

The Brambles

Curry County Master Gardeners

PO Box 107,
Gold Beach, OR 97444

541-698-0300 or 1-800-356-3986



BEHIND THE MASTER GARDENER SCENES

...is an association of dedicated officers and members.

This is the time of year for finishing projects and PLANNING for new ones. It takes a lot of energy and vision to keep CCMGA a vital organization and force in our county and communities. The decisions made by the Association at the end and beginning of each year are especially important in keeping us keeping on.

Planning: budgets—events—direction
→takes leadership!

And you are the only ones who can make that happen. Each year, we ring out the old and welcome in the new, and we are in need of new energy; this takes support from all of you.

Our current board has helped us achieve both consistency and stability in our program. They have worked hard for the past couple of years, many of them dedicating another year of volunteering to achieve this. They are also working on the vision of creating our own greenhouse, which is a huge future prospect, and one that will take much commitment from all.

For those of you who are new to the scene, your energy and attendance at this year's meetings have been a great support. More ideas, more discussion,

and more enthusiasm have all added in to creating more support for those who have taken leadership roles this year, and I hope to see that all continue.

Leadership change occurs in all volunteer organizations, especially given the other calls of family, health, and well, just the reality of enjoying retirement. This is where I appeal to those of you who are not officers to take on the role. The folks in the current positions are wanting others to take their places. Their dedication has been most appreciated.

So now it is someone else's turn. And this is also an opportunity to take the CCMGA to other places, especially if you have ideas for how you think and would like to see Master Gardeners engaged in our communities in the future.

So—where do we go from here? I ask you to answer the call in helping us move forward.

And again, not often mentioned, is the amount of support coming from the CCMGA in its guidance and governance through the Association. There is a large amount of behind-the-scenes work that goes into preparing for our annual plant sale, the allocation of funding the projects in which we are involved in the county, and in just the coordination of activities and projects in which Master Gardeners support the OSU mission of outreach and education.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Carol Hobbs, 541-251-2422, Mailhobbs@yahoo.com
Questions? Give me a call or text

We have about 15 trays of cuttings under the mister at the greenhouse. Now we wait. While we wait for the roots to develop, we are planning. Master Gardeners will be participating in the Brookings Christmas Bazaar on November 10th. This sale is all about succulents for us. Hypertufa, driftwood, glass planters will feature our creativity. Wire chickens, hearts and stars are also on order. In addition we will sell individual plants. This month we are tidying up the succulents in the greenhouse. Dividing, transplanting, propagating, and trimming.

If you have ideas for items for the sale – please let me know. If you would like to volunteer to work at the sale let me know. The Bazaar is a great way to meet and greet friends in the Brookings area. Or, get a jump on your Christmas shopping. A busy but fun time.

Stop in the greenhouse and say hi and check out what we are doing! We are there on Tuesday afternoons.

Thank you

RILEY CREEK GARDEN ~

Ali Mramor mramorali@gmail.com

School has started and things have been getting into full swing at the garden with the students. Katie Struth has been working with the middle school students, teaching them about composting and worm composting. The 7th and 8th grade students will be taking kitchen waste from the cafeteria to feed our worm bin and add to the compost bins in the garden.

We had a 3rd grade class come out to sow lettuce seeds into the hydroponic foam cubes that, once sprouted, will be planted into the hydroponic tubs in the greenhouse. The students will nurture the cubes in their classroom until they are ready to be transplanted. Once the lettuce is ready for harvest it will be served in the salad bar at the school for the students to enjoy.

With Fall fast approaching, we are starting some Fall preparations in the garden. There are fava beans growing stoutly as a cover crop in some of the beds and the pumpkins are bright orange begging to be picked. The largest pumpkins will soon be brought to the school library where students will guess the pumpkins' weight. Winners will be announced at the Fall Fest, which is happening Wednesday, October 17 from 3:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - so mark your calendars!

I'd also like to thank the Master Gardener volunteers who have been helping out at the garden. It's been a real pleasure having you and you get a lot done! Thanks for making the garden flourish.

Hope to see you in the garden!



OCTOBER GARDENING TIPS

Planning

- If needed, improve soil drainage needs of lawns before rain begins.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Recycle disease-free plant material and kitchen vegetable and fruit scraps into compost. Don't compost diseased plants unless you are using the "hot compost" method (120 degrees to 150 degrees F.).
- Drain or blow out your irrigation system, insulate valve mechanisms, in preparation of winter.
- Use newspaper or cardboard covered by mulch to discourage winter and spring annual weeds or remove a lawn area for conversion to garden beds. For conversion, work in the paper and mulch as organic matter once the lawn grass has died.
- Clean and paint greenhouses and cold frames for plant storage and winter growth.
- Harvest sunflower heads; use seed for birdseed or roast for personal use.
- Dig and store potatoes; keep in darkness, moderate humidity, temperature about 40°F. Discard unused potatoes if they sprout. Don't use as seed potatoes for next year.
- Harvest and immediately dry filberts and walnuts; dry at 95 degrees to 100 degrees F.
- Ripen green tomatoes indoors. Check often and discard rotting fruit.
- Harvest and store apples; at 40°F, moderate humidity.
- Place mulch over roots of roses, azaleas, rhododendrons and berries for winter protection.
- Trim or stake bushy herbaceous perennials to prevent wind damage.
- To suppress future pest problems, clean up annual flower beds by removing diseased plant materials, overwintering areas for insect pests; mulch with manure or garden compost to feed the soil and suppress weeds.
- Cover asparagus and rhubarb beds with a mulch of manure or compost.
- Clean, sharpen and oil tools and equipment before storing.
- Store garden supplies and fertilizers in a safe, dry place out of reach of children.
- Prune out dead fruiting canes in raspberries.

Planting/Propagation

- Dig and divide rhubarb. (Should be done about every 4 years.)

OCTOBER GARDENING TIPS (Cont.)

Planting/Propagation

- Plant garlic for harvesting next summer.
- Propagate chrysanthemums, fuchsias, and geraniums by stem cuttings.
- Save seeds from the vegetable and flower garden. Dry, date, label, and store in a cool and dry location.
- Plant ground covers and shrubs.
- Dig and store geraniums, tuberous begonias, dahlias, and gladiolas.
- Pot and store tulips and daffodils to force into early bloom, indoors, in December and January.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Remove and dispose of windfall apples that might be harboring apple maggot or codling moth larvae.
- Rake and destroy diseased leaves (apple, cherry, rose, etc.), or hot compost diseased leaves.
- Spray apple and stone fruit trees at leaf fall to prevent various fungal and bacterial diseases. For more information, see Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards (PDF - EC 631).
- If moles and gophers are a problem, consider traps.
- Western Oregon: Control fall-germinating lawn weeds while they are small. Hand weeding and weeding tools are particularly effective at this stage.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Early October: Reduce water, place in cool area (50-55 degrees F.) and increase time in shade or darkness (12-14 hours) to force Christmas cactus to bloom in late December.
- Place hanging pots of fuchsias where they won't freeze. Don't cut back until spring.



Compost Problem: It isn't heating up because the pile is too small. For a continuous fuel source, microorganisms need at least one-half cubic yard to one cubic yard of fresh organic material, Andrews said. During harvest time in August and September, that's realistic for most gardeners.

Solution: Make sure you have a steady source of fresh material. If you don't, you could cool-compost the rest of the year, or build a worm bin, using earthworms to decompose food waste and organic matter. "Adjust your expectations," Andrews said. "If the pile isn't heating up, allow it to decompose over a longer time period, and wait long enough for the raw material to look fully decomposed, like 'black gold.' It's the 'Don't worry, be happy' approach."

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 Tuesday 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 our organization, and click on 'Enroll.'

Information about both the programs is available online at each business; check it out!



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES-SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

Meeting Called to Order a little after 10:00 AM in the Harold Haug Library Learning Center at the Curry County Public Library, Gold Beach

Present: Pam Leslie, Scott Thiemann, Debbie Carroll, Bryan Grummon, Linda Stokes, Ali Van Otterloo, Stacy Tobin, Lori Phelan, Ruth Patton, Jeffrie Hall

Motion to approve minutes from July 17th (last meeting with minutes) from Debbie Carroll, seconded by Ruth Patton.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Pam L. presented treasurer's reports for July and August. July Income: Additional plant sale income \$237.00 from the Grange in Ophir. Tim Lyons donated \$100 toward summer party expenses, if Lana does not need to be reimbursed for the turkey the money could go to the general fund. July Expense: \$300 donation given to new principal of Gold Beach High School from Curry County MGs, reported by Debbie Carroll. Donation was gratefully received. The possibility of building a larger Curry County MG greenhouse on school property was brought up. He did not say no but would need to take time to consider the proposal. The school's charter needs to be looked at to see if it would be allowed.

August Expense: \$130 to Newsletter Editor/Historian Cathe Barter for binding past issues of the Brambles. They are now in Scott's office.

Question from Stacy Tobin, transfer from Coos County, about building fund. Debbie C explained the need for "our own greenhouse." Pam explained how monies are transferred into the building fund. Coos County MGs grow plants for their sale at their homes. The issue of weed free soil came up and the still to come stricter guidelines for MG plant sales.

BUSINESS ITEMS

2019 Budgets: Submit to Pam L by end of October for November board meeting.

2019 Officers: So far no one has been nominated. "If you receive a call to serve, please consider."

MG Scholarships: Scholarship for the MG program needs to be promoted. Scott suggested 1/2 the total class cost. Discussion on mechanism for applying: letter of need or a form? Scott will find out how it should be done. Consensus on offering only one scholarship. Question from Ruth P., "If a person can't afford the class will they be able to effectively serve as a volunteer?" Scott felt he could uncover potential issues with a candidate during interview.

Other: From Pam L. The **Brookings Holiday Bazaar will be Saturday November 10th.** The MGs have booth #15. Discussion on what sells, answer: mostly succulents, not crafts. Glass, hypertufa, and driftwood containers will be sold. Lori P. talked about the containers she is rehabbing. Small ones work better for holiday sales. About \$1200 was made last year selling succulents and containers. From Scott: good idea to have care sheets for succulents. And to have MG class signup sheets. Pumpkins decorated with succulents were considered. Possibility of having Lori P's gourds planted with succulents.

Update calendar: Update for Holiday Bazaar. Shifts on sale day need to be assigned. Set up will be the night before.

PROGRAM ASSISTANT'S REPORT

Three volunteers needed at Riley Creek, as many as 37 kids present.

Scott is learning the new OSU website software with help from Jeffrie and Ali V. Ali posed question about who is website for and what is needed on it? Bryan not happy with the lack of accurate and easy to find answers to questions with available printed materials and website. Bookmarks became obsolete due to changes at OSU. Does not feel that the phytophthora issue is being taken seriously. Scott stated that diagnosing plant problems is not always clear cut.

"Water Quality Friendly Gardening" educational event poster created by Sandy Grummon passed around. Eight people have signed up. Scott is working on getting the word out. Onsite part of class will possibly be at Lori's.

Monarch Festival was a success. Ruth and the Landos worked the MG table. A few people were interested in the MG program.

Scott talked about eventual need for MGs to be involved in a "workforce" program directed at local youth to explore potential career paths that do not include a traditional college education. Bryan is on the board of this three-county organization. The purpose is to keep people from being unemployed. Lori stated she could be helpful introducing youth to running a small business. Local landscape jobs, Riley Creek Garden, and greenhouse could be educational resources. Their meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Curry library.

Seed to Supper: The Landos will start training teachers for this program to be held in Brookings in March. They have run the program in Crescent City. Seed to Supper is run by OSU and the Oregon Food Bank and helps teach adults to grow food.

The Curry County Fair was a positive experience. More entries and Marna (and Craig) did a great job taking on the Floral Division with no prior experience.

Most of the current year's MG class is on track for completing hours. Reimbursements will be submitted in October.

Garden tour at Don Hamilton's was a success.

The community college (SWOCC) will no longer be listing the MG program in its catalog

Scott wishes to see more MG educational outreach in the future, maybe a MG speaker series.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ABC Preschool

Emailed report from Barb Cary: "...we had our last class of the season last Wednesday. We finished the season with a party - bug shaped cakes that kids decorated (& ate)! We planted spinach seeds for the winter growing season & did a bit of garden cleanup. Each participant received a notebook with a gardening certificate and their homework completed during the season. Everyone is looking forward to next year! Sunflowers are starting to bloom!"

Plant Sale

Plants are growing well, succulents are being repotted into larger pots with better soil and more are being propagated.

Land/Building Fund

Debbie C. talked about meeting with Gold Beach HS principal regarding MG greenhouse earlier in meeting.

Soil Testing

Ali V. had her soil tested by John Albi. She left sample at OSU office and received the results promptly. She was interested in comparing her own pH readings with his equipment. The results were close. Question was asked - will soil testing be available all year. Answer was yes.

Meeting adjourned approximately 11:40 am

Submitted by Jeffrie Hall

PLANNING NOW BRINGS A GOOD TOMATO SEASON NEXT YEAR

By Kym Pokorny, Source: Brooke Edmunds--CORVALLIS, Ore. – For most gardeners it's been a normal or above-average year for the country's most popular vegetable.

Tomatoes thrive at ambient temperatures between 65 and 85 degrees and this year we had plenty of days in that range. Some things you can control, like how much you water and how you treat the soil.

If you had problems with blossom-end rot this year, take stock of the soil pH and review your watering practices. Blossom end rot shows up in many cultivars when calcium in the plant is low. Calcium uptake by plants is affected by several things, including low soil pH and water availability. The best way to adjust a low soil pH is to add lime to the soil in fall. In Extension's publication [Blossom-End Rot in Tomatoes](#) instructions say to use lime to adjust the pH of the soil to 6.8 to 7.2 in order to aid the plant in taking up calcium. Many Willamette Valley garden soils benefit from at least 5 pounds of lime to 100 square feet every three years. Mix the lime thoroughly into the top 8 to 12 inches of soil in fall.

When it comes to watering, tomatoes don't respond well to extreme dry-wet cycles, so water regularly when soil is drying out, Edmunds said. And remember, tomatoes want well-drained soil.

Blights can show up, and are more difficult to fight- best method is to give tomatoes good air circulation by keeping them staked up and pinching off suckers (the branches that grow at the joints) that can shade the fruit. Pick out affected leaves and put them in the garbage rather than composting. Avoid overhead watering. Instead, use drip irrigation. If possible, move plants to a different site year to year, coming back to the original spot on a three-year rotation. For more information on blight.

In areas with shorter seasons like much of Oregon, it's a good idea to choose early-ripening varieties, Edmunds said. Some bred by OSU include:

- **Legend:** A tomato that produces large fruit that is good to eat straight off the vine. Resistant to some forms of late blight. Ripens 60-65 days after transplanting. You can get a larger-sized, earlier-ripening fruit by growing them first from seeds in gallon-size pots then transplanting them.
- **Gold Nugget:** Among the first to ripen, this prolific variety grows cherry tomatoes with a deep yellow color and mild, juicy flavor. Ripens in 60 days.
- **Oroma:** This tomato makes good tomato sauce and paste. Early to mature; average ripening time of 70 days. Prolific after ripening. Fruit is meaty and thick-walled.
- **Oregon Spring:** Ripens in 60-70 days. Slicing variety that can be eaten fresh in salads or straight from the vine. It will produce high, early yields of silver-dollar-sized juicy tomatoes.
- **Oregon Star:** Ripens in 80 days. An early-maturing, red paste-type tomato. Large, seedless fruit. Good for fresh eating and for canning.
- **Santiam:** Ripens in 65-75 days. Suited for salads and fresh eating; good, tart flavor.
- **Siletz:** Ripens in 70-75 days. Reliable tomato with good flavor; ideal for eating fresh from the vine. Not resistant to late blight.
- **Indigo Rose:** Ripens about 80-90 days after transplanting. First of a new class of tomato that is high in antioxidants. Its purple color comes from the anthocyanin pigment in its fruit. This open-pollinated variety is a prolific producer. Get the best flavor by picking the tomato at its ripest; it will turn a muddy brown, dull purple color in September when ripe.

Another great resource for finding the best tomato varieties is [Vegetable Variety Trials, 2017](#), which includes lists of vegetables grown and evaluated by OSU Extension.

Tomatoes are ranked from 1 to 9 in such categories as fruit size, color and taste, how many days to maturity, and yield. The evaluation also includes cabbage, pepper, pumpkin and ornamental gourd and winter squash.

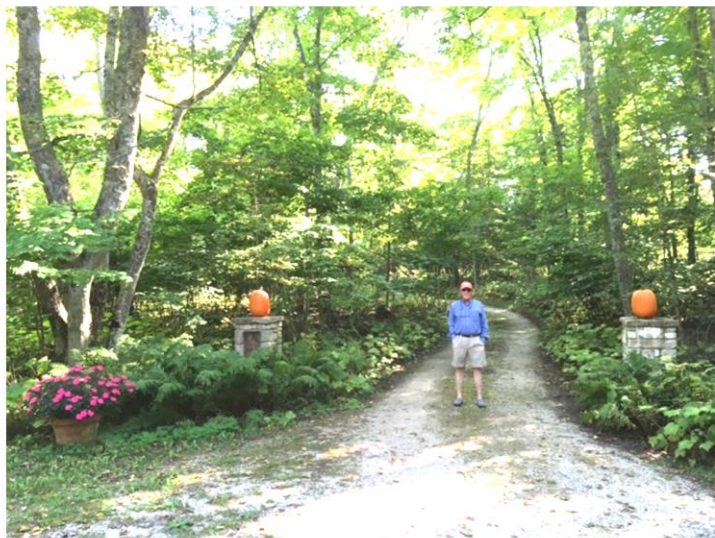
If you want to save your own seed, remember that hybrid varieties won't come true to type, while open-pollinated and heirloom ones will. The seed packet should tell you what type tomato you've chosen or check the internet.

Saving seed can be a little messy--cut open the tomato and squeeze out the seeds, which will be coated with a gel-like substance. There are different methods for removing the gel, but the easiest is to put the seeds in a mason jar and add two-thirds water by volume (one-third seeds, two-thirds water). Stir it up and leave it to ferment. Mold will grow on it and break down the gel, seeds get released and sink to the bottom. Pour them out into a sieve or small colander and wash them off. Spread on a paper towel to dry, which could take one to two weeks. Then package them up in envelopes or jars (don't seal all the way).

For more information, refer to Extension's [Grow Your Own Tomatoes and Tomatillos](#). No matter what you do, there's bound to be green tomatoes left on the vine. Edmunds notes it's possible to ripen those with a little color by laying them out in a single layer in a dark area, like a loosely closed box in a closet.

Jeanne Brandt, a health expert with OSU Ext. Srv, offers two green tomatoes recipes-- Salsa Recipes for Canning - <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/PNW395/PNW395.pdf>. The other recipe is for Pickled Dill Tomatoes and Kosher Style Dill Green Tomato Pickles - https://nchfp.uga.edu/how/can_06/kosher_green_tomato.html

One is her favorite salsa, which is called Tomatillo Salsa, but the recipe is just as good with green tomatoes.. "Some people love them, especially when they substitute hot peppers for the green peppers, which is fine to do. You can use a mixture of green and partially ripe yellow tomatoes for interesting colors.



Tim Lyons, MG VP, says hello from Wisconsin

KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO PICK PEARS

By Kym Pokorny, Source: Steve Castagnoli--CORVALLIS, Ore. – Anticipation of ripe pears peaks in fall as fruits hang heavily from branches and begin their gravity-aided trip to the ground.

But how do you know when it's prime picking time?

According to Steve Castagnoli, a horticulturist with Oregon State University's Extension Service, the signs are different pears. "Pears typically won't ripen to eating quality on the tree so you can't go out and taste one." Still, there are signs. A mature pear will snap briskly and cleanly when tilted 90 degrees, according to Castagnoli. With the most commonly grown varieties such as Comice, Bosc and D'Anjou, the fruit will typically change from green to a slightly paler color. The flesh will get lighter and have some juice on the surface when cut.

You can also go by maturity dates, which are included in OSU Extension's publication [Picking and Storing Apples and Pears](#). However, dates can vary. "It depends on when the season starts," Castagnoli said. "We go by bloom time. In general, the earlier the bloom, the earlier the harvest dates." Except for being a little smaller than perfectly ready-to-pick pears, there's no harm in taking them off the tree a few days too early, he said. The essential part of ripening pears is keeping them in cold storage for about a month, depending on the variety.

"Ideally, pears should be stored at below 40 degrees," Castagnoli said. "A refrigerator is good, but a freezer is too cold. An unheated garage usually will be too warm."

PREPARING AND CANNING PICKLED VEGETABLES

This document was adapted from "So Easy to Preserve", 6th ed. 2014. Bulletin 989, Cooperative Extension Service, The University of Georgia, Athens. Revised by Elizabeth L. Andress. Ph.D. and Judy A. Harrison, Ph.D., Extension Foods Specialists.

Kosher Style Dill Green Tomato Pickles

- Small green firm tomatoes (you will need about 5-6 pounds of 1-inch tomatoes as purchased, or about 5 quarts in volume)
- 6 stalks celery, cut in 2-inch lengths
- 6 small to medium sweet green peppers, seeded and quartered
- 6 cloves garlic
- 2 quarts water
- 1 quart distilled white vinegar (5%)
- 1 cup canning or pickling salt
- Fresh dill to taste

Yield: About 6 quart jars

Please read [Using Boiling Water Canners](#) before beginning. If this is your first time canning, it is recommended that you read [Principles of Home Canning](#).

Procedure: Remove stems and cores from green peppers; quarter and remove seeds. Wash and drain all vegetables. Pack washed tomatoes in hot jars. Add to each quart jar: 1 clove of garlic, 1 stalk of celery and 4 quarters of green pepper.

Combine water, vinegar and salt. Boil with the dill for 5 minutes. Pour the hot brine over the vegetables in jars, leaving ½ inch headspace. Remove air bubbles and adjust headspace if needed. Wipe rims of jars with a dampened clean paper towel; adjust two-piece metal canning lids. Process in a **Boiling Water Canner**.

These will be ready for use in 4 to 6 weeks.

Table 1. Recommended process time for **Kosher Style Dill Green Tomato Pickles** in a boiling-water canner.

Process Time at Altitudes of

Pack Style	Jar Size	0 - 1,000 ft	1,001 - 6,000 ft	+6,000 ft
Raw	Quarts	15 min	20 min	25 min

Note: Since these tomatoes are placed in the jars whole and raw, the specific number or weight needed will vary some by the size and shapes of the tomatoes and depend on how they fit into your jars.



CONIFERS – ESPECIALLY DOUG-FIRS – ARE SUFFERING FROM DROUGHT

By Kym Pokorny, Source: Dave Shaw -- CORVALLIS, Ore. – Conifers in Oregon are getting hit hard by several years of drought, to the point that many are dying.

“Beginning in 2013-14, we started to see significant impact on Doug-firs in western Oregon, particularly in the south end of the state,” said Dave Shaw, a forest health specialist with Oregon State University Extension Service. “Now you’ll notice them checking out and down the I-5 corridor.”

It’s past the point of just Doug-firs, however. Many conifers, including Western red cedar, incense cedar, grand fir and even valley ponderosa pine are succumbing, as well.

“This year alone we had the driest May in history and a record number of days over 90 degrees,” Shaw said. “That’s going to stress trees.”

The first signs of drought damage are dropping more needles than usual and/or an abnormally high number of cones (called “stress crop”). That will be followed by dead branches or tree tops, and sometimes entire trees. Symptoms of summer drought are often not seen until the following spring, Shaw said, although recent droughts have been severe enough for symptoms to appear in late summer or fall as they are this year.

People don’t think about watering big trees, he noted, but that’s the best method to prevent death or possibly bring a not-too-stressed tree back to health. One option is to consider watering at least six hours every two to four weeks August through September. Using a soaker hose wound around the tree out to the drip line (how far the branches reach) is much more efficient than other methods. Though the cost of water adds up, Shaw said, it’s cheaper than removing a large tree, which can cost thousands of dollars.

Historically conifers grew at higher elevations than the oak-dominant zone of the Willamette Valley. When Doug-firs and other conifers increased in abundance in the oak woodlands of the valley – driven by the end of controlled fires used by indigenous peoples – the trees were then on the lower end of their water needs.

“It’s an elevation-driven thing,” said Shaw, who has lost 12 Doug-firs on his five acres of land. “Precipitation drops as elevation drops. If you start out in the Coast Range where rainfall is typically over 80 or 90 inches of rain annually and go east to the middle of the valley, you’re historically getting only 40 to 45 inches of rain on average. So during a drought, trees that would normally be on the edge of their drought tolerance aren’t anymore. Some trees, particularly Doug-firs and grand firs, are very susceptible to drought below a certain elevation.”

Compounding the problem is that drought-affected trees are more susceptible to pests and diseases, including aphid- and scale-type insects, bark beetles, root and canker diseases. But many of the conifers surveyed don’t have insect or disease damage, Shaw said, reinforcing the diagnosis of drought damage.

“We’ve never come out of drought since 2014,” he said. “We never got back to normal.”

To get a good idea of Oregon’s current drought, check out the [United States Drought Monitor](#), which shows most of Oregon in severe drought. Steps to keep a tree healthy:

- Irrigate landscape trees during dry spells. Apply water slowly over many hours every two weeks; avoid frequent shallow watering.
- Apply mulch out to the drip line to maintain soil moisture. Don’t crowd mulch around trunk; keep it a few inches away.
- Do not alter drainage near established trees (ditches, ponds, fill or removal of soil).
- Prevent soil compaction caused by vehicle or animal traffic near trees. Compaction can damage roots, especially in clay soils.
- Reduce competing vegetation.
- Plant trees that are well suited for the site. Where Douglas-fir mortality is occurring, consider planting Willamette Valley ponderosa pine or hardwoods.
- Do not fertilize during drought conditions; fertilization can increase a tree’s water requirements.



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.

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
Historian.....	Cathe Barter
Past President.....	Pam Leslie
OSU Program Asst....	Scott Thiemann 1- 800-356-3986

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

www.facebook.com/OSUExtCurryMG

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

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

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