the label, take the plant to be treated outside, away from children and pet traffic areas. Leave the plant outside a day or two after spraying. ☞

by Evelyn
VonFeldt
OSU Master
Gardener

The Weed Patch

Winter Annual Weeds

Now that the regular growing season is over you thought you were just going to get to kick back and enjoy staying inside nice and warm studying all of the beautiful seed catalogs and planning next year's garden- **WRONG**. While you are lounging, the winter annual weeds are growing and forming seed heads to fill your garden and flower beds by the millions. "Millions you say?" More like billions. "What can I do?" you ask. Be ready to spend a few minutes whenever weather (and stiff joints) permits nipping this attack in the proverbial bud. I know it doesn't sound like fun, but come spring you will have a jump on bed preparation.

On the Oregon coast with our mild temperatures several winter annual weeds barely slow down with the cooler weather and can form flowers and seeds when only an inch or so high.

Know the Enemy

Poa annual bluegrass *Poa annua* L. is a soft leaved, bright green clumping grass that only grows 2 inches to 1 foot tall but is the earliest to ripen and if let to go to seed will plague your garden all summer with new clumps trying to fulfill their annual life cycle to make more seed.



Poa Annual Bluegrass

Two broad leaf winter annual weeds that are also common in our area are Little Bittercress *Cardamine oligosperma* Nutt. and Common Groundsel *Senecio vulgaris* L.

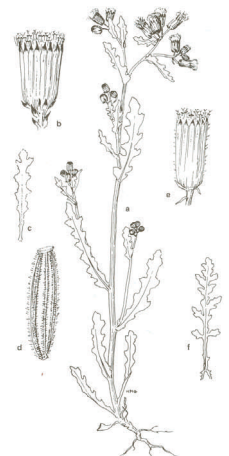
Little bittercress is a native of the Pacific Northwest and you may be startled by it "shooting" seeds when disturbed so getting an early start on weed pulling is essential. One good thing about little bittercress is as the weather and soil dry out during summer this wet

loving weed slows way down, till the fall rains start up again. Little bittercress is a cute little plant with dainty leaflets forming a rosette. The flowers are tiny and white, followed by ¾" long slender fruits with 12 to 24 seeds that explode when touched.



Little Bittercress

Common groundsel was brought to America by the Pilgrims in 1620 as a treatment for the early stages of cholera. It is also known as groundsel, grimsel, simson, birdseed, ragwort and chickenweed. To identify this troublesome weed look for this hollow stemmed plant that can reach 18", its hairless leaves are alternate on the stem and highly lobed. The underside of the leaves are usually purplish green and a bit fleshy. Unlike dandelions the flower heads do not open out into a ray but stay upright surrounded by black tipped bracts the same length as the tiny yellow flowers. Each plant can produce up to 1,700 seeds and plants are capable of producing seeds in 5 weeks-- up to 4 generations per season. One common groundsel seed has the potential of producing over 1 billion seeds in a year! The seeds are spindle shaped (like dandelion seeds) only 3 to 4 mm long and sticky during wet weather attaching to fur and clothing. So it is best not to let them mature that far.



Common Groundsel

If you are able to spot spray, glyphosate is a good choice. Be sure to follow all label instructions and be sure the soil will stay dry for several hours for full benefit of the spray. ☞

Source: *Gilkey's Weeds of the Pacific N.W.;*
Pacific N.W. Weed Management Handbook

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

DECEMBER

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Spread wood ashes on garden. Use no more than 1.5 lb/100 sq ft/year. Don't use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or potassium levels are excessive.
- Protect landscape plants from wind. Use stakes, guy wires and windbreaks
- Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds, hoe or pull winter weeds.
- Turn compost and protect from rain.
- Watch for drainage problems. Tiling, ditching, and French drains are possible solutions. Rain gardens and bioswales are a longer term solution.
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing rot.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.
- Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.

Planting/Propagation

- Good time of year to plant trees, landscape shrubs.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Remove weeds to prevent rodents from using them as hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents.
- Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. Read and follow pesticide label directions.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Protect poinsettias from cold, place in sunlight, don't let leaves touch cold windows; fertilize with houseplant fertilizer to maintain leaf color. ♪

JANUARY

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Reapply or redistribute mulches that have blown or washed away during winter.
- Place windbreaks to protect sensitive landscape evergreens from winds.
- Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.
- Water landscape plants underneath wide eaves and in other sites shielded from rain.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Scout cherry trees for signs and symptoms of bacterial canker. Remove infected branches with a clean pruner or saw. Sterilize tools before each new cut. Burn or send to landfill before bloom. See EC 631, *Controlling Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards*, online.
- Watch for field mice damage on lower trunks of trees and shrubs. Eliminate hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on roses for general disease control, or, plan to replace susceptible varieties with resistant cultivars in February.
- Mid-January: Spray peach trees with approved fungicides to combat peach leaf curl and shothole. Or plant curl-resistant cultivars such as Frost, Q1-8 or Creswell.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Monitor houseplants for correct water and fertilizer; guard against insect infestations; clean dust from leaves.
- Protect sensitive houseplants such as weeping figs from cold drafts.
- Propagate split-leaf philodendrons and other leggy indoor plants by air-layering or vegetative cuttings.
- Plant dwarf annual flowers inside for houseplants: coleus, impatiens, seedling geraniums. ♪

FEBRUARY

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Make a cold frame or hotbed.
- Fertilize rhubarb with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Incorporate cover crops or other organic matter into soil.
- Prune & train grapes; make cuttings.
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries.
- Prune deciduous summer-blooming shrubs and trees.
- Prune and train trailing blackberries; prune back raspberries.
- Prune fall-bearing raspberries (late in Feb or early March).
- Prune clematis, Virginia creeper, and other vining ornamentals.

Planting/Propagation

- Good time to plant new roses.
- Good time to plant fruit trees and deciduous shrubs. Use disease resistant cultivars.
- Plant asparagus if the ground is warm enough.
- Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts), indoors or in greenhouse.
- Where soil is dry enough and workable, plant garden peas and sweet peas. Suggested varieties of garden peas include: Corvallis, Dark Green Perfection, Green Arrow, Oregon Sugar Pod, Snappy, Knight, Sugar Snap, Oregon Trail, and Oregon Sugar Pod II.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Use delayed-dormant sprays of lime sulfur for fruit and deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose, bacterial canker of stone fruit and eastern filbert blight. Sterilize tools before each new cut.
- Monitor for European crane fly and treat lawns if damage has been verified. ♪

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.

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2010 Master Gardener Classes

- | | |
|---|---|
| Jan 12 <i>Orientation</i> | Joy Jones |
| Jan 19 <i>Botany/Plant ID</i> | Linda McMahan |
| Jan 26 <i>Soils/Soil Amendments</i> | Joy Jones |
| Feb 2 <i>Vegetables/Propagation</i> | Walt Jones/Coffman, Bowman, VonFeldt |
| Feb 9 <i>Weeds/Invasives</i> | Joy Jones / Rob Emanuel |
| Feb 16 <i>Coastal Plants/
Intro to PNW's/Trees</i> | Carla Albright/
Joy Jones / Joe Balden |
| Feb 23 <i>Pruning/Learning
Garden-Pruning/Composting</i> | Neil Bell / MG's
Evelynn VonFeldt |
| Mar 2 <i>Plant Pathology</i> | Jay Pscheidt |
| Mar 9 <i>Lawns/Pesticides</i> | Steven Price / Joy Jones |
| Mar 16 <i>Small Fruits/IPM</i> | D. Kauffman / Joy Jones |
| Mar 23 NO CLASS | |
| Mar 30 <i>Poisonous Plants/
Plant Clinic/Entomology</i> | Joy Jones / Joy Jones
Jean Natter |
| Apr 6 <i>Office Training/
Review Open Book Exam/</i> | Pat Penney / Joy Jones
Joy Jones |

*In this season of caring and sharing, Please remember - There is always someone who really needs help.
Please Donate to Your Local Food Bank*

**Food Pantries Providing
Emergency Food Boxes**

North County Food Bank
278 Rowe Street
Wheeler, Oregon 97147
503) 368 7724
Open Tuesdays 1 pm – 3 pm

God's Lighthouse Pantry
103 8th Street
Garibaldi, Oregon 97118
503) 322 3501
Every other Friday-10:30-12:30

Salvation Army Food Pantry
2105 4th Street
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
800) 858 3556 or 503) 812 3067
Open Wednesdays 3 pm – 5 pm
at the Laurel Street door

**Tillamook Christian Center
Pantry**
701 Marolf Loop
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
503) 842 6555
Tuesday 5 - 6:30 pm
Fridays 11 am to 12:00 pm

Tillamook Food Bank
3808 12th Street
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
503) 815 3880
Open Thursdays 1 pm – 3 pm

Nestucca Pass It On Ministries
24425 Bunn Creek Road
Beaver, Oregon 97108
503) 398 2803
Open Tuesday 10 am – 1 pm
and Friday 4 pm to 6 pm

Supplemental Food Programs

**Seventh Day Adventist
Community Services**
2610 First Street
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
503) 842 7182
Open Tues & Thurs 10 am to 2 pm

Meal Sites

St. Mary's By The Sea Senior Meals
275 S. Pacific Street
Rockaway, Oregon 97136
503) 355 2661
Senior Meals & Home Delivered Meals
- Mon, Wed, Fri. 11:45 am

St. Alban's Monday Night Meal
2102 Sixth Street
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
503) 842 6192
Open Mondays 4 pm to 6 pm

**First Christian Church – The
Dining Room**
2203 Fourth Street
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
503) 842 6213
Open Tues & Thurs 4 pm – 6 pm
Entry t-- doors on 4th & Madrona

**Tillamook Junior High School Sack
Dinner Program**
2105 Fourth Street
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
503) 842 7531
Open Fridays 4 pm to 5 pm
Sack meal take out at doors on
Laurel Street

Nazarene Church Meal Site
2611 Third Street
Tillamook, OR 97141
503) 842 2549
Saturdays 4 to 6:00 pm

