This Month’s Master Gardener™ Calendar

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

Monday, Nov. 13, 9 am—noon
YCMGA Planning Session at the First Federal Conference Room,
111 NE Third St., McMinnville.
All YCMGA members are welcome to attend. Parking will be on the street as
this is not a bank holiday.

No Board Meeting in November!

Thursday, Nov. 23
Thanksgiving

Thursday, Nov. 30, 7pm
Meeting: Conservation and Restoration of Willamette Valley Native
Woodland Habitats (and associated prairies).
Brad Withrow-Robinson, OSU Extension Forester for Marion, Polk
and Yamhill counties, will give a brief overview of the changing landscape
and ecology of the Willamette Valley. He will discuss the challenges to main-
taining native habitats such as oak savannas. Brad's presentation will
examine the roles of education and collaboration in developing a cohesive
Adaptive Management approach to habitat restoration and conservation.
More info? Call Susan 503-538-1865 or email: helgesusan@comcast.net

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6 pm
MG Class of 2006 Graduation Potluck
Dinner and Awards Ceremony
PW Auditorium

The 2007 OSU Master Gardener training class will start in January. This is a reminder to contact any potential candidates about completing an application for the new class.
The Year is Coming to a Close. That means, paperwork and wrap-up are becoming due. Also, get your taste buds ready for the best meal of the year when Yamhill County Master Gardeners get together for a potluck recognizing this year’s graduates and “star” Master Gardeners.

First, the fun and food. Please reserve the evening of Tuesday, December 5, 2006 for Graduation, Recognition, and Potluck. We will gather at 6 pm in the Public Works Auditorium, forming our food lines soon thereafter. The recognition and awards program begins at 7 pm. Please feel free to bring your family and friends and help us celebrate the successes of the year. The YCMGA and the Extension Office will congratulate all of our new graduates and provide well-deserved recognition to the many OSU Master Gardener volunteers who have made this year an outstanding success. If you want to help decorate, I’m looking for a few volunteers.

Class of 2006. Please plan on attending the graduation, even if you have not completed your volunteer service hours. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with your classmates and join the celebration. Please remember to get me your hours forms as soon as possible if you would like to be reimbursed for your deposit. Talk to the front office staff to arrange for this. I need your paperwork by December 1 at the very latest.

Recertification. All MG veterans, please remember to recertify. It is really easy, even if you are not currently recertified. If you have not had a chance to take classes for recertification, you may recertify through an open book review exam. The exam is available through Deb Zaveson in the front office. The state program guidelines call for 10 hours of desk duty as well, but there is ample opportunity to do that before the end of the year, or even early into next year. Just signing up for desk duty counts for me. Another easy way is to take some of next year’s Master Gardener Training classes that are approved for recertification and complete your volunteer desk service in the spring. You will be recertified for 2007 as soon as you have completed the desk hours plus 12 hours of advanced training.

Call for 2007 Mentors. Finally, if you are interested in being a Mentor for the Class of 2007, would you please let me know soon. Duties include meeting in December to learn the process, showing up for the first 30 minutes on each Thursday training day from early January through mid-March, helping new class MGs learn how to work on the desk, and keeping in touch with your assigned “mentees” during 2007. You need to be recertified to serve as a mentor.

Thank you. I look forward to seeing or hearing from you all soon. Linda

Our YCMGA Annual Planning Session will be on Monday, November 13 from 9 am until noon at the First Federal Board Room in downtown McMinnville at 111 NE Third Street. Since this is not a bank holiday, parking will be on the street.

We take this time away from outside activities annually to review our progress for this year, prepare a budget for next year, and discuss plans for upcoming programs and sales. Every member is welcome at this session to share ideas and have input for the future of the organization. If you are unable to attend the planning session and have any concerns or ideas for our organization, please e-mail me at: dowling1290@msn.com or phone 503-864-8057.

From the President by Pam Dowling, YCMGA President

Linda’s Corner by Linda McMahan, Community Horticulture Faculty, OSU Extension Yamhill County
The Year in Review, 2006
Traditionally, during the month of November, I attempt to summarize the activities of the Insect Committee to let the MG’s know the kind of insects and other things that we have been called upon to identify or recommend controls.

Probably the most unusual specimen brought into the office was a non-resident of Oregon. It turned out to be a giant crab spider, also called the “banana spider” because it is often found in banana shipments from the tropics. It is an impressive animal, having a leg expanse almost the size of your hand, although its body is only about an inch or so long. It was found in a box of fresh produce at the food bank.

As it turns out, we had quite a few spiders brought in by clients this last year. Many turned out to be Hobo spiders. Perhaps the unusually warm, dry summer stimulated breeding and growth of this species.

We did have a tick brought in by a medical assistant at the hospital for identification. We identified it as a *Dermacentor* species - common in Oregon, but not a carrier of any diseases. It’s nice when we can help out the medical profession in identifying specimens. It gives us a sort of “CSI” satisfaction when that occurs (although in this case there was no real crime scene).

One client brought in a large *Prionus* (California long-horn) beetle during one of our committee meetings. This beetle is impressive, being about 3 inches long with long antennae and it is quite active. We were able to tell him that the larvae feed on dead and decaying wood stumps. The adult beetles let out a squeak when they are held and the client was very impressed with that action. He took the beetle back to his property and decided to let it roam free.

We didn’t have one particular species as a dominant this year as we have had in the past. The last few years we have had “The year of the _____”, with one species showing up again and again during the year. With our climate seeming to change year by year, who knows what species will dominate in the future. I guess we will have to wait and see!

Buggy Bits by Bob Grossmann

Editorial Diggings by Cathy Burdett, Tiller editor

Fall-Change in the season! Changes in the weather! Changes in our gardens!

We can embrace or violently resist change. The choice is ours alone.

Some of the proposed changes that we may make in the Tiller will be accepted while others will be rejected. So… please recognize that we are going to introduce, in the next few months, some interesting articles and columns.

I am excited about what we are planning. Will you enjoy all of the changes? I hope so!

Please think about this: any changes can also be changed.

Cuttings from YCMGA Board Meetings by Cathy Burdett

Board Meeting held October 17 at 10 am

- Ray VanBlaricom, chairman of the nominating committee, presented potential candidates for the 2007 Executive Board
- Candidates will be voted on at the general meeting in December
- Nominations are still open for anyone to apply—contact Ray
- A thank you was received for a donation of $300 given to the Yamhill County Parks celebration by the YCMGA
- Kathleen O’Brien-Blair gave an update on a new “Carlton Grows” project that focuses on gardening education for children
- Helena Van Duyn, a student at Southern Oregon University, received a $1000 Continuing Education scholarship from net proceeds of our Bare Root tree sale.
We had the dry nut harvest period that I was hoping for in last month’s issue of the Tiller. We finished going through the 25 acres in three days thanks to the weather, no equipment breakdowns, and a wonderful crew of friends who come from Medford, Redmond, and Marrowstone Island, Washington to help us. The men “eat” the orchard dust. We women hand sort our larger nuts for husks and other debris before we put them on racks in my greenhouse to dry. These are the nuts we keep separate for our own use. Because of the dry weather, the harvester did a good job of blowing out most of the debris and it took us less than a full day to sort about 700 lbs. of nuts.

Another job for us women is to keep all of us fed. All of our friends bring food to add to what I have planned and we all eat very well. To show my appreciation for all the wonderful help, I took these friends of mine – gardeners all – to a couple of my favorite nurseries. It’s a good thing we took one friend’s van as we all found plants and prices we couldn’t resist. It is great to have such good friends who come to help us every year.

As I mentioned my friends are gardeners too. When they were here I still had lots of color in the flowerbeds. We enjoyed walking around the yard talking about plants, but the time has come now to start cleaning up the beds. I told you in last month’s column that I have been picking around the edges of the fall clean up. I need to get serious or I am going to be stuck cleaning up a soggy mess. That’s no fun. It is much better to clean up the beds, spruce up the perennials, and dig and divide those plants that need it while the weather is still half-way dry.

I want to clean up the beds so I can see where the permanent plants, and shrubs are. I have been thinking about moving things around and also about taking some things out that just haven’t done what I hoped they would do. For instance, I have a variegated Daphne that really isn’t very variegated anymore. It also sprawls all over instead of being upright. When it blooms, it blooms – sort of – under all that sprawl. I can’t even smell the few blossoms it gets. This fall it is going to go! I don’t have a landscape plan so I don’t know what will go in its place but that is reason enough to visit the fall sales at the nurseries.

I also have a couple of deciduous azaleas – Exbury type – that don’t do much for me. They bloomed last spring but not impressively. All summer they hid behind some annuals and looked weak. They are going to be taken out too. Is that another trip to a nursery? Yep!

Planting new plants and dividing some of the overgrown ones is a good fall gardening activity. As most of you know, fall is a great time to move things around in the garden. The soil is still warm from summer heat and this lets the roots get a good early start for next year. In our mild climate it doesn’t get really cold until late November and into December. It is probably not a good idea to mulch these new plantings or even established plants until the soil cools off some as you want the plants to start into dormancy for winter. If you mulch too soon you hold in the warmth of the soil longer. The plant doesn’t go into dormancy as soon and a good freeze could damage the still growing plant.

Of course, now through December you can plant bulbs. As you are cleaning up the beds you can poke a few bulbs in here and there. For the past couple of years, I have been planting my extra daffodil bulbs along the road bordering our nut orchard. I started at our mailbox and I’m working my way down to my neighbor’s mailbox and beyond. The bulbs come from clumps I dug and divided from the yard. I got the idea to plant along the road after seeing some done that way down near Tangent. I seem to remember some done are planted along the road on farmland out near the Lawrence Gallery too. Those that I planted the past couple of years really look neat in the spring marching along the roadway. I hope passersby enjoy them.

Planting bulbs in the fall and moving plants around is the beginning of next year’s garden. We plant nerds never quit thinking about our gardens and what we are going to do next season. What a hobby? It keeps us young. Just ask Bernice Brown. Thomas Jefferson was right when he said, “But though an old man, I am but a young gardener.”
The Yamhill County “Behind the Scenes” Master Gardener™ for 2006 was nominated for her many accomplishments.

♦ Proficient and faithful worker in all facets of the greenhouse and demonstration gardens
♦ Attends board meetings
♦ Demonstration garden committee chairperson
♦ Sylvia and her willing workers plant, water, fertilize, weed, cut and clip the plants in the demo gardens to a high standard of excellence
♦ Sylvia’s committee has produced a colorful, pleasant garden for fairground visitors to enjoy
♦ Assists and instructs, patiently and kindly, new MG’s working in the greenhouse and demo gardens

Sylvia—Thank you and Congratulations!

Photo Gallery: The Demonstration Garden

Beautiful results!

The intrepid planting crew braves the weather

Our new sign
Plant Profile: California Fuchsia by Linda McMahan

Known botanically as *Epilobium canum* (formerly *Zauschneria californica*), the California fuchsia is a near-native of exceptional garden merit. And it comes from near to home—The Oregon Plant Atlas of OSU’s Oregon Flora Project [www.oregonflora.org](http://www.oregonflora.org) shows records from Curry, Josephine, and Klamath County, all in southern Oregon as well as the wider distribution in neighboring California.

The species is attractive to hummingbirds because of its bright orange-red color. Many cultivars are available, adding to the color range. It also has a remarkably high tolerance for both poor soils and dry conditions, making California fuchsia an asset in WaterWise gardens.

Blooming time is August through October, making it a valuable, colorful addition for late season blooms. Plants are available locally—the ones in our front office landscape were acquired from Portland Nursery in the Portland Metro area.

For additional information and photographs, visit the following websites:

http://www.calflora.net/bloomingplants/californiafuchsia.html

and


Committee Clippings by Cathy Burdett

This month our focus is the Insect Committee. This important, effective and efficient group provides invaluable, on-going assistance to YCMGA and the public we serve.

Master Gardeners on desk duty could be frustrated if they also had to identify, catalog and offer solutions to insect problems.

Who enjoys identifying and handling “creeping, crawling creatures” submitted, as samples, by the public? It appears this committee thrives on the activity because they efficiently solve problems. They usually meet twice a month (on Thursdays) during the year, and would welcome additions to their committee.

This is just a suggestion—perhaps this committee should change their name to the “Insect Investigative Committee” or ???

**Thank you Insect Committee members:**
Bob Grossmann-Chair, Cindy Bellville, Kathy Goetz, Al Hanks, Jake Hurlbert, Bill LeMaster and Craig Markham
A question about saving flower seeds from one of our Master Gardeners prompted me to do some research and write a list. Fortunately, this question is often asked, and the resources available are almost overwhelming. The same general rules apply to both vegetable and flower gardens, however, here we will stick to flowers. Some of the references, however, will contain information about vegetables as well, so happy searching.

General tips from OSU are available from publication FS 220, available on the web at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/fs/fs220/.

**Some guidelines.** Avoid garden hybrids because seeds will not come true to the parent types—Hint: look at the original seed packet if you still have it; if it says F1 hybrid, seeds from your plants will not breed true. Most of our “bedding plants” are also hybridized varieties and will not come true from seeds; examples are the large-headed marigolds and zinnias, or the small lobelias. Selected cultivars, such as perennials with special leaf or flower color will likewise not come true from seeds. If you are a particularly adventurous gardener, you might go ahead and give these a try anyway just to see what happens!

Any plant that self-seeds successfully in your garden, however, is a good candidate. California poppies and many other poppies, cosmos, and sunflowers are particularly easy to save, according to an article out of Washington State University (http://gardening.wsu.edu/column/09-12-99.htm). Other good choices are “wildflowers” and heirloom flower species—examples of the later are cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and globe amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*). Many of the plants from the Sunflower family (e.g., asters, *Echinacea*, species zinnias) have seeds that are very easy to save. Most herbs also have appropriate seeds to save—try lavender, thyme, sage, and others: (http://plantanswers.tamu.edu/fallgarden/herbs.html).

The University of Montana has a good publication on vegetables at: http://www.montana.edu/wwwpb/pubs/mt9905.html as does the University of Illinois: http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/hortihints/0008c.html.

Now to how to handle and store the seeds. Most garden seeds remain viable for 3-5 years, but the viability falls each year, so using them sooner than later is a good idea. For maximum “shelf life” the seeds should be dry and kept in moderate conditions out of direct sunlight. Don’t put undried seeds in the freezer because this can actually kill the seed. Put the air-dried seeds into paper or waxed paper envelopes or bags, then in an airtight container such as a mason jar with a new lid. The OSU publication (FS 220) recommends adding a small packet of dried milk powder as a moisture absorbent. Since you might miss a few seed insect predators, try to save only a few kinds of seeds in each airtight container so you won’t loose the entire group of seeds. The seeds may be kept in a cool closet, refrigerator, or freezer (if dried) until you want to use them.
Happy Thanksgiving to all YCMGA members and OSU staff.

The Thanksgiving season is a time for reflection and giving thanks. It is appropriate to give thanks for the faithfulness and devotion of the YCMGA and OSU staff who have “labored and toiled in the field”. Their efforts have brought us a rich harvest of productive Yamhill County Master Gardeners. Please take the time this month to write a card, email or telephone an OSU or YCMGA member and express your thanks and appreciation.