Warm greetings to all my fellow master gardeners,

The month of July has quickly passed and August is just ‘heating up.’ Lots of activity is going on with master gardeners busily working in the plant clinics, school programs, community gardens, and the high school greenhouse. All of the volunteer work that has been accomplished to date is very much appreciated and I’m always in awe at how dedicated and generous our master gardeners are with their time and abilities. Thank you!

Our annual summer potluck party will be held on August 11 from 12 to 3 pm at Lori Phelan’s home in Gold Beach. Thank you, Lori, for planning and hosting this year’s event, and thank you to all the members of Lori’s committee. If you haven’t yet RSVP’d to Lori, please take a few minutes and send her an email: lori@smoothsailingrealty.com

We are starting to look at recruiting new officers for 2019. There are quite a few positions opening up and I hope that you are all willing to step up and help out for a year or two. Look for an email in the next couple of weeks listing all of the available positions and what each position entails, and plan on nominating yourself or one of your favorite master gardeners as an officer.

We’re also starting to look at the 2019 budget. We have been fortunate this year and last year to make enough money in our plant sales and holiday bazaar sale to enable us to meet our working budgets, move a large amount of money to our land and building fund, and to donate money to various local organizations and schools. If there are any organizations that you would like to start that need funding, please let me know.

I am very proud of what this organization accomplishes. Keep up the good work and know that it is very much appreciated, and I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and catching some sunshine (when it’s out).

Happy gardening,

Pam Leslie, President
ANNUAL PLANT SALE
Carol Hobbs, 541-251-2422, Mailhobbs@yahoo.com
Questions? Give me a call or text

We have finished repotting all of the plants left from the Plant Sale. Everything is in gallon pots ready for next year. The greenhouse has been cleaned and all the pots and trays organized. We will all take a couple of weeks off and resume activities on Tuesday August 7th.

Plans are to start propagation for next year’s Sale on the 7th. If you are interested in learning how to propagate and want to get some practice in, please join us at the Gold Beach High School about noon August 7th. Please bring your own clippers. If you are new to the area and not familiar with a lot of the flora around, this is a great way to start learning about the plants that grow here.

If you have a garden that you would like to open to us for cuttings please let me know. Or you may know of someone else who is willing to part with a few snips off of their plants. We are always respectful of the plant and try to leave it looking like we weren’t there.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 7th.

Thank you

RILEY CREEK GARDEN ~ Thanks, Ali Mramorali@gmail.com

July was a great month in the garden! We harvested 36 pounds of produce that was given to the school cafeteria for the Summer Lunch Program, the Food Bank, and the kids and volunteers who make the garden what it is.

The biggest news is our involvement with the Curry County Fair. The Riley Creek School Garden won Champion Gardener! We also won Best in Show for our beets. We entered a total of 21 items into the Land Products Department and all of our items placed, with all but three getting blue ribbons! We also received two 2nd place ribbons and one 3rd place ribbon.

I am so incredibly proud of the kids who have been a part of this garden and had a hand in growing all of our entries, as well as all the volunteers who have helped along the way. Some of the garden youth also entered individually and placed for the Crazy Critters and Theme Basket categories.

We now look ahead to August when our new FoodCorps service member, Katie, will be starting. She is bringing a lot to the table and we are so excited to have her be a part of connecting the classroom to the garden. Please come down and meet her.

AUGUST GARDENING TIPS

Planning

- Optimal time for establishing a new lawn is August through mid-September.
- Dampwood termites begin flying late this month. Make sure your home is free of wet wood or places where wood and soil are in contact.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Make compost of lawn clippings and garden plants that are ready to be recycled. Don’t use clippings if lawn has been treated with herbicide, including “weed-and-feed” products. Don’t compost diseased plants unless you are using the “hot compost” method (120 degrees to 150 degrees F.
- Fertilize cucumbers, summer squash, and broccoli to maintain production while you continue harvesting.
- Clean and fertilize strawberry beds.
- Use mulch to protect ornamentals and garden plants from hot weather damage. If needed, provide temporary shade, especially for recent plantings.
- Camellias need deep watering to develop flower buds for next spring.
- Prune raspberries, boysenberries, and other canberries after harvest. Check raspberries for holes made by crown borers, near the soil line, at base of plant. Remove infested wood before adults emerge (approximately mid-August).
- Monitor garden irrigation closely so crops and ornamentals don’t dry out.
- If green lawn is desired, frequent watering is necessary during periods of heat and drought stress. Irrigate 0.25 inches four to six times per week from June through August. Measure your water use by placing an empty tuna can where your irrigation water lands.
- Western Oregon: Prune out dead fruits in blackberry and train new primocanes prior to end of month
- Prune cherry trees before fall rains begin to allow callusing in dry weather. This will minimize the spread of bacterial canker.

Planting/Propagation

- Plant winter cover crops in vacant space in the vegetable garden
- Plant winter kale, Brussels sprouts, turnips, parsnips, parsley, and Chinese cabbage.
- Western Oregon: Mid-summer planting of peas; use eanation-virus-resistant varieties, plant fall crops of cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli.
- Oregon Coast: Plant spinach.
- Western Valleys, Portland, Roseburg, Medford: Plant cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, spinach, turnips, and parsnips.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose and bacterial canker of stone fruit. Sterilize tools before each new cut.
- Check apple maggot traps; spray tree if needed.
- Control yellowjackets and wasps with traps and lures as necessary. Keep in mind they are beneficial insects and help control pest insects in the home garden.
- First week: If necessary, spray for walnut husk fly.
- First week: If necessary, second spray for peach tree borer and/or peach twig borer.
- First week: If necessary, second spray of flilbert trees for filbertworm.
- Check for root weevils in ornamental shrubs and flowers; codling moth and spider mite in apple trees; scale insects in camellias, holly and maples.
- Watch for corn earworm on early corn. Treat as necessary.
- For mite control on ornamentals and most vegetables, hose off foliage, spray with approved miticide if necessary.
- Check leafy vegetables for caterpillars. Pick off caterpillars as they appear. Use Bt-k, if necessary.
- Continue monitoring peaches, plums, prunes, figs, fall-bearing raspberries and strawberries, and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). If SWD are present, use an integrated and least toxic approach to manage the pests. Learn how to monitor for SWD flies and larval infestations in fruit.
- Willamette Valley: Corn may need protection from earworm. Spray new silks with appropriate pesticides if necessary.
- Coastal and Western Valleys: Spray potatoes and tomatoes for early and late blight.
HOW TO FIND OUT WHAT’S GOING ON
Contact Pam Leslie, find us on Facebook: Curry County Master
Gardeners-OSU Extension
THE BRAMBLES NEWSLETTER
Emailed to active members and on
www: http://extension.oregonstate.edu.curry
Editor, Cathe Barter at umpqua.bart@gmail.com

BOARD MEETINGS monthly 3rd Wednesday from 10 am to noon
OSU Extension (Gold Beach)
2930 Ellensburg Avenue, Gold Beach, meeting room
(No Meetings in August or December)

Visit these sites to volunteer:
GOLD BEACH HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE
29316 Ellensburg (at the read of school)
Contact Carol Hobbs, 541-251-2422
*Annual Plant Sale Project* spoken here
RILEY CREEK GARDEN
94350 6th Street, Gold Beach
Contact Ali Mramor alimramor@yahoo.com

ABC PRESCHOOL
543 Hemlock St, Brookings
Contact Barb Carey barbcary15696@gmail.com

SHOP AND GIVE BACK TO CCMGA!
CCMGA has completed two "REWARD" program applications! This is
your chance to give to our non-profit organization through your daily
purchases.

The 1st rewards program is smile.amazon.com... If you have an
Amazon account and purchase products from Amazon, connecting
your account to Smile.amazon is easy. Go to smile.amazon.com and
log in to your account. You will be asked which charity/non-profit you
would like to support. You will find MANY Master Gardener
Associations, so PLEASE select Master Gardener Association, Gold
Beach, Oregon. It is on page three or four of their list of Master
Gardener Assn. Then make your purchases...it is that simple. Amazon
smile will donate .05% of your qualified purchase to CCMGA by direct
deposit.

The 2nd rewards program is with Fred Meyer. Using this reward
program is as easy as linking your Fred Meyer Rewards card with
Curry County Master Gardener Assn., Gold Beach, OR. Set up a new
account or sign into your existing account at fredmeyer.com, click on
the ‘Fred Meyer Community Rewards’ link at the bottom of the
page, type in ‘Curry County Master Gardener Assn.’ or the
number '85441', choose your organization, and click on ‘Enroll.’
Information about both the programs is available online at each
business; check it out!
CCMGA ~ GENERAL MEETING MINUTES-July 17, 2018

Meeting Called to Order 10:10 am

Present: Pam Leslie, Scott Thiemann, Debbie Carroll, Barb Rylee, John Albi, Mary Jacobs, Marna Williams, Jeffrie Hall, Ruth Patton, Ali Van Otterloo, Barb Cary, Linda Stokes, Gro Lent, Craig Rasbury, Ali Mramor

Barb R. made a motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting with no exceptions noted. The motion was seconded by Linda and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Barb R. presented the treasurer’s report. There was not much activity financially this month. Pam suggested setting up a separate line item in the budget to track expenses and income associated with soil pH testing.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Jeffrey reported on planning for the summer MG get together.

Pam announced that budgets will be due on November 1 and will be reviewed at the November 20 meeting. In addition, nominees for open officer positions should be made by September 18. Open positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary/State Representative. The list of candidates will be published in the October Brambles. Officers will be selected at the November meeting. Committee chairs will also be considered at the November meeting.

Linda Stokes shared interesting trivia about Haas avocados.

There were no updates to the calendar. It was noted that our general membership meeting day needs to be updated in Brambles (every 3rd Tuesday now, instead of Wednesday).

PROGRAM ASSISTANT’S REPORT

Scott discussed the procedure to enter items in the Curry County Fair, and encouraged the membership to participate.

Scott provided an update on the Seed to Supper program in Crescent City. He would like to consider a similar program next summer in Brookings. There is a need for dedicated MGs to run the program. It would be immediately following the MG training in mid-April, 2019.

Scott announced that Julia Bott is organizing the youth gardening program at the library in Brookings. The title will be “Gardening Basics for Kids.” Julia is looking for assistance from other MGs for the presentations.

Fall’s continuing education class, September 29, for MGs will be “Water Quality Friendly Gardening” not be the permaculture class previously discussed. It will be held at extension office and a site yet to be selected. Scott discussed general policy changes from the MG coordinator meeting in advance of the G2 conference. More active adult learning was identified as a best practice for MG training. He will be implementing some changes for next year’s training. The cost of the training was also discussed as a possible barrier to participation. The group decided to consider scholarships to defray some of the costs at a future meeting. Scott confirmed that only certified members (those who have completed training and the required volunteer service hours) are to be given stickers indicating their certified status each year. Associate members (who have not met certification requirement) will not be given stickers, and may participate in MG activities but not those activities which involve engagement with the public.

Plant Sales in the future should be limited to one-day events. We should be careful not to sell invasive species. More guidelines for plant sales will be coming from the State level in August.

Scott announced that there may be a new calendar available to sign up for events. The group indicated our calendar seems to be working well.

Scott announced that OSU will be requiring additional waivers for offsite events.

There are possibilities for 2 additional training classes that other counties are currently offering. The first class is a mentor and office orientation class. The second is an advanced vegetable gardening class.

Scott is required to update our website. Jeffrey offered to help with the computer part of the update.

Scott announced that we will not pursue developing a poisonous plant list. There are too many different ways plants can be harmful that makes a list of this nature complicated.

There is a new SOLVE application being developed. It will have the information contained in the PNR manuals available to use on mobile devices.

Scott announced that State wide they will be looking at new ways to host the annual conference. These may include looking to a regional approach so that the work of organization of the conference does not fall on the same chapters each year.

Scott presented the Master Gardener of the Year award to Pam Leslie, and the Behind the Scenes award to Ali Van Otterloo. He also announced that we were successful in receiving the Extension Educator Grant to be used for expenses associated with soil pH testing, and thanked John for his assistance with the grant application.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Riley Creek Garden

Ali M. reported that there have been a handful of dedicated volunteers coming to help at the garden. A new Food Corp. helper will begin in about 2 weeks. Ali would like to be contacted directly by volunteers who plan to help out so she knows in advance how much help there will be. For about the next month and a half, she will have an open door policy at the garden. A new Food Corp. helper will begin in about 2 weeks. Ali would like to be contacted directly by volunteers who plan to help out so she knows in advance how much help there will be. For about the next month and a half, she will have an open door policy at the garden.

ABC Preschool

Barb C. indicated the ABC Preschool programs are going well. Ruth has been helping out.

Soil Testing

John has been contacted by one person interested in having pH testing on soil. He is waiting to hear back from her. He will be demonstrating the testing procedure at the youth library program.

Land and Building Committee

Debbie reported that we hope to be meeting with the high school superintendent soon to inquire if there may be a location suitable for a new greenhouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am

Submitted by Debbie Carroll, State Representative
Riley Creek Garden – kids washing potatoes

Curry County Fair Entries and Ribbon Winners
KNOW WHAT YOUR PLANTS NEED BEFORE FERTILIZING

By Kym Pokorny, Source: Weston Miller--CORVALLIS, Ore. – In a perfect world, garden plants would feed themselves. As it is, we’ve got to help them along sometimes.

Plants take up nutrients from the soil but when those nutrients are missing, it’s time for fertilizer.

“Plants pull out nutrients as they grow,” said Weston Miller, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. “Unless they’re put back in, the plant suffers.”

But knowing which fertilizer to choose, how much to apply and which plants to feed is not always obvious. Knowing the plants’ needs makes all the difference.

“You need to know what plants you have and what their requirements are,” Miller said. “Doing research up front really pays off.”

Most landscape trees and shrubs and many perennials don’t need fertilizer at all unless they’re showing signs of stress like yellowing foliage.

“Prepare the soil by adding compost or other organic material well ahead of planting, you can have a fabulous landscape that needs very little fertilizer,” he said.

Annuals are heavy feeders and should be hit weekly with a fertilizer that dissolves in water, especially if growing in containers.

Vegetables also need plenty of nutrients. At planting time, incorporate fertilizer as indicated on the label. Early in the season also use a water-soluble version to get plants off to a good start. For corn and garlic, feed two to three times with a fertilizer high in nitrogen (the N in the N-P-K on the label). Blood meal is a good choice for organic gardeners, Miller said. The rest of the time, watch for yellowing foliage. If the plant starts to look stressed, add some fertilizer.

Fruit trees and berries, especially blueberries, are heavy feeders and will be more productive if fertilizer is added at the right time. Each type of plant has specific guidelines. You can search the Extension catalog for publications about specific plants like Growing Strawberries in Your Home Garden and Growing Blueberries in Your Home Garden.

How you fertilize lawn depends on a couple of things. If you irrigate and want a green lawn in summer, feed at least twice a year. Use the “holiday” schedule of Memorial Day and Thanksgiving. Always use a spreader to get the fertilizer well spread, and it is recommended by a soil test or based on the label of lime products.

If you’re looking for an organic fertilizer check to see if they have OMRI on the label. For vegans and vegetarians, avoid fish, blood and bone meal products. For inorganic products, choose a slow-release fertilizer. If all the nutrients aren’t needed by the plant, the fertilizer can percolate down into the ground water or run off into waterways causing pollution.

Lime is a soil amendment to raise the pH, an important consideration for vegetables. For those gardeners living west of the Cascades, applying lime is recommended by a soil test or based on the label of lime products.

Always water in fertilizer after applying and don’t forget to read the instructions. Using too much can burn plants.

For additional information on fertilizing, refer to OSU Extension’s Fertilizing Your Garden and Growing Your Own.

WIGGLE YOUR WAY INTO WORM COMPOSTING

By Kym Pokorny--CORVALLIS, Ore. – Impressed by compost’s contribution to the soil, gardeners conferred on it the nickname “black gold.” Even more beneficial worm castings could take the title “black diamonds.”

Just ask true believer Larry Steele, an Oregon State University Extension Service master gardener who commends the rich nutrition of red-worm manure, also known as castings.

“I started with regular compost,” said Steele, who teaches Extension-sponsored classes on worm composting or vermicomposting. “But then I took a session in master gardener training and the instructor talked about how good worm castings are and how easy it is to make.”

Right away he learned the most important lesson in vermicomposting: Don’t use the big worms already wiggling around in the soil. These big night crawlers won’t hang around.

Instead, keep your worm farm working with red worms, also called red wigglers or tiger worms. Build or buy the worms a box or bin--the basic worm farm. “You can buy your worms from extension service, or order from online,” Steele said.

You can search the Extension catalog for worm bins or worm composting instructions. Using too much can burn plants.

Making a comfortable place for the worms is an easy enough proposition. Plenty of worm bins are on the market, but building one takes only six pieces of plywood, a hammer and some nails. Make a box by attaching sides and bottom, but leave the top board loose so you can open and close the bin. Add hinges if you’re feeling ambitious. Don’t forget to drill holes in the sides of the box to give the inhabitants air; they’ll die without it. The size of the box depends on the amount of food waste you add during a week. A good rule of thumb is a square foot of box per pound of waste a week, according to Steele. A 2-by-4-foot box with a 12- to 16-inch depth is a good place to start.

Plastic bins can be used, also, but because of their nonporous nature you’ll need two bins stacked on top of each other with spacers (bricks would work) between them. In this case, drill holes in the bottom of the first bin so liquid resulting from the vermicomposting process can drip down. The liquid can be mixed with water and applied around plants. (Cont. pg. 7)
PEST TARGETS POPULAR WHITE-BARK BIRCH TREES

By Kym Pokorny Source: Nicole Sanchez—CORVALLIS, Ore. — A voracious insect — the bronze birch borer — is picking off beloved birch trees throughout Oregon.

Common for many years in Eastern Oregon, the hard-to-control beetle first showed up west of the Cascades in 2003 in Portland, where it has killed hundreds of trees. It slowly migrated and is now found in abundance as far south as Klamath Falls, according to Nicole Sanchez, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service.

Sanchez has co-authored a detailed fact sheet on the problem called Homeowner Guide to Managing Bronze Birch Borer in the Upper Klamath Basin. The information is relevant for the entire state.

The first sign of infestation is flagging branches with sparse, stunted and yellowing leaves at the tree canopy, she said. Twigs will fall and eventually the branches lose their leaves. Ultimately — often before a homeowner notices — the tree will have so much damage it’s impossible to save. Caught in early stages, death can be averted.

“If you don’t know you have an infestation, it’s usually too late,” said Sanchez. “Then you have to take the tree out, which is expensive.”

There’s no easy way to defend against the pest. Besides cultural practices like mulching and watering, which can help fend off the insect if the tree isn’t yet infested or early in the infestation, the only solution for control is chemicals.

“People don’t want to hear that because of the effect pesticides have on beneficial insects and they cost a lot,” she said. “But it’s either that or the tree dies. Either way it’s expensive.”

Sanchez, who has seen trees killed by inappropriate applications of pesticide, cautions homeowners to use them correctly. The pesticides — which are usually used as a drench — should be applied at the tree’s drip line (where the branches reach) — not next to the trunk. If possible, hire a certified arborist.

Birch are wind pollinated, but the catkins may be attractive to bees so insecticides should only be applied after flowering has occurred in spring to reduce possible exposure. Don’t apply systemic insecticides, which are the most commonly used, when flowers that are attractive to bees are blooming nearby. Remember you must follow the instructions on the label. It’s the law.

The adult bronze birch borer looks like a tiny long football and is olive to brown with coppery metallic wings and body. It lays eggs under loose pieces of bark at the top of the tree. After about two weeks, the eggs hatch and the larvae bore into the cambium layer where water and nutrients move around. As it feeds, the frass it produces plugs the tree. After about two weeks, the eggs hatch and the larvae bore into the cambium layer. Lay down more bedding when it is reduced by half, about every month or two depending on the size of the bin and how much food is provided.

Steele recommends about 1,000 worms for that size box, but even a quarter of that amount will work.

“They have a marvelous capacity to reproduce,” he said. “Eight mature worms can result in 1,500 offspring in six months.” No need to worry about worms crawling out of the bin, though. The size of the box and amount of food will keep them in check.

Red worms are available at places that sell fish bait and online from outfits that supply vermicomposting equipment. Or, scoop out a handful from a friend’s bin for free. Again, be sure to get red worms, not night crawlers. To feed the worms, just pull back a bit of bedding, put in some kitchen or vegetable garden waste and cover it up. Worms are top feeders, Steele explained, so they’ll naturally come to the uppermost layers to eat. As they digest the food, it passes through and comes out as castings or, to be more precise, worm manure.

Feed worms vegetable and fruit scraps, banana peels, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, crushed egg shells and corn cobs. Don’t add meat, fish, bones, oils and dairy products. Be conservative with citrus peels, onions and garlic. You can chop up the bigger pieces or not; eventually they’ll get eaten. Letting the scraps sit in a bucket outside to rot a little isn’t a bad idea, Steele said. Worms go through softer things quicker.

“They don’t have what we think of as teeth, so they’ll work into the softer stuff first,” Steele explained. “Take a corn cob. The first thing they’ll consume are the bits of corn kernel. When that’s done, they’ll begin to eat into the core of the cob, which is softer than the outside of the cob. Break it into two and there may be 50 worms inside. Eventually, it will disappear.”

The best location for a worm bin is in a garage or shed, but they can be kept outside year round if filled with enough bedding for insulation. Watch the moisture level, too. In summer, you may need to sprinkle it down to keep it damp enough.

As the castings build up in the bottom of the bin, harvest for bedding or scooping out a double handful of finished product. Take as few worms as possible in order to keep your worm farm populated. Put the castings on a table in the sun for about 10 minutes. Since the worms don’t like sunlight, they’ll retire to the inside of the mound of castings. Just gather them up and add them back to the bin. If that seems too tedious, skip that step but you’ll be losing a lot of worms.

The castings can be added to regular compost — about 25 percent — and used to build up beds. Or spread them around plants and dig in slightly. Sprinkle castings on potted plants and over garden beds. A little goes a long way. Other uses include adding to the bottom of planting holes and mixing with potting soil at a concentration of about 20 percent.

WORMS (Cont.)

Wooden boxes can be set on bricks with a tray underneat to catch liquid, but in Steele’s experience it hasn’t been necessary. “Most of the excess moisture gets absorbed into the wood or just doesn’t materialize as condensation because the wood is a better insulator and warmer surface,” he said. “And more moisture just escapes because wood breathes and plastic doesn’t.”

For bedding, newprint is a cheap and easy option, but only use the black-and-white sections. Tear it into long strips, soak it in water and squeeze until it’s about as moist as a damp sponge. Fluff it up and then fill the bottom quarter of the box. Add worms and cover them with a layer two to three times as thick as the bottom layer. Lay down more bedding when it is reduced by half, about every month or two depending on the size of the bin and how much food is provided.

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Have you seen the Curry County Master Gardeners website?
Extension.oregonstate.edu/curry/mg
The Brambles is usually posted there by the second of the month.

The last Monday of the month is the cut-off date for submitting articles for the Brambles. Email them to Cathe Barter
umpqua.bart@gmail.com

This is your newsletter, if you have something to share please send it in. We will make every effort to include it.

Thanks to all of you who generously contributed to this edition of the Brambles. All submissions are gladly considered.

www.facebook.com/OSUExtCurryMG

Curry County Master Gardeners Association
PO Box 107
Gold Beach, OR 97444

CCMGA Officers for 2018
President ............... Pam Leslie
Vice President.......... Tim Lyons
Secretary............... Lana Larsen
Treasurer............... Barb Rylee
OMG State Rep....... Debbie Carroll
Newsletter Editor...... Cathe Barter
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