This Month’s Master Gardener™ Calendar

April 2, Thursday
Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am.
PW Auditorium

April 4, Saturday
Ping Lim presentation “All About Roses”,
1 pm at the McMinnville Library

April 4 & 5, Saturday & Sunday
Amity Daffodil Festival at the Amity Elementary School, 10am—4pm

April 8, Wednesday
YCMGA Board Meeting, 1 pm.
PW Auditorium. All members welcome to attend.

April 16, Thursday
Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am.
PW Auditorium

April 17 & 18, Friday & Saturday
Yamhill Water School, Watersheds 101. 
Recertification available. See page 4

April 20, Monday
McMinnville Garden Club program: Annie Dunn on Water Gardens in Containers, 
Noon at the Hillside Manor Activity Room

April 24, Friday
Deadline for Tiller submissions

April 24, Friday
Calling all Master Gardeners to move plants from the greenhouse to the A-DEC Bldg at the Fairgrounds for the sale, 9am. Snacks provided.

April 24, Friday
Sale preparation day. Need helpers for all kinds of tasks. Meet at the Horticulture Pavilion at the Fairgrounds at noon and pick a task. See page 7.

April 25, Saturday
YCMGA Annual Plant Fair & Sale, 9am—3pm at the YC Fairgrounds. See page 7. Sign up book for volunteers is in the MG office.

April 25, Saturday
Calling all members to help clean up after the sale. Show up at the ADEC Bldg. at the Fairgrounds at 3:30 pm and pick a task or talk to a coordinator. See page 7.
Linda’s Corner by Linda McMahan

In this, the April issue, I wish to extend a hearty “thank you” to everyone who helped with the class. We held our last class of 2009 on March 19, but this is just the beginning. With formal training now complete, we enter the phase of hands-on learning which takes place in the clinics, at the desk, in conversations, and working with the community.

As usual, our Mentors did a very fine job under the direction of Mentor Leaders Alan Wenner and Polly Blum. They are already talking about how to make small changes to make next year’s program even better. If you are interested in mentoring next year, it’s not too early to let Polly know of your interest.

Thank you to the host of mentors and mentor alternates who gave many hours to help the Class of 2009 learn even more than we offered in class. Thank you to those of you who taught or assisted with the classes. And perhaps most of all, thanks to Les and Al, who coordinated coffee and hospitality set up, Darryl, who set up the complicated sound system and Judy and Marcia, who took care of the rest of the AV needs for the entire 11 weeks of class sessions.

Sowing YCMGA Seeds of Education

Yahoo! The 2009 OSU/YCMGA class members have completed their textbook, computer research access and lecture portions of their horticultural education in sustainable gardening practices. Now their exciting master gardener educational “hands-on” journey and adventure commences.

As they open and enter this unfamiliar door of service opportunities in our community, they have at their fingertips access to science based, educational resources through contact with OSU and other university sources. Our YCMGA library and access to PNW books provide a wealth of information in solving the myriad of general questions asked about gardening, landscape, and pest control.

In the MG office there are sign-up books for service at area clinics, farmers’ markets, MG desk duty and local festivals. Periodically we forward emails suggesting other service opportunities for consideration.

In April, we ask everyone that is available to participate in our annual YCMGA Plant Sale on April 25, 2009. It is an event that should not be missed. This is scheduled as a one day event but actually the pre-planning and organization goes on for several months especially in the YCMGA greenhouse. I usually work the week of the sale with my friend Jane Price-Hensley in pricing and preparing any donated plants for the sale.

Plants lovingly propagated by MGs are eagerly adopted and find new homes and families to care for them. The vegetables have the potential to provide nourishment; the plants and flowers to provide landscaping delights and enjoyment.

Are you planning to assist in service opportunities to our community?
I hope you are.

From the President by Cathy Burdett

We also greatly appreciate those who work in the office for their role—professional level classes taught by Jeff Olsen and Brad Withrow-Robinson, assistance by office staff Deb Zaveson, Vickie Smith and Ronda Armour, as well as everyone else who answered questions, explained procedures, made introductions, and handled the other activities that make a class run smoothly.

New class members have already volunteered to become involved with the YCMGA, teach courses for advanced credit or in the next training session, organize special events, keep desk sign-ups happening, and create a new educational display for this year’s plant sale on invasive ornamentals.

Thanks again. Without you, our training would not sparkle and shine.
April Fool

Many insects use deceptive means to fool enemies and predators and carry on their lives. Many of these processes are very unusual and unique in the animal kingdom. Some insects use warning coloration to indicate that they are either poisonous or just plain don’t taste good. Combinations of colors such as red and black, blue and black, green and black and other colors in combination with black usually indicate that the specimen should be avoided. An example is the color and pattern of the Monarch butterfly. Its orange, black, and white markings warn predators that it is poisonous and should be left alone. Picking up on this theme is the Viceroy butterfly which is edible, but whose coloration and pattern so closely resemble the Monarch, that predators see it as being a Monarch and disregard it as a meal.

Syrphid, or flower flies, are tremendous imitators of bees and wasps. Even though the non-stinging Syrphids would be delicacies to predators, their body forms and colors belie their true identities and are avoided.

Some fireflies are predatory and feed on other fireflies. To accomplish this, the hunter imitates the female herbaceous firefly by flashing its light organs at the same intervals used by the other female to attract a mate. A hapless male firefly seeks out the female and instead of procreating becomes a meal.

The camouflage patterns of some insects resemble dead leaves, bark, or other inanimate objects and allow them to escape detection. Other insects, such as underwing moths, have forewings that are bark-like in coloration, but when disturbed, they suddenly fly off and expose the brightly colored hind wings. The startle factor keeps the predator at bay until the moth can escape.

Many moths and butterflies make themselves appear much larger than they are by means of large eyespots on their wings. Our large tan Polyphemus moth has very large eyespots on its hind wings that are normally covered by the overlapping forewing. Upon being disturbed, it moves its forewings up and down exposing the “eyes” as though they were blinking.

A species of owl butterfly has an eyespot on the underside of each hind wing and, when landed on a twig upside down with its wings spread, appears to be a small owl perched on the twig.

A species of solitary, parasitic ant uses chemical deception to gain access to its host—the queen ant of a normal colony. Ants communicate a great deal by smell. Members of each colony have pheromones (perfumes) that indicate that they belong to that group. Since the parasitic ant doesn’t smell like the others, it finds a single colony member and attacks it, rubbing its body against its own to transfer some of the “perfume” to itself. After this transfer of pheromone, it can then enter the colony, be accepted by the other ants, and seek out the queen to lay its parasitic eggs on her body.

Subterfuge is common in the natural world. I guess some creatures play “April Fool” every day of their lives for survival.

Appreciation Luncheon Thank You by Cathy Burdett

The YCMGA special luncheon had tables decorated with beautiful, yellow centerpieces, delicious food, friendly conversation with fellow Master Gardeners and an opportunity to meet our valued partners.

Pam Dowling and Alan Wenner were the organizers and planners of the YCMGA Appreciation Luncheon. This annual event is an opportunity for YCMGA to express to our valued partners our thanks for generously contributing during the year to our projects and programs. For example, the YCMGA Bareroot Tree and Shrub sale would not be possible without the generous donations of local nurseries. The funds accrued from this sale are then used to award scholarships to local high school students to enroll in college classes.

Contributing to the success of the luncheon were the following:

✦ Charlotte Earl – decorating – and providing daphne
✦ Sandy and Al Cronk – providing all the beautiful daffodils
✦ Pam Dowling – decorating and providing the blue vases
✦ Marcia Sherry, Judy Zettergren, Cathy Burdett – decorating
✦ Polly Blum, Alan Wenner, Ray Van Blaricom and Linda McMahan
Improving Garden Soil

Making a poor garden better often begins with the soil. If your garden soil is poor, consider giving it some help. Adding organic materials to sandy soils improves their nutrient- and water-holding capacity. Adding organic materials to clay soil improves drainage and aeration, and helps the soil dry out and warm up more quickly in the spring.

Types of amendments

Good organic amendments (additions) for garden soils include wood by-products such as sawdust and bark mulch, peat moss, rotted manure, grass or wheat straw, and compost. Inorganic amendments include pumice, perlite, vermiculite, and sand. Any composted material that has been reduced to humus is a good soil amendment. More detailed information can be found at [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/grow/grow/index.html](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/grow/grow/index.html)

How to use soil amendments


How much amendment to add?

To make a significant change in your garden soil, an amendment must equal at least one-third of the volume of the soil you are amending. For example, to amend a garden to a depth of one foot, you need to add one-third of a foot (4 inches) of material. How much volume of material is this? Here's how to figure out (using a 20-foot x 50-foot garden as an example):

- Multiply width x length to get area: 20 feet x 50 feet = 1,000 square feet
- Multiply area x 0.333 (one-third of a foot) to get cubic feet: 1,000 square feet x 0.333 = 333 cubic feet
- Divide cubic feet by 27 to get cubic yards: 333 cubic feet ÷ 27 = 12.33 (12 1/3) cubic yards

Oregon Water School, Watershed Education

The OSU Sea Grant Extension Watershed Education Team is pleased to announce the first Oregon Water School to be held in Yamhill County April 17 and 18. Master Gardeners who sign up to take this two day course will be automatically recertified for the next year. You can also get a Master Watershed Steward Certification through this course.

Watershed 101: Friday, April 17. This is an introductory course on core watershed concepts.
Location: Church on the Hill, McMinnville
Receive 8 credit hours toward Master Watershed Steward Certification

Water School: Saturday, April 18. Two focused tracks. Register for an entire track or choose classes a la carte.
Location: Linfield College, McMinnville
Attend 4 sessions and receive 7 credit hours toward Master Watershed Steward Certification (1.5 credit/session)

Costs:
- Full two day training: $80
- Watershed 101 only: $35
- Water School Full day: $50
- Water School 1/2 day: $35

For more information and to register, contact Megan Kleibacker at 541-737-8715 or megan.kleibacker@oregonstate.edu
The wonderful aroma of “old fashioned home cooking” greeted the OMGA members who attended the OMGA quarterly meeting at the Yamhill County Public Works Auditorium. OMGA’s Executive Board and chapter representatives came from counties throughout the state. The YCMGA treated fellow OSU/Oregon Master Gardeners to a room beautifully transformed with balloons and table decorations in varied colors of green. The mouth-watering, delicious food, spectacular flower arrangements, and an assortment of memorable gifts to take home set the welcoming tone.

What made the event special was the enthusiastic cooperation and energetic team work of YCMGA members. The detailed planning and organization of OMGA Representative Kathleen Bennett, and food coordinator Polly Blum should be specifically mentioned. Other YCMGA members who participated were:

Kathleen Bennett
Marcia Sherry
Judy Zettergren
Ray VanBlaricom
Alan Wenner
Beverly/David Norman
Josie McGill
Jewell Garnett
Patty Sorensen
Anna Ashby
Charlotte Earl
Beth Durr
Cathy Burdett
Bryan Stewart
Polly Blum
Pam Dowling
Annely Germaine
Laura TenBroeck
Patti Gregory
Kim/Daryll Alt
Janet Gahr
Alma Coffell
Suzanne Litviak
Doris Crimmins
RoseMarie Caughran
Joyce Hammerschmith
Linda Foley

Regional Gardening Tips

Oregon is divided into four growing regions. Identifying your region will help you choose vegetable varieties and planting dates suitable to the growing conditions in your area.

Due to variations in the topography of the valley floor, foothills, and mountainous areas, and in tree density on forested sites, the Valley offers varied microclimates of sunlight exposure, temperature, humidity, and air drainage. Select your garden site with care and take advantage of the climatic variation within your yard. It may determine your success as a gardener. For example, the south side of a house or slope is a warmer site than the north side. A southern exposure receives maximum sunlight throughout the gardening season.

Plant crops that like more warmth in an area with southern exposure. Plant shade-tolerant leafy vegetables on the north side of a building or on a north slope. Locate your garden where it will receive at least six hours of sunlight each day (8 to 10 hours is preferred). Avoid planting vegetables near buildings or trees that shade your garden. In addition, the roots of nearby trees and shrubs will rob vegetables of nutrients and water. (See http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/grow/grow/site.html)

Avoid frost pockets or areas that warm slowly in the spring. Frost will build up in areas lacking air drainage, such as low spots at the base of a hill or at the foot of a slope bordered by a solid fence. For more detailed information go to: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/grow/grow/regional.html
Well, this is plant sale month. We hope you are getting your plant donations ready. Have you signed up to work at the sale? This, our second major fundraiser is a lot of work but it also is a lot of fun. And no MG activity worth its salt is complete without food. Be sure and let the kitchen crew know what you are bringing by signing up in the potluck section of the plant sale sign-up book. This is the best potluck we have all year.

As you all know we have been in the throes of cold weather for far too long. I’m sure it is hampering your ability to get out in your gardens and prepare the plants you want to donate to the sale. The sooner these plants are in pots the better they will look for the sale.

Of course, we can usually make more money selling potted plants but we do have an emergency option. We have a sale section called “clumps and bunches”. These are plants you dig during the week before the sale. They are divided into saleable portions, watered well, and put into plastic grocery bags. They are brought to the fairgrounds pavilion and priced with the potted plants.

All plants need to be brought to the pavilion during pricing week which begins Saturday April 18th and ends April 24th, the day before the sale. We will not have time the day of the sale to price plants. On April 25th we will be having too much fun selling plants and interacting with all the local plantaholics who love to come to the sale hoping to find a real plant treasure that one of us has donated.

All of our plants have to be labeled. The labels should include the common name of the plant and the genus and species name if possible. It is also good to include other plant information such as planting location – sun, shade, etc. – water requirements and color of flower and foliage. If you have 10 or more plants of the same variety, let us know and we can get labels made for you. We also have blank plant tags at the greenhouse so you can make your own labels.

By the time you receive this Tiller our benches in the greenhouse will be filling up. Because of the cold weather the past few weeks the plants have been slow to put on growth. We expect that April will bring some warmer temperatures and longer days. It is amazing what warmer weather and more light can do in a short time. From day to day we can see the plants grow.

We are growing many of our plants from seed as usual. Again this year we will be getting plant seedlings in plugs from a nursery. It is nice to have these plants started professionally where they can be kept at the optimum temperature for beginning growth. When we receive them they are ready for transplanting in the sale pots. The transplanting part of greenhouse work is a lot of fun. The part that is not as much fun is filling all the pots with potting soil. When we began transplanting a week or so ago, we had to have over 100 flats of pots filled with soil and ready to go. Thanks to Ray and his industrious grandson, the job got done.

Transplanting is my favorite greenhouse chore. It is fun to visit with your fellow workers and when the flats are all full, there is a great sense of accomplishment as we fill up the benches in the greenhouse. In the next few weeks the plants will fill in the pots and be ready on sale day.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

First Federal is offering a Community Rewards Program in which they will pay $2.00 per volunteer hour to organizations which sign up for this program. YCMGA has signed up.

In order to participate you must be a First Federal customer, complete a registration form (can be obtained at First Federal or from Polly Blum (503)864-8179). Track your monthly volunteer time and submit your completed time cards each month to Polly Blum.

If you are interested, please contact POLLY BLUM, 868 E. 9th Court, Lafayette, OR 97127 for more information and for the required forms.
2009
Yamhill County Master Gardener™
PLANT FAIR & SALE
Saturday, April 25
9 am to 3 pm
at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds
2070 NE Lafayette Ave. in McMinnville
For more information, call 503-434-7517 or
Email yamhillmg@oregonstate.edu
Proceeds support Horticulture Education
FREE
Soil pH testing
Plant Help Clinic
Plant selection assistance
FREE
Soil pH testing
Plant Help Clinic
Plant selection Assistance

The annual plant sale is a huge effort with great rewards for the organization and community. Every little bit of contributed time helps. Volunteer hours count as payback for new class members. Please sign up in the Plant Sale book in the MG office or show up at a work party day. The wonderful coordinators for this year’s sale are:

General: Ray VanBlaricom & Kathleen Bennett
Plant Procurement: Gail Price, Sylvia Connor, Polly Blum & Doris Crimmins
Greenhouse: Gail Price, Sylvia Connor, Polly Blum, Doris Crimmins & Jane Price-Hensley
Cashiers: Anna Ashby (Head) & Linda Foley (Table Captain)
Food & Kitchen: Vi Nisly & Polly Blum
Vendors: Kathleen Bennett
Parking & Signs: Al Hanks, Bill Roll & Ray Turchetti
Publicity: Pam Dowling, Alan Wenner & Ray VanBlaricom
Pricing: Jane Price-Hensley
Carry out Boxes: Charlotte Earl
ADEC Bldg Set up: Ray VanBlaricom & Kathleen Bennett
Sign Up Book: Pam Dowling & Alan Wenner
Garden Emporium: Beth Durr

Coordinators for the 2009 YCMGA Plant Sale
## YCMGA APRIL 2009

*YCMGA Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month.  
All are invited to attend. No August meeting.

* YCMGA CLINICS TAKE PLACE RAIN OR SHINE

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Fred Meyer- Newberg 1-4PM  
Fred Meyer- MAC 10AM-1PM  
DAFFODILL FESTIVAL—AMITY Clinic 10 AM - 4 PM |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| DAFFODIL FESTIVAL  
AMITY Clinic 10AM-4 PM | Library Comm. Mtg. 10 AM @ Extension | NHS Greenhouse 11 AM-12:30 PM  
YCMGA Hort. Pav. Greenhouse 9AM-Noon | YCMGA Board Meeting 1-3 PM |    |    | YCMGA CLINICS  
Incahoots- MAC 10-1PM |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| EASTER |     | NHS Greenhouse 11 AM-12:30 PM  
WILCO- Newberg 10AM-1PM  
WILCO- MAC 10AM-1PM |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
|     | Plant Pricing 10AM-Noon Hort. Pavillion | NHS Greenhouse 11 AM-12:30 PM  
Earth Day | Plant Pricing Noon-2PM Hort. Pavillion | Plant Sale Setup Noon– 5 PM ADEC Bldg. | YCMGA ANNUAL PLANT SALE AT  
ADEC BLDG. YC FAIRGROUNDS  
9AM - 3 PM |
<p>| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |
|     |     | NHS Greenhouse 11 AM-12:30 PM |     |     |     | NHS = NEWBERG HIGH SCHOOL |</p>
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**April Plant Clinics**

**Kraemer’s Garden Center**
Saturday, April 4  
10am-1pm
Ray Van B.  
Doris H.  
Dave T.  
Joan J.

**Incahoots Garden Center**
Saturday, April 11  
10am-1pm
Topic: Container Gardening  
Joan L.  
Vickie W.

**Wilco Farmers Garden Center**
McMinnville
Saturday, April 18  
10am-1pm
Judy Z.  
Dave T.

**Fred Meyer Garden Center, Newberg**
Saturday, April 4
10am-1pm
Patti G.  
Linda C.  
Patty S.  
Ann S.  
Shelley O.

**Wilco Farmers Garden Center**
Newberg
Saturday, April 18  
10am-1pm
Anna A.  
Linda C.
Becoming a Master Gardener by Joan Joy

Throughout the years the idea of being a Master Gardener impressed me as being a person who had obtained a lofty position like a master of art, science, or a master of some intricate trade, something beyond my ability and yet something to be desired. This feeling probably came from my lofty interpretation of the word 'master'. It wasn't until a neighbor encouraged me to join the program that I found otherwise.

The Master Gardener program has implemented guidelines to lead a person through the learning process, so that one can become a knowledgeable experienced source of information to others in the community, besides enhancing that person's skills. In this manner the whole group profits.

From the first day onward I found that there was a lot of work involved; reading became research, and a familiarity with resources, plus acquired adaptability to computer resources. My new knowledge transformed itself into physical work, digging weeds, cultivating and fertilizing soil, sowing seeds, planting trees and shrubs. In short I had changed my environment from one of mediocre acceptability to one of beauty.

Now I realistically appreciate the title I once viewed as lofty, and realize that with the assistance that this program gave me I have enhanced my own ability, and have become a source of good to others.

Meeting the Class of 2009 by Kimberly Zoutendijk

2009 MG Trainee
Bill Jackson
Motivation to become an MG: Increase general knowledge.
Lives in Newberg
If you knew me you would know that I really enjoy garden work.
Favorite Flower: Rhody

2009 MG Trainee
Stacey Mayhew
Motivation to become a MG:
Knowledge and to be with other garden lovers.
Lives in McMinnville
If you knew me you would know that chickens make good garden friends.
Favorite Flower: Penstemon

Great appreciation and thanks to the following for their participation and assistance in the YCMGA Tree and Shrub sale.

Bailey Nurseries, Inc.
Fisher Farms, LLC
Incahoots, Inc.
Monrovia Growers
Oregon Pride Nurseries, Inc.
Robinson’s Nursery
Plant Profile: Juniperus communis by Linda McMahan

Want a native groundcover that is drought tolerant? Want it to be evergreen and minimum care? Would you also prefer one that has some cultivars for a broader selection?

The common juniper (Juniperus communis) is a plant to consider. The shown here is a prostrate form of common juniper growing in the wild, only one of many photographs available at the OSU Plant ID site http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/juco.htm. Even the semi-upright and upright forms are still dwarfed and have a lot of gardening potential. Virtues you may be interested in include 1) the ability to grow in poor soil, 2) adaptable to a wide range of conditions, 3) hardy at cold temperatures (Zone 2), and 3) dozens of available cultivars. For example, you can choose from ‘Alpine Carpet’ a prostrate form with bluish scales, or ‘Depressa aurea’ with yellow foliage that grows to about 5 feet.

Although native to the Pacific Northwest, this species can also be found in northern climates throughout the globe, leading to the wide array of cultivars and conditions this species offers. Most of the Pacific Northwest forms are prostrate in habit. Our native form is J. communis var. depressus.

It does have other uses as well. According to a food information site at Oregon State University (http://food.oregonstate.edu/glossary/j/jplant13.html) berries are used to flavor gin, have been used as a pepper substitute, to brew a special French beer, and as flavoring in sauerkraut.

To find the native form, check with local or regional native plant nurseries. The cultivars can often be found at larger garden centers.

This section is planned to direct you to new exciting internet sites with great information. So spend a little time indoors before you go out into the garden.

Check out the Yamhill Master Gardener Group at www.facebook.com. We have a great group with topics near and dear to our hearts. If you are interested in joining Facebook, search for the name Linda McMahan and send a message that you would like to join the MG group.

The following are free garden journal downloads. Choose to use just one or print them all out and take the best pages and create a custom one perfect for your needs. Staying organized will help you this year and years to come.

Free Garden Journal – great site with several designs and wonderful pages worth looking into.
http://www.gardensandcrafts.com/gardenjournals.html

This site has a great journal pdf

Fun journal new pages
http://www.gardening-quick-n-easy.com/Garden_Journal.html

Organic journal 24 pages great information included in this one

See you on the net.
Kimberly
Wednesday, 11 March Meeting

- Linda McMahan stated that a search was underway to identify a member of the current MG class who would be interested in representing the class at the YCMGA Executive Board meetings.

- Kathleen Bennett and Cathy Burdett extended thanks and recognition to the many YCMGA members who contributed many hours and much effort to ensure that the recent, quarterly meeting of the OMGA Board was a true success. The YCMGA received rave reviews from OMGA representatives, covering everything from the beautiful decorations, flower arrangements and gift bags representative of Yamhill County products and activities, to the luncheon and general organization of the meeting. Kudos to Kathleen for a wonderful job of organizing all of the meeting preparations.

- Alan Wenner and Pam Dowling noted that the recent YCMGA Tree and Shrub Sale went well, thanks to the many wonderful plant donations from local nurseries and the efforts of our YCMGA volunteers. Excess trees will be sent to “Trees for McMinnville” and excess potted shrubs will be offered for sale at the plant sale in April.

- Dave Norman reported that due to increased demand for food supplies at the Salvation Army, the Community Garden has received approval to expand. An additional fifteen personal rows will be made available for local gardeners and the general garden space for food bank production will be increased by 1,500 square feet. Additional MG volunteer assistance at the garden would be welcomed.

I suppose that for most people one of the darker joys of gardening is that once you've got started it's not at all hard to find someone who knows a little bit less than you. 

- Allen Lacy

Amending the Soil Amends My Soul by Kim Zoutendijk

During my three months of Master Gardener Training I found myself living for Thursdays. It was my time to destress, and dream in greens and browns, the stress and drama at work did not follow me into class. As I learned new things I would want to rush out of the lecture and put my new found knowledge into practice.

Last week I was informed that I was being laid off; these economically tough times have come to my doorstep. I was a bit put off by the event, and then I went to my MG class. With an open calendar, my mind dreamed of uninterrupted hours, and hours in my garden. With the ease of scheduling hours in the office and at clinics, no more will I miss the fun daytime outings.

I have bought even more veggie seeds, and have measured my garden space, which to my delight I underestimated (25-feet x 40-feet). Plenty of room to have more than I need, and the time to do it RIGHT and produce enough to share with my fellow unemployed.

My goals have changed; no longer am I looking to work for advancement, I am looking to be an expert vegetable Master Gardener. I am taking on Mrs. Obama’s challenge and creating an enormouse Victory garden, I will be doing my part for our home finance by supplying our fresh veggies and veggies for canning for the winter. I will also be following in Anna Ashby’s footsteps with plans for year-round gardening.

As I amend the soil I will be amending my soul.
Pineapple Tomato
Streaked with red veins,
Sweet golden pineapple flesh
Deliciously wrought.

Pineapple Tomato is a large, vigorous, cold resistant variety with a light fruity taste and spectacular mottling inside. Its light, sweet fruity taste makes it great in salads. Even though the seed catalog says it is a very late tomato, it fruited as early as Celebrity, (a favorite main-season red tomato), (end of August), at Daryll Alt’s farm last year in Amity.

Odd as it may appear, a gardener does not grow from seed, shoot, bulb, rhizome or cutting, but from experience, surroundings, and natural conditions. — Karel Capek

Book Look by Beth Durr


Winter storms have damaged and destroyed some of our favorite landscape plants. So it's time to think about replacements. This book is helpful because it's specific to our area.

The authors, husband and wife, are prominent in the OSU Master Gardener community, taking turns spear-heading various aspects of the program.

The “Book of Lists” is a wonderful source book of "over 200 lists of plants grouped by their horticultural characteristics and uses in the garden." They cover specific regions in the NW, and the varying micro-climates. Trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, roses, vines, annuals, groundcovers and herbaceous perennials are all recommended for all sorts of conditions, including (p. 151) "Annuals Reported to be Resistant to Slugs." 22 varieties are listed with the footnote "There are no guarantees in life.....generally they avoid plants with milky sap or with hairy leaves...."

Do you have alkaline soil? The index guides us to the lists of annuals(p.158), herbaceous perennials (p.134), shrubs (p..51), etc. that thrive in poorer soil conditions. The index is wonderful because you don't have to thumb through the chapters looking for what you want. Species and common names are also cross referenced in the index.

Interspersed within the lists and their explanations are quotes by Northwest gardeners, including Scott Christy, "....prefer full sun except in the hottest zones where some shade on the roots may be necessary." Other familiar names pop up like Marje Luce from Ashland and the Josephine County Master Gardeners; Gail Gredler (our own past Home Horticulture agent); Louise Clements from Heirloom Roses; Vern Nelson "the edible gardener" and dozens more.

Again, this book will save you some time and energy by doing your homework before you go out to replace and/or replant those casualties from this past winter. It is in the library in the General Gardening section, although this is one you will want for your home library. My copy is autographed from one of their visits our way.
Planting Guidelines

Planting a vegetable garden isn't a complicated and mysterious process. Success depends on following directions. The planting directions printed on the back of seed packets include three basic principles that will improve your chances of success. Plant vegetables at the right time. [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/grow/grow/planting.html](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/grow/grow/planting.html). Planting seeds at the recommended time will reduce the risk of damage from frost or hot weather. Seeds planted too deeply take longer to come up, if they come up at all. Also, weeds may grow up first and crowd out vegetable plants. Conversely, shallow seeds may wash away or dry out before they sprout.

- **Plant large-seeded vegetables**—such as beans, corn, and squash—1 to 1.5 inches deep.
- **Plant vegetables with medium-sized seeds**—such as beets and chard—0.75 inch deep.
- **Plant vegetables with small seeds**—such as cabbage, carrots, radishes, and lettuce—0.5 inch deep.

Plant vegetables the right distance apart. Correct spacing allows each plant to get its share of sunshine, water, and soil nutrients. If you plant seedlings too close to each other, the vegetables will not grow as large as they normally would. Excessive tops on radishes and other root crops result from crowding.


Be patient it may take a little time to come up.

Be Gentle with Your Time by Ray VanBlaricom

It's new, it's intriguing, entertaining, and you feel so good about your brain being happy to learn and grow. You want to sign up for everything, get it done, get it out of the way, complete all those pay back hours and just have fun with your new plans and styles of gardening. I understand the glee. I feel your joy.

Now slow down and plan. Time, effort, dedication are in short supply if it all goes up in a cloud of dust the first three months out of class. This understanding is brought on by experience in the over-scheduled world of Master Gardening. Please don't forget your spouses, children and grandchildren, or your own energy limits.

YCMGA has a full year of activities and the public needs you to pace your time so you have some left for the closing of the season as well. They will still be calling, e-mailing, and feeling guilty for "letting" something die. We must be there for them all year long. Please spread your volunteer time out over the entire year so you learn about all seasons’ gardening issues. Plan in time for picnics, trips, and enjoying your own space. It will keep you rejuvenated for the thrill of knowing there is a better way to till.

OSU-OMGA Members-Volunteers by Cathy Burdett

For the next few months I intend to write a series of short articles on volunteerism and membership in OMGA. OSU/OMGA members work together throughout the state in local chapters to solve a myriad of horticultural questions from the public.

YCMGA members as volunteers are an important, valuable resource in the function of the OSU Extension service to our community. Historically, the OSU Extension service and YCMGA mutually benefit from working together.

My upcoming articles will provide statistical information that I trust you will find interesting.

OMGA members as of December 31, 2008: 3626
OMGA members as of December 31, 2007: 3556

I am fonder of my garden for the trouble it gives me.

Reginald Farrer
Book Review: Grow the Superfoods by Elena Theis

“We all love to eat, and what is better than eating the healthiest foods around? Even better is growing them ourselves and eating them at peak ripeness for the most nutrition. The SuperFoods Rx book is loaded with recipes, so we can even find new ways to fix these great foods. It includes recipes created by Chef Michel Stroot of the Golden Door Spa and teaches you how to incorporate SuperFoods and their sidekicks into your diet.

Grow the SuperFoods, and have fun, while gaining the benefits of fresh air and exercise!

Blueberries, purple grapes, boysenberries, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries and cherries top the list in the berry category.

For vegetables, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, turnips, cauliflower, collards, bok choy, mustard greens and Swiss chard are the most recommended, along with pumpkin carrots, butternut squash, sweet potatoes and orange bell peppers.

For greens, spinach heads the list, followed by romaine lettuce.

Tomatoes are tops, in a category of their own.
As for nuts and seeds, walnuts take first prize, followed by pumpkin and sunflower seeds, and hazelnuts.

If you want some extra nutritious seasonings, try dried or fresh parsley, rosemary, oregano, turmeric, garlic, ginger, citrus zest, chives, red onion and white onion.

Why are these called “SuperFoods”? Look for this book at your local bookstand.
And as for growing these plants, you’ll find great growing information in the following Extension sources and others:

Growing Your Own (2000).
EM 8375, Growing a Vegetable Garden, Conserving Water in the Garden, by R. A. McNeilan
PNW 497 Short Season Vegetable Garden

Schools and Gardens by Jay Nunley

On Friday, March 20, First Lady Michelle Obama led 26 fifth graders from Bancroft Elementary School in breaking ground for the White House Kitchen Garden. It will be the first vegetable garden at the White House since 1943 when Eleanor Roosevelt planted a Victory Garden during World War II.

The ground breaking was the first step toward planting a 1,100-square-foot plot with a wide variety of vegetables, herbs, and fruits to include 55 varieties of vegetables, a patch of berries, and bee hives for honey. The seedlings will be started at the executive mansion’s greenhouses. The garden will be grown organically and fertilized with compost, crab meal from Chesapeake Bay, lime, and green sand. Ladybugs and praying mantises will be used as biological controls.

Mrs. Obama said that she wanted to make sure her family, as well as the staff and visitors to the White House, had access to fresh vegetables and fruits, and also said that her daughters were more likely to eat vegetables if they tasted good. The newly crowned “Food Initiative Coordinator,” Associate White House Chef Sam Kass, said that the message is that food is really important with the health crisis we’re in and that how it is cooked is a big part of that. In addition, the garden has an education component for the children who will be back to help plant the garden, and who will also participate in eating the produce and cooking it in the White House kitchen.

Several well-known advocates of healthy and sustainable farming/gardening and eating organizations will be happy. These include Eat The View organization (the White House Organic Garden Campaign), Michael Pollan (Omnivore’s Dilemma) and Alice Waters (The Edible Schoolyard in Berkeley). They have been advocating for a White House garden since President Obama was inaugurated and will be seeing their wish come true. Hopefully, the Obama’s new garden will inspire many across the country to try growing their own food too.