This Month’s Master Gardener™ Calendar

**July 5, Thursday**
Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am
PW Auditorium

**July 6, Friday**
Blueberry Field Day, 1-5 pm at
NWREC in Aurora. Contact Jan Egli,
503-678-1264 X 110

**July 11, Wednesday, 1pm**
YCMGA Board Meeting, PW
Auditorium. All members welcome

**July 21, Thursday**
Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am
PW Auditorium

Have you sent in your registration form for OSU
Mini-College, August 1-4?

**August 1-4**
Yamhill County Fair at the Fairgrounds. Theme is “Ribbons, Rabbits and Roses”

**August 2, Thursday**
Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am
PW Auditorium

**August 8, Wednesday, 1 pm**
YCMGA Board Meeting, PW
Auditorium. All members welcome

**August 16, Thursday**
Insect Committee Meeting, 10 am
PW Auditorium

**August 24-September 3**
Oregon State Fair days in Salem

Reminder
Traditionally, there is no Tiller Newsletter published for the month of August.
The next issue will be in September. The deadline for the September issue will be
Friday, August 24.

Yamhill County Master Gardener Association
Executive Board
President: Karen Payne
Vice President: Ray VanBlaricom
Secretary: Susan Trombetta
Treasurer: Anna Ashby
OMGA Rep: Darryll Alt
OMGA Alt.Rep: Cathy Burdett
Members at Large:
Joyce Hammerschmith
Kathleen O’Brien-Blair
Past President: Pam Dowling

Linda R. McMahan, Yamhill County
Extension Faculty for Community
Horticulture
Linda’s Corner by Linda McMahan

First, I want to thank all of you who have signed up for our plant clinics in the community and for our desk clinic here at the OSU Extension Office in Yamhill County. This is an important service we are doing in our county, and as I interact with you on the questions, I am extremely pleased at the high quality of research and answers you provide to our gardening public.

As you might expect, many of the samples brought to our clinics relate to our weather patterns. Over the past decade, it seems that our weather has been different each year, bringing new challenges. Each year does seem to bring new circumstances, but wet springs, late frosts, periodic dry periods, and surprise weeks of higher than average temperature are responsible for many of the die-backs, diseases, and insect infestations we are seeing.

Many of our clients continue to want simple answers, which are rarely the correct ones as you already know. I have seen you do detailed research on these questions and be helpful to our clients in understanding the complexity of their issues.

This summer I am presenting a poster on a client survey of the clinic that I completed in 2004. With the help of a summer intern, I designed a customer service questionnaire and mailed it to many of the clients. The data are impressive: The general satisfaction rate was 8.7 on a 10 point scale, with 83% of our clients saying they already recommended the service to someone else. The most asked questions were about plant or insect identification or about disease diagnosis (which really should be no surprise to those of you who work in the clinic). Sixty percent of the clients had used the service 2-5 times, and many had also used the food preparation and safety services of OSU Extension. After my meeting, I will put the poster in the hallway next to the MG Clinic. If you are interested in seeing it sooner, just let me know.

So thanks again, and keep up the fine work. Linda

Happy 4th of July!!!

We are all gardening in full swing now and working in our gardens. What a great time of year. We as Master Gardeners have been very busy this last month, with the Farmers Market starting up, we have a booth this year and hope that we get lots of interest.

This last month Cathy Burdett has been working very hard on the State nominees for our Yamhill County Chapter. We voted on Pam Dowling as our Master Gardener of the Year and also our State nominee, and Charlotte Earl our Behind the Scenes nominee. These two women and veteran volunteers work very hard to keep us running smoothly. Pam has been President the past 2 years and very supportive of the Chapter. Charlotte collects all the boxes for the plant sale several times a week and then takes them home to store them. She does this all year.

Jane Price-Hensley is our Golden Trowel Winner for July. Thanks, Jane, for all your hard work as Chair of the Pricing Committee of the Plant Sale.

Thanks for all the hard work everyone is doing and see you at Mini College.

From the President by Karen Payne

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time.
John Lubbock
A Sticky Business

Have you ever wondered why a spider does not get stuck in its own web? The tarsi (feet) of spiders have unique combs on the ends that allow the spider to bypass the sticky droplets on the web that are distributed at intervals along each strand. If the spider makes a misstep and accidently touches one of these droplets, it has a special cutting mechanism that allows it to free itself.

Not all webs are sticky. The spinnerets (silk producing glands) can form several types of webbing for specific purposes. Some of the free living spiders that do not form elaborate catching webs form a dragline strand of silk as they move from place to place. The web is anchored at intervals, not unlike mountain climbers using a safety line and pitons to help them maneuver. This safety line is also used by the spider to retrace its steps if necessary.

Another type of web is released as a long filamentous line into the air on a warm breezy day. As the line is played out, the breeze stretches out the line and when the wind drag is strong enough, the spider releases its grip and sails off to a new location. This process is known as “ballooning”. On a warm spring day you can see these gossamer threads sailing along in the air in fairly large quantities. These are usually new hatchlings trying to spread out away from the egg mass from which they hatched.

Some spiders protect their eggs with a third type of silk. After laying her eggs in a large mass, the spider builds a protective sac around them. Some species have a very fluffy, cotton candy appearing covering. Others make a cocoon-lookig, tough outer shell. Still others produce a blanket- like covering over the ova. One unique way of assuring a successful hatch is to hold the silk covered eggs in the females jaws until they hatch. The frail looking, long legged cellar spider uses this method. You may have seen these spiders in a dark corner of the basement or tool shed.

The most obvious use of webs, however, is the capture of prey by the web spinning spiders. The big round orbital webs of the garden spiders are truly an engineering feat. The anchor lines across the radius of the web are not sticky, but the cross-webbing is, and that allows the unfortunate prey to be caught. The spider itself uses the framework of the web to maneuver about so that it will not get itself stuck.

Spiders that form a shield-like web (like grass spiders) do not have a sticky surface, but rely on vibrations on the web to run out and capture the prey. There are many variations in various species for capture webs, one of the most bizarre being a spider that actually forms a lariat type of web that it throws over the prey.

Spiders are fascinating creatures that deserve our attention and close observation. Watch them in your garden this growing season!

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**Educational Gleanings from OSU**

**HOW TO CUT WATER USE IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN**
Ideas from the OSU Master Gardener Program on how to use water more efficiently in yards and gardens during dry Oregon summers.  

**PLANT DROUGHT-TOLERANT PERENNIALS**
OSU Extension horticulturists suggest a list of drought tolerant flowering perennials to give your garden color from now through autumn.  

**SAVE WATER BY MULCHING YOUR GARDEN**
Mulches not only prevent weeds, they also improve soil and minimize water loss, explains Neil Bell, OSU Extension horticulturist.  

**FOR AMPHIBIANS’ SAKE, BE CAREFUL WITH FERTILIZER**
Facing cumulative contamination of aquatic systems among other challenges, amphibians appear to be losing the battle, says OSU amphibian researcher, Andrew Blaustein. Here's how to help.  
The hot summer days will soon be upon us and our gardens. Let your water thirsty lawns go dormant – I dare you! And get your drip irrigation going in your flowerbeds and vegetable gardens.

Trying to water smart is always on my mind as we don’t have much. We do let the lawn dry up. However, when it comes to drip irrigation, we only do about half our water needs that way.

We have drip irrigation in the vegetable garden. The tomato plants and blueberries are on drippers. The rest of the vegetables are on soaker hoses. Since the hills of squash are spaced a number of feet from each other, they will be on drippers too. I don’t want to water the weed seed between the hills with soaker hoses.

Parts of Yamhill County are known for a lack of abundant well water. We have always had to watch our water usage in the summer both in the house and out in the yard and orchard.

A few years ago my husband installed two 1,000 gallon tanks to catch rain water off the roof of our pole barn. He uses this water for his spraying needs in our hazelnut orchard. This lets me use the water in our field well for the vegetables and flowers.

The ornamentals and flowers around the perimeter of the dormant grass is mostly hand watered. There are a few soaker hoses here and there. I am able to ignore the brown grass and enjoy the abundant color in the flowerbeds.

As I have mentioned before, I enjoy taking out grass and expanding the ornamental beds. Recently, we took out the grass in front of the front entry to the house. This area was really yukky when the grass was dormant. It was not pleasant to look out a brown grass with green weeds – mainly bindweed – continuing to grow.

We dug up this area, leveled it, and covered it with weed cloth. We then put sand on the portion where we wanted to add decorative brick. The brick was placed in the shape of a circle. Around the circle we placed ¾ inch gravel which connected up with the gravel path in front of the front porch. We also put rock on the path that comes in from the driveway and connects to the gravel around the brick circle. Of course, under all this rock there is weed cloth. The bindweed is going to have a heck of a time getting through that.

I must admit we have a much nicer view out our front windows of this new patio area. No more brown grass and weeds. We sit in our rocking chairs on a cool porch watching the birds in the birdbath, enjoying the colorful flowers and a mint julep in our hands.

Have a good summer!!

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**Mini College Announcements**

**SEED EXCHANGE**
There will be a seed exchange table in the lobby of the alumni center during Mini College. Contact YCMGA president Karen Payne if you wish to send seeds to the event.

**SILENT AUCTION**
If you wish to donate items for the silent auction at Mini College, contact YCMGA president Karen Payne. Last year, YCMGA members sent a large selection of items. The generated funds are used to offset Mini College expenses. A total of $4800 from almost 200 items was raised last year. It was interesting to see the unique items that were donated by chapters throughout the state.
Charlotte Earl

- YCMGA’s “Behind the Scenes” award winner
- Graduated in 1997 OSU/YCMGA class
- YCMGA’s nominee to OMGA for 2007 “Behind the Scenes” award consideration
- Charlotte’s husband, Homer, was in the “original” class of YCMGA in 1992
- Worked the annual YCMGA plant sale for 15 years (5 years before she became a Master Gardener)
- Worked in the greenhouse
- Every year collects thousands of boxes to be used in the annual plant sale
- Makes mouth-watering raspberry torte for YCMGA functions (the raspberries are grown and harvested on her farm)

Charlotte shows off her beautiful garden, raspberries and her method of storing boxes for the YCMGA sale

Thank you, Charlotte, for your years of dedicated support to the YCMGA.
YCMGA Board Meeting held July 13, 2007

- Gail Gredler gave a report on Chemeketa’s Horticulture AAS Degree program
- Linda McMahan gave an update on hiring a 4H Faculty member and 4H summer interns to work in the Yamhill County office
- Cathy Burdett provided information on the June meeting of the OMGA in Salem. She commented on her 3 articles in the “Gardener’s Pen” and the “Herb” article by Beth Durr. Pam Dowling and Charlotte Earl’s paperwork is being submitted to OMGA for consideration as candidates for the upcoming State MG of the Year and Behind the Scenes awards
- Gail Price will receive her “Golden Trowel” award with Jane Price-Hensley next month
- A “Memorandum of Understanding” relating to the use of the Yamhill County fairgrounds by Master Gardeners has been completed and copies distributed to the Board for review and a vote at the July meeting
- Ray VanBlaricom requested that the following line items should be added to the YCMGA budget:
  1. $1000 for upgrading and remodeling the Weiser Horticultural Pavilion at the fairgrounds
  2. $750 to begin a radio show in the fall and join the McMinnville Channel 11 Community Media to train YCMGA members in using and making videos for educational outreach
  3. $500 for Yamhill County Community gardens

**Thank you, Al Cronk**

Again, we thank you for creating a beautiful functional work of art that will be used and appreciated for many years!

**Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability.** —Sam Keen
Golden Trowel Award: Jane Price-Hensley by Cathy Burdett

- Chair of the time and labor intensive plant sale pricing committee
- 2004 “Early Bird Award” winner
- Member of the original “Bee Dance” committee
- Assisted by her crew, they priced thousands of plants for the annual YCMGA plant sale
- Re-organized the pricing supply cabinet, located in the greenhouse
- Arranged for new, colorful signs to be made for the plant sale
- Worked tirelessly in the kitchen area during the day of the plant sale
- Worked the Amity Daffodil festival demonstrating potting techniques
- Worked in the MG Demonstration garden

Committee Clippings by Cathy Burdett

The chair of the Photography Committee is Steven Klass. He has generously contributed his expertise and “delight and joy” in taking pictures for the benefit of the YCMGA’s newsletter. Steven’s “professional” contributions have enhanced the quality of the final result that is produced and forwarded, each month, to YCMGA members.

His attention to detail is appreciated and noted. The Chinese saying, “A picture is worth a thousand words”, is true of Steven Klass’ pictures.

Oregon Gardens Free Passes by Cathy Burdett

Do you plan to visit the Oregon Garden this year? Did you know that YCMGA members have access to “a free pass for two” to the Garden? The reason is that for the last few years, YCMGA has donated $100 to the Oregon Garden.

The pass will be available until August 2008, is good 365 days a year and covers 2 people. You must show your orange YCMGA membership card when you use the pass to show that you are a current YCMGA member.
Plant Profile:  Helianthus  

by Linda McMahan

Helianthus

The genus Helianthus is named after Helios, the Greek sun god, who in legend was said to travel in a chariot each day across the sky. Many sunflowers track the sun throughout each day, following Helios’ path. Princeton University defines Helianthus as any member of the genus having large flower heads with dark disk florets (the flowers at the center of the head) and showy yellow rays (flowers at the outside ring of the head).

(http://wordnet.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=helianthus) You may recall that the sunflower is indeed made up of a few to hundreds of tiny flowers with the whole flowering head mimicking the appearance of a single large flower.

Helianthus annuus (pictured) is an annual member of the genus with very large and showy flowers, producing the familiar culinary sunflower seeds; a single seed is produced from each flower in the flowering head. Many cultivars are available, but be aware that any seed produced will most likely revert to the wild form over successive generations. Plants and seeds for the cultivars are generally widely available, and the species will often grow easily from seed.

Finally, the species is native to much of the US and requires little if any supplemental water (making it one of our WaterWise plant choices).

Orphan Plants  by Cathy Burdett

The word “home” is an all-inclusive concept that is understood and appreciated by people of every culture throughout the world.

The YCMGA Greenhouse crew propagates plants from seeds and tenderly cares and nurtures them until they develop into plants. The YCMGA members, like proud parents, expect each nurtured plant to “find a good home” where they will prosper and grow into maturity.

The annual YCMGA plant sale is a one day event. Hundreds of customers eagerly select plants to take home. However, at the end of the day, there are always “orphans” that have not been purchased. What happens to the “orphans”?

Thankfully, gentle YCMGA parents still monitor their progress by locating “special new homes”. YCMGA members distribute the “orphans” to community locations throughout Yamhill County.

Many sites in Yamhill County have been recipients of YCMGA “orphan” plants:

- The Community Garden at the Salvation Army site
- Many areas throughout McMinnville at various community sites. Traditionally, year after year, this project has been supervised by RoseMarie Caughran
- Carlton Grows project
- The Sheridan area at many public buildings. This project has traditionally been supervised by Jane Price-Hensley
- Selected plants are used by the Demonstration Garden crew for the YCMGA garden at the fairgrounds next to the Horticultural pavilion

“Orphans” are welcomed and appreciated at their “new homes” in community sites in Yamhill County.
Community Clinics

Newberg Fred Meyer
Saturday, July 7, 10 am—1 pm
Signed up:
Ray T.
Suzanne L.
Shelley O.
Patti G.
Casey W.

Kraemer’s McMinnville Garden Center
Saturday, July 21, 10 am —1 pm
Topic: Waterwise Gardening
Signed up:
Bryan S.
Doris H.
Shelley O.
Patti G.

McMinnville Farmer’s Market
Thursdays, 1-6 pm
Sign ups still needed! Sign up sheet on MG bulletin board
Available days: July 5, 12 and 26
August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
Available shifts: 1-2 pm for set up
2-4 pm and 4-6 pm

2007 YCMGA Scholarship Recipients by Gail Price

Recently, the YCMGA Scholarship Committee met at Cornerstone Coffee with the three Yamhill County high school recipients of this year’s Master Gardener Association $1,000 scholarships. The three girls were delightful and we are confident that our money will be well spent.

The girls come from three different high schools this year. Laura Culver graduated from Yamhill-Carlton H.S. and has been accepted into the landscape architecture program at the University of Oregon. Heather Bennett graduated from Willamina H.S. and will be in the agricultural education program at Oregon State University. Lindsay Wright graduated from McMinnville H.S. and will study horticulture at Chemeketa Community College.

We plan to give a total of $5,000 this year. Two of our past recipients will receive a second $1,000 scholarship this fall.

We are proud that we are able to help local students with their college expenses. With the $5,000 we plan to give this year, our total scholarships over the last four years will add up to $19,000. This is all possible because of the hard work done on the annual tree sale.

A world without tomatoes is like a string quartet without violins. Laurie Colwin
A completed list of missing books includes about 7 more books. I haven't seen an overwhelming response to those listed last time in The Tiller, so the list of missing books is suspended. However, I was just in the office and we were researching a weed problem. One of our top pictorial weed books is MISSING!: Weeds of Northern U.S. and Canada by Roye and Dickinson, Lone Pine Publisher 1999. What is up with this continual problem??

An impending need right now is a complete revision and upgrade of our library inventory. Janet Gahr, Sandra Thomas and I have done a check-up on what we have. However, I could use more help with updating this year's master list. This is a great opportunity to learn what we have in the library and adds to your educational volunteer hours.

Thanks to our budget, we have a substantial amount of money to improve our library. We will be "shopping" at Mini-College this year because there is a 10% discount that is fed back into OMGA. Otherwise, we are buying discounted books on Amazon.com, etc., and even secondhand books from Goodwill.

With veggie gardening on top of our priorities this time of year, there's a great book in the library: The Vegetable Gardeners BIBLE by Edward C. Smith, Storey Books 2000. "Discover Ed's High-Yield WORD System"—WORD is Wide rows, Organic methods, Raised beds and Deep soil. This book promotes IPM and gives individualized advice on each of our favorite vegetables. Not only do they give you site, sowing, growing, harvesting and storage tips, I appreciate the rotation considerations and specific nutrient requirements. Of course, any book with great photos is a plus. Who would think a picture of celery is exciting? Except this one shows how to overwinter this crop. This definitely is a book any vegetable gardener can use. I'm sure we can use it ourselves. Sharing this knowledge with the public is the added attraction to this book.

Please remember we all want access to these books, and taking them out of the library is a definite NO-NO!

Again I urge anyone to give me suggestions. Call me at (503) 472-9765 or e-mail jobethdurr@juno.com.
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Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.  Henry James