



Tillamook County Tiller

HORTICULTURAL NEWSLETTER FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY

WINTER 2010

Become an OSU Master Gardener™



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 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 to 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.

Master Gardener Training is currently conducted in 28 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. 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 72 certified and apprentice volunteers in 2010. These volunteers spent more than 4900 hours on horticulture related activities. They were contacted at the Extension Service and at Farmers Markets to answer more than 550 questions and they answered approximately another 2100 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 2011 Master Gardener™ classes. ☺

*For registration information see Page 8.
Class Schedule is on the last page - Page 12*



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Agriculture, Family and Community Development, 4-H Youth, Forestry, and Extension Sea Grant programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

President's Corner

Our outdoor gardening is winding down for this year. But there are lots of exciting things that will keep us busy over the winter. First of all, the Master Gardener classes start January 18th. If you know someone who is interested in taking the classes, please give their contact information to the Extension Office. For Master Gardeners wanting to recertify or just supplement your knowledge, we look forward to seeing you at some of the classes. The classes this year will be held at the new Community College Building in Tillamook. This will be exciting.

And we have a really exciting event coming to the coast this summer. The Oregon Master Gardener Association Mini College, usually held in Corvallis, will be held in Newport this summer! The dates are July 13th – July 16th. Tillamook will be co-hosting the event with Lincoln County. We are very excited about this opportunity. We will be suggesting some possibilities for courses specific to the coast along with instructors. We are planning on doing lots of local publicity as we are hoping that many of our local gardeners will be interested in attending. Please note that you don't have to be a Master Gardener to attend. There will be lots of courses on gardening, nutrition and general health and well being. One possibility is to charter a bus if we have enough gardeners who would like to go for a day to the classes. We will also be putting

Tillamook County
Master Gardener Association



together some tours for the Saturday afternoon after Mini College, July 17th. Tours in Newport will be held on Saturday am and then we are hoping that a number of gardeners will drive up the coast and attend a tour here – and possibly stay for the evening.

There are some RV and camping sites reserved in Newport for the occasion. If anyone is interested in these, there will be information at the Tillamook Extension Service or contact me (jean.scholtz@mindspring.com). These sites need to be signed up for soon! If anyone has suggestions for courses, instructors, tours, or would just like to help get local information around to be distributed to visitors, please get in touch with me.

A real advance notice about our Garden Tour! The date this year will be July 23rd. Everyone is very hesitant to try a June date again this year after the very late spring we had last year. We will be holding a plant sale of our own and a vendor sale that day as well. It is not too early to think about plants you would like to bring to the sale. If you are thinning your perennials, consider putting some in a pot for the plant sale.

Have a pleasant holiday and I hope to see you all at a garden somewhere in 2011! ♪

Jean Scholtz

TCMGA President 2010

EDITOR'S NOTE: Another plant with great winter color interest is *Beauty Berry*. Beauty Berry (or beautyberry) is a genus of shrubs and small trees in the family Verbenaceae. They grow in USDA Zones 5-8 in well drained soil in full sun to light shade. Clusters of small lavender-pink blossoms followed by clusters of green berries are produced on new growth at each leaf axil from June through August. The berries turn purple or white depending on the cultivar as they mature. Callicarpa means beautiful fruit, which is where the common name beautyberry comes from. The berries persist after leaf drop and provide food for raccoons, birds, and small rodents.

Dottee



callicarpa

Flowering Plants Add Color to Winter

Flowering plants that bloom in the winter burst into color in the midst of rain and gray weather, proving that there can always be a time when something in the garden is abloom.

Most people are familiar with late-winter bloomers like forsythia and crocus, which flower in early February, and white or pink winter-blooming heaths. To further enhance winter months plant less-common trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants for all eye levels of the garden.

Some of the boldest, such as witch hazel, are considered a small tree or large shrub. Its light-to-dark yellow flowers typically bloom in December, January or February in Oregon. Two species – American witch hazel (*H. virginiana*) and Ozark witch hazel (*H. vernalis*) – are natives, while *H. japonica* and *H. mollis* are from Asia. Perhaps the most popular is the Chinese witch hazel (*H. mollis*). Its bright yellow flowers brighten any winter day and it also has fall coloration. Hybrid forms also are available, such as *H. x intermedia*. Plant witch hazel in full or filtered sunlight and provide summer irrigation for best success. They are hardy in USDA Zones 5 or higher.

For blooms in December and January, look for another small tree or large shrub, the *Camellia sasanqua*. Unlike the more familiar Japanese camellias, the sasanqua camellia blooms earlier and grows in an open form. However, like its more common relative, it has been bred for many colorful flowers, from pure white to pinks and reds. This species is evergreen and hardy to USDA Zone 7; it prefers rich soil with regular summer irrigation.

Another large shrub called wintersweet is known botanically as *Chimonanthus praecox*. As the name



Camellia sasanqua

suggests, this January bloomer produces a powerful and sweet fragrance, and flowers are waxy and light-to-medium yellow. Wintersweet grows to USDA Zone 6, making it suitable for much of western Oregon and Washington. It is deciduous, bush-like because it grows from multiple trunks, and prefers sun to light shade and regular watering in well-drained soil.

For fragrance on a smaller scale, try sweetbox in the genus *Sarcococa*. Several species and hybrids are available, but the most common is sold as *S. humilis* or *S. confusa*. This compact evergreen shrub from China makes a bold statement. The flowers are white and fragrance amazing. Because they are hardy to only USDA Zone 7-9, plant in a protected area. The flowers are followed by attractive, shiny black berries that persist for much of the year. These shrubs, which grow three to five feet tall, prefer part shade, rich soil and regular irrigation.

Another shrub from China is winter jasmine, *Jasminum nudiflorum*. It blooms off and on between November and February. Some forms are hardy to USDA Zone 6, making it suitable for most of western Oregon. This species is not fragrant, but has bright yellow flowers and is deciduous and almost vine like.

Hardy cyclamen (*Cyclamen coum*) flowers in November or December, followed by colorful variegated leaves. Flowers are a medium to deep pink, and each flowering stem uncurls like a corkscrew as it emerges. The plant grows from an underground storage unit called a corm, which is often sold with fall bulbs, but many nurseries offer them as potted plants as well. Be sure to shop by species names as less hardy species also are available. This species comes from Middle Eastern countries and is hardy to USDA Zone 5.

Sometimes called Lenten Rose or Christmas rose, Hellebores come in several colors and foliage forms. They are sturdy and grow one to two feet tall, with large flowers in white, yellow, green, pink or purple. Some of the species are hardy to USDA Zone 4. In most places, you can expect blooming to begin by late February. ♪

Holiday Plants are More Than They Seem

Decorating with poinsettia plants or giving a Christmas cactus to a friend are holiday traditions for many, but not everyone is aware that there's more to these popular indoor winter plants than their bright leaves and cascading blossoms.

Poinsettia is a common name for *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, a member of the spurge family. The plant goes by many common names worldwide, including Easter star, lobster flower, flame-leaf flower, crown of the Andes and noche Buena. Its wild habitat is as close as Mexico.

A large propagation industry based in California grows up to 200 varieties for holiday decoration, and sales approach 100 million plants each year.

Although not hardy below 50 degrees, the poinsettia's sturdy nature, colorful flowers and foliage make it a perfect seasonal indoor plant for our climate. Breeding and propagation techniques have produced compact plants that are full and lush through the holiday season, but make it a difficult plant to keep going at other times of the year.

In the wild, the shrub grows to 10 feet tall, and its typical bright red leaves 'bloom' near the end of December. It has a somewhat open, gangly form, unless pruned. The actual flowers are yellow or green, inconspicuous, and found at the center of a group of large colorful leaves, known botanically as bracts.



Euphorbia pulcherrima

As the holiday season progresses, many of the flowers fall off, leaving only small stumps, but the flowering bracts persist much longer.

Look carefully at the colorful bracts and compare their vein structure to

green leaves. Without the color variation, the two would be nearly indistinguishable. The amazing red color show is to attract pollinators, especially hummingbirds.

The whitish, milky poinsettia sap can be irritating, especially to the eyes, and can trigger allergies in some people, although the plant is not considered to be highly toxic.

Holiday cactus is another seasonal favorite. It also has other common names, including orchid cactus, Easter cactus, Christmas cactus, Thanksgiving cactus, and flora de maio (May flower).

Color range and form are astounding. Unlike poinsettia, the cactus can live past the holiday season and make good, year-round house plants, often providing surprise blooms at various times of the year.

It really is a cactus, although it grows in the wild of the tropics in trees, where it is closer to the sunlight. Botanically, it is an epiphyte, a Greek word meaning something that grows perched on another plant. One major habitat is the high mountains of Brazil.

Segments of the stem can be separated and placed in water or moist soil, and new roots will grow from the base.

It blooms anytime between December and January, if left in a room where the lights are off in the evening.

Flowering is triggered by shortening nights, and flashes of light at the wrong time can throw off its biological blooming-time clock. Flowering is also triggered by lower temperatures; a spot right next to the fireplace or furnace vent might not be the best choice. For directions on how to induce flowering or keep the cacti as longer-term houseplants, check Web sites for details. A good one is Purdue Extension's [Christmas Cactus FAQs](#). ↻

Source: Linda McMahan

Bulbs Grow Well in Pots

Paperwhite narcissus bulbs, because of their fragrance, are popular to grow in pots indoors, but nearly all bulbs sold in the fall work well in pots that stay outdoors. If you choose the right plants, you can create a bulb display that extends through the seasons.

It's easy to create a stunning display that begins to grow in the fall or middle of winter, then bursts into bloom in the spring or early summer. Although you can put each kind of bulb in a different pot, mixing them up provides an extravagant display.

Bulbs often do better in pots than in the ground because pots provide better drainage, critical for their long-term survival. Also, gophers and other underground creatures won't find them.

Don't be afraid to pack the pot full of bulbs. Plant a lot of bulbs at different, overlapping levels. You can easily put 20-30 bulbs, sometimes even more, into a pot that is 14–20 inches across. Use bulbs of many different sizes for an interesting display and longer seasonal appeal.



For longest bloom, look first for crocus. Tulips of all kinds work well, including the “species tulips” and their cultivars. Species tulips, often available in garden centers, are sometimes shorter than the taller bedding tulips and tend to come back year after year.

Narcissus and daffodils also are stellar pot bulbs. Choose both early and later blooming varieties for continued bloom. The taller Allium also works well, but shorter alliums can sometimes take over. Grape hyacinth tends to dominate.

Branch out a bit, and try Brodiaea, hyacinths, Fritillaria, dwarf iris or other bulbs. Dwarf iris, like tulips, often do better in pots than in the ground because of their high drainage requirements.

Plant bulbs with their tips pointing upward and, generally, follow directions for planting depth on the package. Use regular planting or potting soil, recently purchased if possible. If you reuse older planting mix, be sure to add bulb fertilizer.

Fill the container a little more than halfway full of soil, then add a layer of large bulbs such as narcissus (daffodil). Leave only a little space between them; about half an inch is OK. Add more soil and plant the next larger bulb, such as tulip. Repeat adding soil and bulbs alternatively, placing the smallest bulbs like crocus at the top, covered with another inch of soil. Water well and place in a protected spot out of the rain.

It is best to leave the pot outside so that the bulbs get a cold period, which stimulates growth and flowering. Be sure to bring the pot inside temporarily when temperatures dip below about 28-30 degrees overnight. Bigger pots are safer than smaller ones because it takes longer for the soil mass to freeze all the way through.

Once green spikes of foliage begin to poke through the soil, make sure the plants get plenty of light. A good time to add fertilizer is when plants are blooming; preferably a slow-release type.

After the flowers have bloomed, leave the foliage to die back on its own. Then remove the bulbs and plant them in the garden in the fall, or simply leave them in the pot for the next year. The bulbs will remain dormant and need water only when the autumn cycle begins anew. ♪

Source: Linda McMahan

Help Perennial Vegetables Survive Winter

Perennial vegetables can survive winter's freezing temperatures with a little extra care before winter cold sets in. Mulch your rhubarb, asparagus, horseradish and artichokes to insulate against the cold, and you will also enrich the soil for next spring. Organic matter and well-rotted manure assure a good crop next year.

If your rhubarb is crowded and well-established, fall is a good time to renovate the plant, a task that needs to be done only every few years. Drive the blade of a shovel down through the middle of the plant. Then remove half of the plant—crown, roots and all. Fill the hole with compost, rotted manure, or fertilizer mixed with organic matter. Compost the removed half, move it to another spot or give it to a friend who needs rhubarb. Dividing may also be done in early spring.

Mulch asparagus beds with four to six inches of chopped leaves, weed-free straw, hay or similar materials. Next spring, remove the mulch from half of the bed. The asparagus will come up more quickly where the mulch is removed and the mulched section will come up later, thus extending your asparagus

season. Take the mulch off soon after spears begin emerging or they will curl over.

Horseradish will winter-over with no mulching in most places west of the Cascades. Horseradish is best and most potent when it's harvested after several good frosts in the fall. Treat Jerusalem artichokes in the same way as horseradish. Do not harvest until the tops have died.

To ensure the survival of thistle-type artichokes (Globe, for example), clip back the large artichoke rosette. Cover it with six inches or more of mulch, compost or leaves. If there are baby plants, "pups" coming up around the mother plant, remove the mother plant entirely and protect the pups. During the harshest part of winter, put a heavy cardboard box with the bottom open over artichoke plants. A Styrofoam box also works very well. Fill the box with straw, mounding it over the cut-back plant or pups. Remove the box when the weather moderates. Take away the mulch after frost danger has passed. In a mild winter, artichokes will survive without protection west of the Cascades. ♪

Source: Pat Patterson

Build a Simple Coldframe or Cloche

Coldframes can prolong the growing season in the fall and be used to start flower and vegetable plants before normal outdoor planting dates in the spring. Young plants are protected from frosts, from pummeling rains, from the damage of icy sleet or winds. The sun enters the clear top of the coldframe by day, heating the soil. At night, the coldframe slows the loss of heat.

Built with wood or metal sides, coldframes can have a hinged or removable clear top of glass, plastic or fiberglass, so the cover can be raised on warm sunny days and then lowered during cool nights. Side walls can be as high as needed, but eight to 12 inches are the usual height. The north wall of the frame box is usually built higher than the south for better sunlight exposure. A

clear top with two layers of fiberglass works well. Plain clear glass or clear plastic does not hold in heat well overnight.

For an easy inexpensive cloche build a cloche out of concrete reinforcing wire. Buy a roll of mesh and cut it to form "Quonset hut" hoops as high and as wide as needed. Place a section of the mesh over the plants to be protected and cover the reinforcing wire with 2 layers of clear plastic or one layer of row cover plus one layer of plastic. Even old bed sheets will work if you just need night protection from frost.

To learn more about building coldframes and hotbeds, the OSU Extension Service offers a fact sheet, FS 246, "[Constructing Coldframes and Hotbeds](#)" on the Web. ♪

Don't Worry about a Slow, Cool Compost Pile

If your compost pile at home isn't getting hot, don't worry. It's okay if your yard debris and kitchen waste are far from steamy.

Cool, slow composting is easier to do than hot composting, will break down eventually and may have hidden benefits, according to Oregon State University soil scientist Dan Sullivan. Slow composting is often the best method for people who do not have time to tend a hot compost pile, which takes more care and a more precise recipe. It's an easy and convenient way to turn yard wastes into a useful soil amendment.

Decomposition requires microorganisms, moisture, air, temperatures above freezing and time. To make slow compost, simply mix yard trimmings into a pile and let them sit.

Mother Nature will provide plenty of moisture. You don't need to worry about the proper carbon-to-nitrogen (C:N) ratio. The C:N ratio only affects the speed of composting. If your pile is woody (high C:N) it will just decompose slowly. Don't worry about adding a commercial inoculant or compost. Sufficient decomposer bacteria and fungi are present

naturally in yard trimmings and fruit and vegetable wastes.

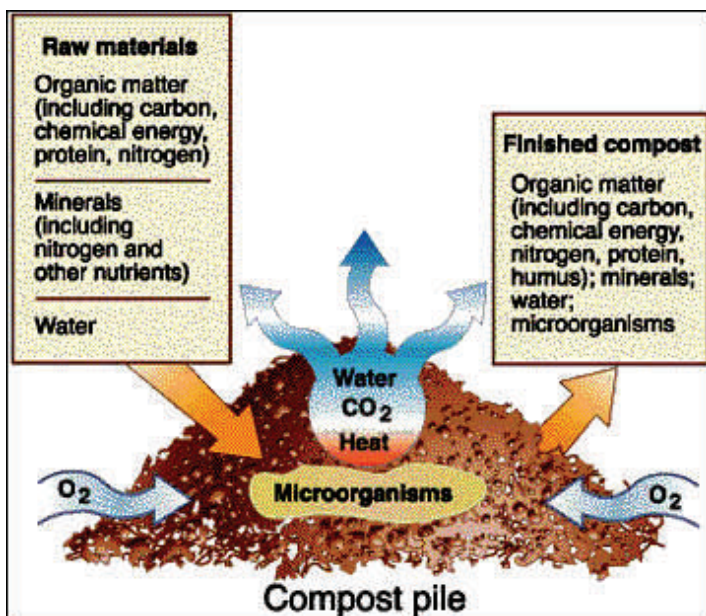
The fall leaves and woody prunings from the yard go into the pile. The bigger branches provide pathways for air to enter the pile. Sometimes, stir the pile by lifting up on the big branches. By May or June, the fall leaves look like compost and only the coarse leafless branches remain. You will find lots of night crawlers at the bottom of the pile. Use the compost and night crawlers in the garden and contribute the remaining branches to your curbside yard waste pickup bin.

To avoid attracting possums, raccoons and skunks to the pile, bury fresh fruit and vegetable scraps way in the center of a big compost pile. If you have a critter problem, you might want to compost the fruit and vegetable scraps in a critter-proof container or bury them in a well-drained part of the garden. The fruit and vegetable scraps contain a lot of water and do not result in much compost. The main point is to keep fruit and vegetable scraps out of the trash.

There are drawbacks to slow composting. It does not produce heat needed to kill most weed seeds, and it is best to keep troublesome weeds out of the pile. Soil-borne plant disease organisms that cause root rot also are not killed in slow composting. To limit spread of soil-borne disease, apply slow compost to a small part of the garden, rather than spreading it over the entire garden area.

Cool composting can have unexpected benefits. "Our family added our rotten pumpkins to the slow compost pile in the fall and found a ready made pumpkin patch the following spring," Sullivan said. "The pumpkin seeds emerged earlier than I usually plant them in the garden. We let them grow on the old compost pile, and they produced a good harvest. I guess that is the ultimate in recycling." ☺

Source: Dan Sullivan



If you do not have internet, you may obtain most of the publications cited in this newsletter from the OSU Extension Service at 2204 4th Street, Tillamook, OR 97141. Phone: 503 842-3433

Repair Storm Damaged Trees & Shrubs Promptly

If recent storms damaged trees or shrubs in your yard, you may need to provide "first aid" promptly. The earlier you care for injured plants, the better chance they have of recovering, advises Ross Penhallegon, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Most of the damage is likely to be minor, involving small limbs that break or crack, and often are already dead. However, high winds or wet, heavy snow can cause woody trees and shrub branches to break.

Cutting the damaged twigs and limbs back to the nearest strong, healthy wood or bud. When pruning back to healthy wood, make the pruning cut nearly flush with the nearest side limb. Cut to the swollen area called the "collar." Do not leave a stub or snag. Remove fractured or splintered wood. These surfaces are inviting places for infection or rot to take hold.

If your tree or shrub limbs are bent but not cracked, don't cut off the entire limb immediately. Instead, remove extra weight from the limb by first cutting off smaller expendable side limbs. Then leave it alone. With time, the limb may straighten out.

"Or, if impatience gets the best of you, prop up the branch with wood," Penhallegon said. "Over time you can reposition it near to where it is supposed to be." Move the branch upward about six inches every week until the branch returns to its normal position.



A broken major limb should be sawed back to the trunk or major side limb. Make the cut as clean as possible to help prevent rot diseases from becoming established in the area of the cut. Do not apply coatings to the cut.

Some trees may be damaged beyond repair or require more work than most homeowners are willing to do. Young, fast-growing trees have the best chance to recover from major damage. Trees less likely to recover from significant damage have shown little re-growth each year, have been damaged before or are old with scraggly growth.

In the early spring, apply nitrogen fertilizer around the drip line area of recovering trees and shrubs to encourage vigorous growth. ♪

Source: Ross Penhallegon

Registration for Master Gardener Classes

Registrations for the 2011 Master Gardener Training Program are now being taken. A mandatory orientation will be held on Tuesday, January 11th. Classes begin on January 18th and continue on Tuesdays through April 5th. No class will be held on March 22 - Spring Break week.

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. 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/extension/tillamook/what-master-gardener-program>. ♪

Rhododendrons & Azaleas Need Acidic Soil

If your rhododendron and azalea leaves look yellowish and are smaller than normal they could need a more acidic environment. The plant could be growing where it is too wet or too dry or could need additional nutrients, such as nitrogen, sulfur or iron. However, rhododendrons, azaleas, blueberries, heathers and hydrangeas typically need a strong acidic environment, and if the soil has the wrong pH, are unable to absorb nutrients.

The OSU Extension Service recommends the following sequence of strategies to help keep your plant healthy and in optimal conditions.

The most effective way to correct iron deficiency is to acidify the soil. Cold and wet times of the year, such as winter or early spring, are a good time to acidify soil. **But first, be sure that acidification is necessary.** Have the pH of your soil tested or test it yourself before you acidify.

To acidify an established tree or shrub, dig four small foot-deep holes per shrub or tree, around and away from the trunk. Dig the holes a foot from the trunk of a shrub, two feet away from a small tree, three feet

away from a medium tree and just inside the drip line of a larger tree. You can use a soil auger or bulb planter to help make these small holes deep enough. Add a half cup of elemental sulfur (S), phosphoric acid or sulfuric acid, divided equally among the four holes.

Wait until next spring or summer to gauge the plant's response. Again, check your soil pH before proceeding.

Iron can be sprayed directly on the leaves in addition to a soil acidification program if a severe iron deficiency exists. Leaf (foliar) iron sprays usually are short-lived and need to be applied every other week during rapid growth.

For more details, an online OSU Extension Service publication, "[Acidifying Soil for Blueberries and Ornamental Plants in the Yard and Garden West of the Cascade Mountain Range in Oregon and Washington](#)" (EC 1560-E), can be found online. ↪

By: Judy Scott

Source: John Hart

Bats



Bats are not the rabid, hair-tangling vampires they are made out to be. Fear and ignorance have led humans to kill large numbers of bats. In addition, bats have lost much of their habitat and suffered from the use of pesticides.

Bats are a vital part of a healthy ecosystem. In North America bats are the primary predators of night-flying insects, including bugs that can devastate crops. Fifteen species of bats live in Oregon, including the tiny western pipistrelle, which weighs less than a quarter of an ounce. For their size, bats are the world's longest-lived mammals. Some are known to live more than 20 years in the wild. Bats spend more than half their lives in roosts. In winter, they tend to choose cool places to hibernate, such as caves or rock crevices. In spring, pregnant females gather

together in nursing colonies to bear their young. Males and unbred females roost in other places.

Bats spend an hour or two foraging then they rest in night roosts, which are usually close to food sources. They may hunt again before dawn, then return to a day roost. You can help bats survive by creating roosting habitat for them in your yard. It can be as simple as putting up a bat house, or wrapping a tree trunk with a flexible panel.

OSU Extension publication, "Create Roosts for Bats in Your Yard" (EC1555), contains plans for building bat houses and simple roosts for bats, as well as information on providing food, water and a poison-free environment for bats. It is available online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1555.pdf>.

Source: Linda McMahan

by Evelyn
VonFeldt
OSU Master
Gardener

The Weed Patch

Slime Molds and Liverworts

Slime molds and liverworts are found throughout the Pacific North West coastal region and sometime seem to appear overnight. Occasionally you can "bring them home" in nursery pots, but in our wet environment they are really all around us just waiting for the right conditions.

Slime molds are most usually noticed in lawns. They are primitive organisms related to fungi. They appear first as a thin, slimy sheet; later powdery round, pin-head size balls show up on the grass blades - these are the spore producing bodies. Other slime molds have more structure and come in various colors - grays, white, orange, yellow. One of my favorites is called "dog-vomit" slime mold; you can guess why it has that name.

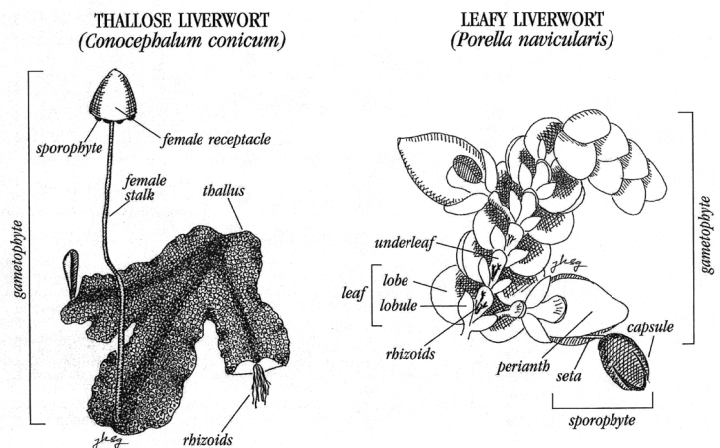
Slime molds really do no harm to plants and are not "feeding on them". If you encounter them, the easiest thing to do is mow or rake if found in the lawn. Washing off with water can also help or try increasing air circulation and decreasing moisture to the affected area. If you have a thick layer, removing with a shovel or by hand may be needed.

Liverworts come in many forms, some have definite leaves and stems, in these varieties the spore producing capsule stalk does not elongate and splits open close to the stem to spread its spores. Many Liverworts can sometimes be mistaken for mosses, one common one called Scissor-leaf Liverwort (*Herbertus aduncus*) is rusty-red to brownish and forms large shaggy mats found growing on branches and tree trunks. Many look almost like aquatic plants. One of my favorites is called Little Hands Liverwort (*Lepidozia reptans*) because the leaves look like tiny hands with three curved fat fingers. Many have curved over-lapping leaves.

In other forms that lack definite leaves and stems, the female stalk (which looks like a mushroom) then produces and releases spores, these include Ring Pella (*Pellia neesiana*), Lung Liverwort (*Marchantia polymorpha*) and Snake Liverwort (*Conocephalum concicum*) these plants have flat ribbon-like leaves .

Liverworts also do no real harm but do compete with plants and nursery stock for nutrients and water. You can hand removed from pots. ☞

STRUCTURE OF LIVERWORTS



Sources:

Pojar, Jim and Andy MacKinnon: *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*

Davidson, Roy M., Jr. and Ralph S Byther: **WSU EB 1083** - *Slime Molds on Lawns and Other Areas*

Smith, Michael D. Editor for Ortho Information Services: *Ortho Problem Solver, Sixth Edition*

http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nursery-weeds/weedspec/espage/liverwort/liverwort_page.html

*Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent***DECEMBER****Maintenance and Clean Up**

- Protect new landscape plants from wind. Use stakes, guy wires and/or windbreaks as needed.
- Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds, hoe or pull winter weeds.
- Turn the compost pile and protect from heavy rains, if necessary.
- Watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tilling, ditching, and French drains are possible short-term solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales.
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, fruits for rot and fungus problems.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.

Planting/Propagation

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

Pest Monitoring & Management

- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- 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.
- Monitor houseplants for adequate water and fertilizer - requirements generally are less in winter. ♪

JANUARY**Planning**

- Have soil test performed on garden plot to determine nutrient needs. Contact your local Extension office for a list of laboratories or view EM 8677 online.

- Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs and trees for propagation.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Reapply or redistribute mulches that have blown or washed away during winter.

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.
- Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on roses for general disease control.
- 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

- Protect sensitive plants such as weeping figs from cold drafts in the house.
- Plant dwarf annual flowers inside for houseplants: coleus, impatiens, seedling geraniums.
- Gather branches of quince, forsythia, and flowering cherries; bring indoors to force early bloom. ♪

FEBRUARY**Planning**

- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers to your landscape. Examples include candytuft, peony, penstemon, and coneflower.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Repair winter damage to trees and shrubs.
- Make a cold frame or hotbed to start early vegetables or flowers.
- 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.
- Prune clematis, Virginia creeper, and other vining ornamentals.

Planting/Propagation

- Plant fruit trees and deciduous shrubs.
 - Plant seed flats of cole crops.
 - Good time to plant new roses.
- 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.
 - Elm leaf beetles & box-elder bugs are emerging from hibernation and may be seen indoors. They are not harmful, but can be a nuisance. ♪

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.

In This Issue

- Pg 1** *Become an OSU Master Gardener™*
- Pg 2** *TCMGA President's Corner*
- Pg 3** *Flowering Plants Add Color to Winter*
- Pg 4** *Holiday Plants are More Than They Seem*
- Pg 5** *Bulbs Grow Well in Pots*
- Pg 6** *Help Perennial Vegetables Survive Winter
Build a Simple Coldframe or Cloche*
- Pg 7** *A Slow, Cool Compost Pile*
- Pg 8** *Repair Storm Damaged Trees & Shrubs
Registration for Master Gardener Classes*
- Pg 9** *Rhododendrons & Azaleas Need Acidic Soil
Bats*
- Pg 10** *The Weed Patch*
- Pg 11** *Garden Hints-December, January, February*

Coming Events

- Jan. 11 - 2011 Master Gardener Class Orientation**
9:00 am to 12 pm
- Jan. 18 - April 5th: 2011 Master Gardener Classes**
Tuesdays 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
- Starting in March - Master Gardener Office Hours:**
Mondays and Thursdays 12:30 to 4:30 pm
- 3rd Wed. of the month Bonsai Club - Tillamook PUD**
Meeting Room 9:30 am -11:30 am

*For More information
go to [Master Gardener Classes](#)
Stop by our office - 2204 4th St, Tillamook
Or call (503) 842-3433*



**OSU Extension Service - Tillamook County
2011 Master Gardener Class Schedule**



Apprentice Classes start at 9 A.M.

Instructor Class Times: A.M. 9:30 - 12:30 Lunch Break P.M. 1:30 -4:30

<i>Date</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Class</i>
Jan 11	Orientation -Required- 9 am to noon		
Jan 18 potluck	Introductions Botany Plant I.D.	Mar 1 potluck	Pesticides Entomology
Jan 25	Soils Soil Amendments	Mar 8	Plant Pathology
Feb 1	Vegetables Lawns	Mar 15	Small Fruits Weeds Invasives
Feb 8	Coastal Plants Intro to PNWs IPM	Mar 22	Spring Break NO CLASS
Feb 15	Propagation Fruit Trees	Mar 29	Poisonous Plant Plant Clinic Water Quality
Feb 22	Pruning L. Garden/Pruning Composting	Apr 5 potluck	Computer/Office Tour Review Open Book Exam Recognition

Recertifying Master Gardeners must take 9 hours of class (three 3 hour classes)

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