WELCOME 2021. BRING IT ON! ~ Julia Bott

As I write this on the solstice, sunlight is starting to increase by minutes, which I've always thought was an ironic way to start winter. Goodbye 2020. It was interesting. And if it did one thing, it highlighted our ability to adapt.

Welcome 2021. Bring it on! Though I suspect it will be much like 2020 for a good portion of the year. But as gardeners, we are good at following the cues of the world and making the best of it.

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Many training opportunities have already been scheduled for us to complete our continuing education hours. These include live zoom classes if you want the interaction. If not, you will be able to access them on your own schedule. There are also learn-at-your-own-pace modules. A special event is scheduled for the Martin Luther King, Jr Day of Celebration, and a series on cultural gardening to explore what gardening means to different people and groups is being planned. Finally, the annual Mini-College with an array of classes and workshops for gardeners of all levels is scheduled for July 17 and 18. Please see Page 2 for a listing of classes or go to https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/2020/12/16/getting-ready-for-2021-the-osu-extension-master-gardener-program/.

There will be plant clinics this year! Yes, it will be virtual, utilizing email, the Plant Clinic Database (known as ECCo, for Extension Client Contact Database), and zoom or other screen-based communications. But it will depend upon real people – you as Master Gardeners – to implement. Right now, the plan is to do like we did in the past and schedule specific MGs as the plant clinic volunteers for that week. Details are still being worked out so watch for more information. I know that staffing plant clinic often brings angst to some and now this added layer may add more. But don’t worry, you’ll be working with others and it’s perfectly ok to forward questions that you are unsure how to answer to those who have appropriate experience.

Plans are being developed for a Plant Sale in 2021. I know that cancelling the Plant Sale was a big disappointment for us, the public, and a hit on our fund-raising. (Curry County Master Gardener Association is still doing fine financially.) It won’t be like years past but those who lead the effort have already started researching what creative ideas other chapters are using and making plans for us. I am looking forward to hearing their ideas and plans.

I know that many of us are disappointed that we were unable to volunteer like we did pre-pandemic. Part of this disappointment was being unable to log an adequate number of hours, especially direct programing, required for our certification. But more than that, we missed that interaction and the joy and aha moments that the public had during events. Hopefully, we’ll see more in-person programing by the end of the year. Until then, we’ll be working to make sure that adequate and meaningful volunteer opportunities are provided.

Before I end, I want to thank all of you for your love and commitment to the Curry County Master Gardener Association. Perennial thanks to Scott, who is always there, mostly in our inbox this year. Special thanks to outgoing Board members Lori Phelan, Ruth Patton and Jeffrie Hall. Lori had great vision and plans for marketing the master gardener program, which were unfortunately sidelined with this year’s shutdown. Ruth wrestled with implementing new accounting software that makes our budgets understandable. Jeffrie provided informative minutes from each meeting and focused her time making sure that the State organization knew about our programs and successes and made sure that we knew what was going on at the State level.

I look forward to working with new Board, Ginny Knox, Vice President, Tom Kerr, Treasurer, and Sherry Baum, Secretary, and with all of you. Please always feel free to contact me at jbott@batnet.com or 650.520.5673 with any ideas, suggestions, or questions.

Finally, maybe 2021 will be the year we find a place for our greenhouse!
CURRY CMA’S 2021 CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

More information on these and other events can be found at https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/2020/12/16/getting-ready-for-2021-the-osu-extension-master-gardener-program/

GROWING OREGON GARDENERS: LEVEL UP SERIES
This monthly zoom series kicks off in January, offering education for the experienced gardener led by OSU horticulture experts from across the state.

WHEN The second Tuesday of the month, 3pm, January-November 2021 or after on your own time
HOW Take one or take all. Registration information to come.
COST Free

Currently Scheduled:
January 12: ‘Understanding Seed Characteristics’ with Nicole Sanchez
February 9: ‘Multifunctional Hedgerows’ with Pami Monnette
March 9: ‘What to Do About Herbicide Contaminated Compost and Soil Mix/How to Use Compost in Gardens and Landscapes’ with Weston Miller
April 13: ‘Dazzling Dahlias’ with Julie Huynh
May 11: ‘Water-wise Gardening’ with Erika Szonntag
June 8: ‘Unique Winter Vegetables to Grow’ with Lane Selman
July 13: ‘Fire-wise Landscaping’ with Amy Jo Detweiler
August 10: ‘Season Extension Techniques’ with Heather Stoven and Nicole Sanchez
September 14: ‘Gardening with Native Plants for Pollinators’ with Gail Langellotto
October 12: ‘Adapting Your Garden and Landscape for Climate Change’ with Weston Miller
November 9: ‘Using Life Cycle Analysis to Understand the Sustainability of Your Garden Products and Practices’ with Gail Langellotto

Elevated Skills Training for Current Master Gardener Volunteers
Ready to gather new skills to elevate your Master Gardener volunteerism? Through Elevated Skills Trainings, Master Gardeners will learn how to use new tools for garden plant ID, advance your zoom or social media skills, and learn about community science within the Master Gardener program, as just a few examples. We’ll be using an online training tool named Thinkific, which is the same platform we’ve used to deliver the COVID Safety Training and the Celebrate Master Gardener Week. Each week, a new lesson will open for you to work through, on your own time, and at your own pace. Each lesson is optional: you can take whichever ones interest you. Once a lesson is open it will remain open for the rest of 2021, meaning you can take it at any time.

WHEN late January- late March 2021
HOW Take one or take all.
COST Free

Currently Scheduled:
The schedule, below, represents the day that lesson will open for your use. Dates are subject to change.

January 22: Overview of Thinkific and the 2021 Elevated MG Skills Training
January 29: Zoom Basics / Advanced Zoom
February 5: iNaturalist for Master Gardener Volunteers / Garden Plant ID with the OSU Landscape Plants Database
February 12: Best Practices for Online Plant Clinic / Using the Extension Client Contact Database to Improve Plant Clinic Responses
February 19: Taking Your Master Gardener Social Media to the Next Level
February 26: Best Practices in Youth Gardening Programs / Superpower Your Educational Garden
March 5: Community Science and the Master Gardener Program
March 12: Showcase Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Efforts in Other States / OSU Extension’s Diversity Training for Volunteers
March 19: Building Community Partnerships to Broaden Outreach
March 25: Recipes for a Collaborative Community
CORVALLIS, Ore. – Oregon is the first state in the nation to form a **Master Melittologists program** of trained community scientists dedicated to preserving and cataloguing bees that are native to the state. *(Melittology is a branch of entomology concerning the scientific study of bees. It may also be called apicology. Melittology covers the species found in the clade Anthophila within the superfamily Apoidea, comprising more than 20,000 species, including bumblebees and honey bees.)*

For pronunciation see: [https://youtu.be/pQd2AuCRmEA](https://youtu.be/pQd2AuCRmEA).

Like OSU Extension Master Gardeners, the Master Melittologist program intensively trains volunteers on the meticulous work of locating and cataloging the bees that no one has seen before. While Oregon is known for honey bees that pollinate much of the food we eat, the state is also home to about 600 native bees, many that are pollinators, too.

“We can only say ‘about’ 600 because no one has ever done a complete inventory of which bees call Oregon home,” said Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon State University Extension pollinator health specialist. “This is troublesome because there have been emerging reports that some bee species across the world are experiencing decline. Without an inventory it is impossible to know whether bees in Oregon are having trouble or whether their populations remain stable.”

The Master Melittologists program works with the Oregon Bee Atlas, which is responsible for surveying the state’s native bee population in partnership with OSU Extension Service, OSU colleges of agriculture and forestry, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Although the Master Melittologist program just started this year, volunteers have been the driving force in the Oregon Bee Atlas since 2018. Over the past three years these volunteers have contributed 70,000 new bee records from every county in the state. These include some rare species, including a new metallic sweat bee from the Alvord Desert, a wool carder bee that was found nesting in the sand dunes around Newport and, in Ashland, the first recording in the state of a squash bee.

To become a Master Melittologist, volunteers go through a rigorous year of training that includes six online, self-paced modules covering everything from bee biology, preparing bee collections and planning a bee survey trip. Participants also get a day in the field and a day on microscopes with instructors. Once they complete all the training, they become an apprentice level Master Melittologist, the first level of the three-level program. After more intensive study of different bee groups, participants can move up if they want to dive even more into the world of bees.

“The program is rigorous, but it can be taken to any level you choose,” said Mark Gorman, a volunteer Master Melittologist in Portland. “The core structure includes bee biology and natural history along with field work, identification techniques and community outreach. But people can go further and do deep dives in specimen collecting, taxonomy, botany, natural history and other topics. This is a great citizen science project for a great cause – so very interesting and fun.”

The volunteers are finding bees in some unexpected places, including a tiny 2.5-millimeter cuckoo bee that was found next to a driveway in Burns.

“My brother and I have driven over 10,000 miles in search of native bees,” said Yamhill County volunteer Michael O’Loughlin. “It’s funny to think that one of the rarest bees we’ve discovered was in the front yard of the house where we were staying.”

The Master Melittologist program and the Oregon Bee Atlas work with the Oregon State Arthropod Collection to identify and preserve the insects. “The insect collection at OSU has a wealth of historical records of our region’s bee fauna during the 1900s,” said Christopher Marshall, curator of the OSU collection. “The Oregon Bee Atlas participants are producing an incredible contemporary data set of our bees; one that will not only help us document changes that took place over the last century, but that will serve as a solid baseline to monitoring our fauna into the future.

Volunteers can discover species because of the rigorous training program and support from Lincoln Best, lead taxonomist for the Oregon Bee Atlas at OSU, and the Oregon State Arthropod Collection [https://extension.oregonstate.edu/bee-atlas/becoming-certified-master-melittologist].

“The volunteer contributions to the Oregon Bee Atlas have been constantly astounding,” Best said. “These folks are scouring the state, spending weeks in the field studying the diverse state flora and making incredible bee discoveries, one after another. Their character, camaraderie, and the seemingly endless biodiversity in Oregon, has created something I’m overjoyed to be a part of.”

In addition to the OSU Extension Master Melittologist project, Extension has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to tackle a national bee survey, Melathopoulos said. One project – the U.S. National Native Bee Monitoring Network [http://www.usnativebees.com/] – will build the tools needed to link survey efforts across the country.

Volunteers can sign up on the [Master Melittologist website](https://extension.oregonstate.edu/bee-atlas/becoming-certified-master-melittologist).
THIS IS A REMINDER for those who have not yet renewed their CCMGA annual dues for next year—and you know who you are—it’s time.

Dues are due NLT January 11th

mailed to: CCMGA (Attn: Membership), P.O. Box 107, GB, OR 97444. Make your check to CCMGA for $20, plus your name, mailing & email addresses, phone number and class year are also needed. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Richter at 775-721-0232 or tahoe debbie@sbcglobal.net.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE ~ Carol Hobbs

Plant sale workers are busy planning a virtual plant sale for this spring. We learned from other counties about their online experiences this past year. Our sale will be a little smaller than usual but we hope to have similar offerings in a safe on line environment.

Meanwhile, cuttings continue to be potted in anticipation of growing into a plant ready for sale in May.

Happy New Year

RILEY CREEK GARDEN

94350 6th Street, Gold Beach
Contact Mary Jacobs or Lori Phelan.

DIG YOUR LIBRARY ~ Julia Bott

No report for January.
Chetco Community Public Library Annex
402 Alder St, Brookings. Contact Julia Bott jbott@batnet.com or tele, 650.520.5673

CHETCO SEED LIBRARY UPDATE

Since the Chetco Community Public Library currently is not open, you share your harvested seeds or get seeds through a contactless exchange using the SEED mailbox attached to one of the mailbox stands at Whaleshead parking lot. Please contact Lynette McPherson first at lmcc97415@gmail.com or 541.661.2321.

Lynette is working to get bulk seeds repackaged for individual use and ready to go by February 2021. She is also hoping to schedule a seedling swap for May.

MICHELLE’S NEW YEAR’S PUZZLER

COPY & PASTE THE FOLLOWING INTO YOUR BROWSER:

puzzle-maker.com/temp/hour-11/Marnold@email.com--HappyHollydays.pdf

CCMGA – GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

No December 2020 meeting. – Submitted by Jeffrie Hall

EASY INDOOR HERBS SPICE UP YOUR COOKING

{ POT TO TABLE}

Story by Kym Pokorny, source Brooke Edmunds—CORVALLIS, Ore. – Cooking and gardening have taken the country by storm and easy-to-grow herbs act as a bridge between the two, adding flavor to our food and confidence to our gardening.

Growing them inside gives everyone the opportunity to spice up their homegrown food, said Brooke Edmunds, horticulturist for OSU Extension Service.

“People are entertaining themselves during the pandemic by trying out new recipes and finding things to learn to cook,” she said. “We’re being creative and herbs can help a lot with that.”

There are other reasons to grow herbs, including the simple joy of growing your own and knowing where your food comes from. And, of course, there’s the price tag.

“It’s more cost effective to grow herbs for yourself,” Edmunds said. “The precut herbs in plastic clamshells get expensive. And you can get multiple meals out of a single plant for much less cost than purchasing them.

If you’re not sure what to grow, think about the foods you like. Enjoy salsa? Grow some cilantro. Want to make pesto? Plant basil. Tarragon highlights chicken salad. Chives are a natural with baked potatoes. Fresh herbs perk up a salad and can be added to salad dressing for even more flavor. Pick a few to try, but not too many. It’s best to start small so you don’t get overwhelmed, Edmunds said.

If sited correctly and well maintained, most herbs grow well indoors. But keep in mind that some don’t. Hefty plants like mint, dill, lemon balm and fennel are best left outdoors.

Except for chives, cilantro and basil, starting herbs from seed can be slow, so Edmunds recommends buying starts, which means you can plant throughout the season. Place them in a bright window (south is often the best place in the house) and rotate them a quarter turn when you see the plants start to stretch toward the sun.

Since adequate drainage is a must, use packaged potting soil because it is lightweight and drains well. Stick to potting soil; planting mix or topsoil can be too heavy. Edmunds recommends planting into 10-inch pots so roots have some wiggle room.

“It depends on the plant,” she said. “Some will want more room like a rosemary. You can get away with a smaller pot if you’re planning to repot eventually or if you’re growing short-lived annual herbs like cilantro and basil. None of the herbs have to be forever plants. It’s okay to harvest and start over.

Herbs in containers should be watered as needed. Stick your finger in the soil up to your second knuckle. If it comes out dry, it’s time to water. Let the water run through the soil and out the bottom, and don’t let the pot sit in water. Feed every six months or so with a water-soluble fertilizer at half the recommended ratio on the label.

“Don’t be afraid to harvest your herbs,” Edmunds said. “That’s what they’re for. But be prepared. They won’t always look like groomed houseplants as you snip off pieces here and there.”
GARDEN MYTHS DEBUNKED WHAT’S THE REAL STORY?
CORVALLIS, Ore. – Kym Pokorny – Reality can get skewed when there are so many sources of information - books, magazines, newspapers, nurseries and, most of all, the internet and social media open up lots of room for contradiction. So, how do you find the right answer for gardening questions?
Nine experts from OSU Extension Service stepped up to bust some common gardening myths. Read on to get some research-based answers to 10 common misconceptions.

MYTH: You should top a tree to control its height.
REALITY: Trees are programmed to attain a certain height. Topping only temporarily delays the inevitable. The resulting sucker growth, which grows rapidly in an attempt to provide food for the compromised root system, is weakly attached. This creates an even greater hazard. Additionally, the trunk is not a limb and cannot use the tree’s architectural physiology to seal the wound caused by topping. This often leads to a slow death for the tree. – Al Shay, horticulturist and site manager for OSU’s Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture

MYTH: Lime will remove moss from your lawn.
REALITY: Lime will not fix the problem. Moss prefers to grow in wet, shady conditions. Lawns with moss need more sunlight, i.e. trimming, pruning and thinning trees. If you like the trees the way they are you will continue to have moss and you should think about shade-tolerant alternatives to grass. Moss also grows well in infertile soils, which includes acidic (low pH) soils, but more importantly it also includes nitrogen-deficient soils. Lawns, like a lot of cultivated plants prefer nitrogen-rich soils. Regular fertilizer applications (four applications per year, two in the fall and two in the spring) with products containing nitrogen, combined with improved sunlight will result in a green, dense lawn that can outcompete moss. – Alec Kowalewski, OSU Extension turf specialist

MYTH: Ponderosa pine needles make the soil more acidic (low pH).
REALITY: The notion that pine needles change the soil pH so that nothing will grow or that it will damage plants has been out there for years. The truth is pine needles do not make the soil more acidic. It is true that pine needles have a pH of 3.2 to 3.8 (neutral is 7.0) when they drop from a tree. If you were to take the freshly fallen needles (before the needles decompose) and turn them into the soil right away, you may see a slight drop in the soil pH, but the change would not be damaging to the plants.
For those of you that leave the needles on the ground, they will begin to break down naturally and the microbes (decomposers) in the soil will neutralize them. So, you can leave them there (if you’re not in a wildfire prone area).
They are a good mulching material that will keep the moisture in, suppress weeds and eventually add nutrients back to the soil. You can also add them to a compost pile; they will slowly break down over time. If you run them through a shredder they will break down faster. A general rule of thumb is not to add more than 10% of pine needles to your compost pile.

If you are having difficulty growing other plants under your pine trees it is likely due to the fact that evergreen roots are numerous and shallow and compete for water and nutrients. The shady conditions under a tree can also make growing other plants a challenge. – Amy Jo Detweiler, OSU Extension horticulturist

MYTH: Just add more compost to the soil.
REALITY: Adding organic matter to soil in the form of compost helps to improve soil structure and promote long-term plant health, but adding too much compost at once or over time can lead to problems. If the soil organic matter is much higher than ideal (5 to 8%), the soil can have too much available phosphorus, which can stunt plant growth and potentially leach into the water table. Also, some compost can be high in salts, which can also impact plant growth. – Weston Miller, OSU Extension horticulturist

MYTH: Bee houses help promote and conserve bee diversity.
REALITY: Although some bee species nest in the cavities provided by bee houses, most bee species nest in the ground. Research from Canada shows that most cavities in bee houses are colonized by native wasps (that help control pests), and not native bees. So, bee houses still do good, but not necessarily the good that you might think. – Gail Langellotto, OSU Extension entomology specialist and state coordinator of the Master Gardener program

MYTH: Tree roots go only as far as the branch crown diameter or drip line (as far as the branches extend).
REALITY: Many trees extend many times beyond the branch crown diameter. For instance, magnolia extends 3.7 times the diameter; red maple 3 times; poplar 3; locust 2.9 and ash 1.7. – Steve Renquist, OSU Extension horticulturist

MYTH: Epsom salts are a must for great tomatoes. Use them in every garden.
REALITY: If you have done a soil test and your soil lacks magnesium and your plants are not growing well, give it a try. But in most soils and gardens, it can do more damage than good. – Steve Renquist, OSU Extension horticulturist

MYTH: When you plant a new tree or shrub, dig the hole and add an amendment to the soil before you backfill the hole.
REALITY: Although amending soil with organic matter is often a good idea, it should be done on an area-wide basis, not just in a planting hole for an individual plant. Adding an organic amendment to the soil only in the planting hole will tend to reduce growth of the plant. This happens because roots may stay within the amended soil and not grow into the native soil, creating a root-bound plant within the amended soil. If the organic amendment is not completely decomposed it may require nitrogen for further decomposition, which will compete with plant roots for minerals, resulting in reduced growth. And in the case of large shrubs or trees, decomposition of the amendment will cause the plant to settle and the root collar will sink below the soil. – Neil Bell, OSU Extension horticulturist

MYTH: Brown recluse and hobo spiders are common in Oregon.
REALITY: It is commonly thought that hobo and brown recluse spiders cause necrotic bites in this state, when in fact the brown recluse is not found in Oregon and the hobo spider does not cause necrotic bites. The hobo spider was removed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s list of venomous spiders in 2015. The black widow is the most harmful spider to humans in the state. – Heather Steven, OSU Extension entomology specialist

MYTH: Watering on hot sunny days will burn the plants because the water droplets magnify the sun’s rays.
REALITY: It rains during the summer all around the world and plants are just fine. More of an issue is that the irrigation water will evaporate and not be as effective. Note though that sensitive houseplants like African violet can show leaf damage from very cold water applied to the leaves. – Brooke Edmunds, OSU Extension horticulturist
TAKE ONE MORE GO AT THE GARDEN BEFORE RETIRING FOR WINTER

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Kym Pokorny—We’re running right into the holidays, daylight is in short supply and rain comes down days at a time, but if you can get out in the garden or at least the garage, you’ll be happier come spring.

A perennial question is whether to cut down plants now or in spring. The answer is not clear cut, said Jeff Choate, a former horticulturist with OSU Extension Service. When it comes to vegetable gardens, everything should come out. Annuals, too, can be uprooted. With perennials, it depends.

“With vegetable gardens, removing spent plants is essential because of the risk of disease; soil-borne diseases can remain viable for years,” he said. “For herbaceous perennials, it’s more of a choice. Some people like to tidy up the garden; others leave it until spring.”

You’ll recognize some perennials that are good choices to clean up now because they die to the ground anyway. Clear up the debris and throw it into the compost pile or yard debris bin. Avoid the compost pile for plants plagued by disease.

There are perennials – like ornamental grasses, coneflower, Joe-Pye weed, sedum and black-eyed Susan – that provide birds with much-needed seeds and insects with places to spend the winter. These are good candidates to leave standing. Choate noted that it’s also a good idea to design your garden with shrubs and trees that produce berries, which will help out the birds, as well.

To spread leaves around the garden or rake them up is another oft-asked question. Yes, place them on vegetable beds, where they’ll protect the soil from compaction from the rain, suppress weeds, increase soil fertility and help open up soil structure to keep it draining well. Spreading leaves around shrubs is also a good idea. But once again, perennials beg the question. Those rascally slugs love to lay their eggs under garden debris, but that can be mitigated with a low-toxicity slug bait.

“It’s a tough one, I admit,” Choate said. “There’s a good side and a bad side. The good side is that the leaves break down and feed the worms and other beneficial organisms. The bad side is slugs. But the benefits of leaving leaves down around ornamentals outweighs the disadvantages.”

It is a good idea, though, to keep leaves – and bark dust, for that matter – away from slug favorites like hostas.

If you act quickly, it’s still an OK time to add lime to vegetable beds and lawns. Choate recommends buying a simple pH test kit at the garden center or home improvement store. For the vegetable garden, if it reads below 6, apply lime at a rate of 5 pounds of lime per 100 square feet.

One chore you can take off your plate is pruning, Choate recommends waiting until the latter part of February to prune shrubs and trees.

Be sure to know what your plants’ needs are, he noted. Spring-blooming plants like rhododendrons, azaleas, lilacs, and forsythia shouldn’t be trimmed until after they bloom.

One more thing before moving into the relative warmth of the garage: Gather fruit hanging in trees or rotting on the ground and get it out of there to minimize diseases and pests such as apple scab and codling moth next year.

Onward to the garage where tools and lawn mowers await your attention. Choate advises cleaning your tools as you go. He keeps WD-40 and a rag in his garden bucket to use as needed. But if you don’t get to it every time, be sure to clean them now so they don’t sit dirty and rusting during winter. Wash and dry them, sharpen, oil any moving parts and rub linseed oil on wooden handles to keep them from drying out and cracking.

Smooth edged tools can be sharpened at home, but other types – think pruning saws, chainsaws and the like – should be taken to a professional to avoid damage to the tool or injury to yourself.

Lawn mowers need attention now, too. The single most important task is to empty them of gas. Turn on the motor and let it warm up for 30 seconds, then shut it off and siphon the gas. Restart the engine and run until it quits.

“The number one issue for small gas engines is bad gas,” Choate said. “That stems from the fact that gas has 10 percent ethanol, which will absorb water from the atmosphere. Having water in your lawn mower is not a good thing.”

Also, take the time to change the oil, spark plugs and air filter. When replacing the spark plugs, make sure you’re using the right one. Your owner’s manual (sometimes you can find it online if you don’t have the paper version) should indicate the correct one. Make sure the gaps are correct by using an inexpensive gap tool.

Now all you have to do is wait for spring!

Finally my winter fat is gone, now I have spring rolls
JANUARY 2021’S GARDEN TIPS

Planning
- Plan to replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with resistant cultivars in February.
- Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs and trees for propagation.
- Order a soil test to determine your garden’s nutrient needs. Contact your local Extension office for a list of laboratories or view Analytical Laboratories Serving Oregon.
- Begin planning this year’s vegetable garden. Check with local retail garden or nursery stores for seeds and seed catalogs.
- Keep a garden journal. Consult your journal in the winter, so you can better plan for the growing season.
- Take note of 2020’s gardening journal; plan for 2021 success!

Maintenance and cleanup
- Place windbreaks to protect sensitive landscape evergreens against cold, drying winds.
- Reapply or redistribute mulch that has blown or washed away during winter.
- Clean pruners and other small garden tools with rubbing alcohol.
- Western Oregon: Water landscape plants underneath wide eaves and in other sites shielded from rain.
- Western Oregon: Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.

Pest monitoring and management
- Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. First consider cultural, then physical and biological controls. Choose the least-toxic options, and use them judiciously. Some examples include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides.
- Scout cherry trees for signs and symptoms of bacterial canker. Remove infected branches with a clean pruner or saw. Sterilize tools before each new cut. Burn or send the branches to a landfill before bloom. See Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards.
- Watch for field mice damage on lower trunks of trees and shrubs. Eliminate hiding places by removing weeds. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on roses for general disease control, or plan to replace susceptible varieties with resistant cultivars in February.
- Western Oregon: Moss in lawn may mean too much shade or poor drainage. Modify site conditions if moss is bothersome.
- Mid-January: Spray peach trees with approved fungicides to combat peach leaf curl and shothole. Or plant curl-resistant cultivars such as ‘Frost’, ‘Q1-8’ or ‘Creswell’.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don’t treat unless a problem is identified.

Houseplants and indoor gardening
- Monitor houseplants for correct water and fertilizer; guard against insect infestations; clean dust from leaves.
- Protect sensitive plants such as weeping figs from cold drafts in the house.
- Propagate split-leaf philodendrons and other leggy indoor plants by air-layering or vegetative cuttings.
- Plant dwarf annual flowers such as coleus, impatiens and seedling geraniums inside as houseplants.
- Western Oregon: Gather branches of quince, forsythia and flowering cherries and bring them indoors to force an early bloom.
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.

January 2021 ~ The Brambles

CCMGA Officers for 2021
President ............. Julia Bott
Vice President........ Ginny Knox
Secretary.............. Sherry Baum
Treasurer............. Tom Kerr
OMG State Rep....... Sherry Baum
Newsletter Editor..... Cathe Barter
Historian.............. Cathe Barter
Past President........ Lori Phelan
OSU Program Asst... Scott Thiemann

To contact officers, leave a message at the Extension office 1-800-356-3986

Curry County Master Gardeners Association
Monthly meetings 3rd Tuesday, 10 am to noon in Gold Beach, OR

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Curry County Master Gardeners Association
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