Vegetable Garden Class Q&A

The Central Oregon Chapter of OSU Master Gardeners™ presents a Virtual Q&A Session to answer your questions about the video “Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon,” https://media.oregonstate.edu/media/t/1_45m9pklu. In this video, you will learn how to grow your own food. You can have a successful vegetable garden in Central Oregon, and the OSU Master Gardeners will teach you how. The video covers Central Oregon climate, soil amendments, site selection, season extenders and other techniques, and vegetable varieties we recommend for growing here. The video is accompanied by the booklet, “Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon” https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9128.pdf, published by the OSU Extension Service.

When: The live Q&A Session will be offered on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., register at https://bit.ly/2Sq9QjB. Registration is required for the Q&A session.

Contact: Jan Even, Master Gardener
Phone: 541-280-5238 (for media inquiries only); 541-548-6088 (public phone number)
E-mail: gocomga@gmail.com

Amy Jo Detweiler

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FireFree Yard Debris Disposal Events

Now is the time to clean up your yards, create defensible spaces around homes and drop off that debris at FireFree collection sites FOR FREE in Deschutes and Jefferson counties. The transfer station events held at Negus, Northwest and Southwest will happen in the following weeks May 22 - June 5.

For more information visit: https://www.firefree.org/firefreevents/

Ariel Cowan, Regional Fire Specialist, Central Area
Central Oregon Agriculture is a bi-monthly newsletter produced by the Central Oregon Extension offices and the Central Oregon Agricultural and Extension Research Center (COAREC). The intent of this newsletter is to extend agricultural research-based information, to solve problems, develop leadership and manage resources wisely. Please direct comments and changes to the mailing list of your local County office.

♦ Mylen Bohle, Editor, (541) 447-6228
♦ Carol Ewoniuk, Ag Newsletter Coordinator, (541) 447-6228

Central Oregon County Extension Offices (all area codes are 541)
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Deschutes County Extension Service - Phone 548-6088, 3800 SW Airport Way Bldg. #4, Redmond, OR 97756
Jefferson County Extension Service - Phone 475-7107, 850 Dogwood Lane., Madras, OR. 97741
Warm Springs Confederated Tribes - Phone 553-3238, 1110 Wasco St., PO Box 430, Warm Springs, OR. 97761

Central Oregon Agricultural Research and Extension Center (COAREC)
850 Dogwood Lane, Madras 97741
♦ Carol Tollefson, Director, 475-7107

Extension Service & Experiment Station Web Sites
Crook County: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/crook
Deschutes County: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes
Jefferson County: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/jefferson
Warm Springs: https://extension.oregonstate.edu/warmsprings
Central Oregon Agricultural Research Extension Center: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/dept/coarc/index.php

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Websites
OSU Ag Information https://extension.oregonstate.edu
Oregon’s Ag Progress https://oap.oregonstate.edu
OSU Extension Publications Catalog https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu

The above individuals are devoted to extending agricultural information to producers. Many of the individuals, in addition to agriculture, have assignments in research, 4-H Youth, administration and community resource education. Often it is appropriate to mention brand names of some commercial products; however, they are used only for the purpose of information. Extension does not guarantee or warrant the standard of the product, or does it imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others.

Central Oregon Agriculture

Are you ready for the next wildfire season?
The 2020 wildfires affected all Oregonians, and we learned EVERYONE needs to be Aware and Prepared. "The Fire Aware. Fire Prepared." program was developed to help Oregonians prepare for the reality of wildfire. This series of webinar sessions and online local meetings will address preparedness at three levels:

- **Individual**
  What can you do now to get yourself, your family, and your home ready.

- **Community**
  How you can be a part of promoting a wildfire safe community.

- **Landscape**
  How you can live and thrive in a fire-adapted environment.

**Wildfire Wednesdays**
**Alternating Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 pm**
The next webinar topic is: **After the Fire**
Wednesday, June 16 from 12:00-1:00pm
[Register](https://extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program/online-webinar-guide)

You may also view recorded webinars from previous Wildfire Wednesday topics by visiting: [https://extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program/online-webinar-guide](https://extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program/online-webinar-guide).

Ariel Cowan, Regional Fire Specialist, Central Area

NRCS Seeking Small Farm and Organic Producer Input to Identify High Priority Natural Resource Concerns

The NRCS Small Farms and Organic Specialist, Stephanie Payne, is conducting a regional survey for producers to obtain feedback on natural resource concerns on small acreage and organic farms. This survey will provide useful and valuable information that will help guide efforts to provide NRCS financial and technical assistance for these producers and to improve the delivery of conservation planning assistance.

The short, confidential and anonymous survey can be found at the following link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/899X3RL](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/899X3RL)

Thank you for your participation and valuable feedback! If you have questions about the survey or would like more information regarding NRCS Small Farm and Organic assistance opportunities, please contact Stephanie Payne at (541)699-3201 or [stephanie.payne@usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.payne@usda.gov)

Stephanie Payne, Small Farms and Organic Specialist, USDA
The Oregon Department of Agriculture wants to remind growers and other pesticide applicators of some best practices when using pesticides near schools, childcare facilities, and other sensitive sites. Pesticide applications near these sensitive sites may generate odor complaints and concerns about drift or illness. Remember that children are more sensitive than adults to the potential toxic effects of pesticides. By carefully following the pesticide label and implementing the best practices below, you can demonstrate your commitment to your community and minimize the chances of a complaint or pesticide incident.

**Best Practices for Pesticide Use Near Schools and Childcare Facilities:**

- **Communicate with nearby schools and childcare staff** early and often about pesticide and fertilizer applications on your property. By providing information about the pesticides you plan to apply and your schedule, you empower schools and parents to take steps to minimize potential risks.

- **Time your applications** when children, staff, and community members are not using the property, if possible. It is important to note that children may be present on school sports fields during evenings or weekends.

- **Choose an alternative method of application.** Aerial applications or applications that generate small droplets, such as airblast, often are more prone to drift. Use application equipment and techniques that release pesticides closer to the ground and that utilize coarse droplet sizes where possible. Select formulations or products that are low in odor and that do not volatilize.

- **Monitor the weather closely** for conditions that increase the risk of pesticide drift or off-site deposition (e.g., wind blowing toward sensitive site, wind speeds below or above those stated on label, or temperature inversions). Note: some pesticides may evaporate at high temperatures and can potentially move off-target after the application is made.

- **Consider using lower toxicity products and taking more of an integrated pest management (IPM) approach.** Are there non-chemical pest management techniques that can be utilized?

- **Be aware of and carefully follow requirements for no-spray buffer areas** between the target and sensitive sites, which may be specified on the pesticide label or otherwise required by state law (see below). Consider incorporating a voluntary no-spray buffer.

There is no universal no-spray buffer requirement for Oregon schools. However, it is important to be aware of the following:

- The Oregon Department of Forestry does enforce a 300-foot spray buffer around school property when pesticides are applied by helicopter in forestry settings. For more information about these forestry buffers, please visit [https://oda.fyi/SB1602](https://oda.fyi/SB1602) or contact your local stewardship forester ([https://oda.fyi/FindAForester](https://oda.fyi/FindAForester)).

- In Oregon, the use of pesticides containing chlorpyrifos is prohibited within 60-300 ft. (depending on application equipment) of a school campus and other sensitive sites, [https://oda.direct/ChlorpyrifosRule](https://oda.direct/ChlorpyrifosRule).

- Additionally, there may be no-spray buffers near schools or other sensitive sites on pesticide labels.

**Additional Resources:**

- Preventing drift: [https://oda.direct/PreventingDriftStory](https://oda.direct/PreventingDriftStory)

- Where to refer community members with questions about pesticides: National Pesticide Information Center (1-800-858-7378 or npic@ace.orst.edu)

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Pesticides Program
Email us: pestx@oda.state.or.us  |  Call: 503-986-4635

Mylene Bohle
Central Oregon Master Gardener Association

Spring Plant Sale

June 12, 2021

Plants Offered for Sale

Perennial of the Year: Rocky Mountain Penstemon
Penstemon strictus

Tomatoes:

5 Varieties

Cantaloupe
Cucumber
Kale
Pumpkin

Other Plants:

Sunburst Summer Squash
Watermelon
Zucchini
Zinnias

We have Row Cover and Soil Thermometers for sale, too!

Plants and other items for sale will be offered online for selection, payment and scheduling pick-up.

Visit gocomga.com to start your order!

Order Online! gocomga.com

Scheduled pick up times will start at 9:00 am on June 12, 2021 and will go through 2:00-3:00 pm if needed.

Item pick up will be at the Deschutes Co. Fair and Expo Center, Redmond, near Parking Lot J, at the Roundabout near the Rodeo Entrance. Customers must remain in their vehicles to pick their sale items and volunteers will deliver sale items to customers.
New Pandemic Cover Crop Program Helps Producers Continue Cover Crop Systems

WASHINGTON, June 1, 2021 – Agricultural producers who have coverage under most crop insurance policies are eligible for a premium benefit from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) if they planted cover crops during this crop year. The Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP), offered nationally by USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA), helps farmers maintain their cover crop systems, despite the financial challenges posed by the pandemic.

The PCCP is part of USDA’s Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative, a bundle of programs to bring financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and producers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions.

“Cultivating cover crops requires a sustained, long-term investment, and the economic challenges of the pandemic made it financially challenging for many producers to maintain cover crop systems,” said RMA Acting Administrator Richard Flournoy. “Producers use cover crops to improve soil health and gain other agronomic benefits, and this program will reduce producers’ overall premium bill to help ensure producers can continue this climates-smart agricultural practice.”

About the Premium Benefit

PCCP provides premium support to producers who insured their spring crop with most insurance policies and planted a qualifying cover crop during the 2021 crop year. The premium support is $5 per acre, but no more than the full premium owed.

All cover crops reportable to FSA are eligible and include cereals and other grasses, legumes, brassicas and other non-legume broadleaves, and mixtures of two or more cover crop species planted at the same time.

To receive the benefit for this program, producers must file a Report of Acreage form (FSA-578) for cover crops with USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) by June 15, 2021, which is distinct from the normal acreage reporting date. The normal acreage reporting deadline with FSA has not changed, but to receive the premium benefit, producers must file by June 15. The cover crop fields reported on the Report of Acreage form must match what the producer reported to their insurance company for crop insurance policies. To file the form, producers must contact and make an appointment with their local USDA Service Center.

Program Details

Certain policies are not eligible because they have underlying coverage, which would already receive the benefit or are not designed to be reported in a manner consistent with the Report of Acreage form (FSA-578). PCCP is not available for Whole-Farm Revenue Protection, Enhanced Coverage Option, Hurricane Insurance Protection – Wind Index, and Supplemental Coverage Option. Stacked Income Protection (STAX) and Margin Protection (MP) policies are only eligible for PCCP when insured as a standalone policy. STAX and MP endorsements to underlying policies are not eligible for PCCP.

PCCP does not change acreage reporting dates, reporting requirements, or any other terms of the crop insurance policy.

Cover Crop Conservation Practice Standard

Meanwhile, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has made the determination not to update its conservation practice standard for cover crops. NRCS originally proposed restricting mechanical harvest of cover crops, but after reviewing input from agricultural producers and groups, NRCS recognizes this could present challenges for producers who use this important conservation practice. The latest version of the conservation practice standard can be found in the Field Office Technical Guide under Section IV, Conservation Practices and Supporting Documents, by State.

continued on next page
More Information

A Notice of Funding Availability was posted on the Federal Register today. Additional information on PCCP, including frequently asked questions, can be found at farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cover-crops.

RMA is authorizing additional flexibilities due to coronavirus while continuing to support producers, working through AIPs to deliver services, including processing policies, claims and agreements. RMA staff are working with AIPs and other customers by phone, mail and electronically to continue supporting crop insurance coverage for producers. Farmers with crop insurance questions or needs should continue to contact their insurance agents about conducting business remotely (by telephone or email). More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

Scott Duggan

OSU FST Farm 2 Fork Fridays Webinar Series

Please join us for our 2021 Farm 2 Fork Fridays webinars, a monthly series that brings you stories about how our food systems work and the efforts behind the scenes to make them more sustainable. This series began January 15. The next webinar, Insights into Scaling Artisan Cheese - Why gold medal creameries go belly up while Elsa and Anna string cheese sells in 20,000 stores nationwide, July 16, 2021 from 12:00 – 12:45 pm. For more information and dates visit: FST Farm 2 Fork Webinar Series | College of Agricultural Sciences | Oregon State University

Mylen Bohle

Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series

Take your gardening knowledge to the next level with timely topics from gardening in a changing climate to techniques to extend your season. This monthly zoom series offers education for the experienced gardener led by OSU horticulture experts from across the state.

This series is open to the public, and OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers receive one Continuing Education Credit for each class taken. You can take one, or take all. Cost is free.

The webinars will be broadcast via Zoom, the second Tuesday of the month, at 3pm, January through November, 2021. Register and/or view a recorded webinar visit Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series

Registration is opened 3 months prior to the event.

Amy Jo Detweiler

Suicide Prevention Training for Farmers & Ranchers

The Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network has added additional dates to QPR Suicide Prevention Training for Farmers & Ranchers. The next training, offered in Spanish, is: June 24, 2021 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Entrenamiento sobre la prevención del suicidio de QPR para agricultores y ganaderos (en español)

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) is an evidence-based suicide prevention program where participants are empowered to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Similar to CPR, QPR provides lifesaving knowledge and skills to help someone in crisis. QPR is for anyone 16 and older.

Register at: https://extension.oregonstate.edu/farm-ranch-stress-assistance-network.

For questions and requests for accessibility-related accommodations: Julie Leep julie.leep@oregonstate.edu

OSU Extension
Deschutes SWCD Annual Meeting

Deschutes SWCD is hosting their annual meeting on **June 17**th at 9 am at Central Oregon Irrigation District with a field tour to three project sites to follow in Sisters.

Please RSVP to Erin Kilcullen at ekilcullen.dswcd@outlook.com or at 541-550-6834.

Erin Kilcullen, General Manager, Deschutes SWCD

Pipestone Sheep for Profit School is July 7-10

The Sheep for Profit School is a professional management and business school for the sheep industry. The purpose of the school is to help producers improve their sheep management skills, increase profitability and form relationships in the business.

Visit [https://www.mnwest.edu/programs-courses/training-management/lamb-and-wool](https://www.mnwest.edu/programs-courses/training-management/lamb-and-wool) for registration information and a course schedule. For more information, contact the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Management Program, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, PO Box 250, Pipestone, MN 56164, 800-658-2330 or melinda.lamote@mnwest.edu.

Scott Duggan

Biosecurity for Livestock

With the livestock show season in full swing be sure to keep vigilant and protect your livestock from disease. Biosecurity is critical for keeping animals healthy and stopping the spread of disease. The following websites contain great tips on biosecurity [https://porkcheckoff.org/pork-production-management/biosecurity/biosecurity-at-pig-shows/](https://porkcheckoff.org/pork-production-management/biosecurity/biosecurity-at-pig-shows/)

[https://www.sheepusa.org/researcheducation-animalhealth-biosecurity](https://www.sheepusa.org/researcheducation-animalhealth-biosecurity)

[https://beef-cattle.extension.org/livestock-biosecurity/](https://beef-cattle.extension.org/livestock-biosecurity/)

[https://poultry.extension.org/articles/poultry-health/biosecurity-for-small-poultry-flocks/](https://poultry.extension.org/articles/poultry-health/biosecurity-for-small-poultry-flocks/)

Scott Duggan

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