



OSU Master Gardener Classes

Fall Home & Garden Saturday December 1st

The Tillamook County OSU Master Gardener Fall Home & Garden Classes will be held **Saturday, December 1, 2018** at the OSU Extension Service building at 4506 Third Street, Tillamook, OR, (503) 842-3433. The classes are open to everyone. They are taught by Master Gardener volunteers. The fees will be used to cover class supplies and to help support further Master Gardener educational projects.

During each time period there are 2 classes to choose from:

9:00 am -- 10:30 am

- **Hearty Soups** making and tasting delicious soups.
- **Garden Tools** bring some tools from home for this hands-on class.

10:40 am -- 12:10 pm

- **Cooking with an Instant Pot** making and tasting recipes.
- **Propagating Perennials** hands-on class.

12:10 pm -- 1:00 pm Lunch on your own

1:00 pm -- 2:30 pm

- **Plant Identification Apps for Your Phone** learn which ones work best.
- **Dahlia Dividing & Swap** hands-on class and share dahlia tubers.

No pre-registration. Pay and register on the day of classes. \$5.00 per class (per person). Please pay with cash or checks only. Make checks payable to: TCMGA. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. or 30 minutes before a class starts. First come—first serve. Register at the front desk.

2019 OSU Master Gardener Training Register now to learn more about gardening

Would you like to learn more about gardening on the Oregon Coast? Would you like to get to know people with similar interests and then share what you learn with others? If you answered yes, then you may want to enroll in the OSU Master Gardener training.

You do not have to be an expert to become an OSU Master Gardener. Anyone with a sincere interest in gardening and horticulture, including gardeners, farmers, and nursery workers are encouraged to participate in the 2019 Tillamook OSU Extension Service Master Gardener training. The program includes 66 hours of instruction about gardening. Classes are taught by Oregon State University faculty/staff and by local volunteers. The OSU Master Gardener program is designed to provide in-depth training for local gardeners.

Classes are held each Thursday, starting January 10, 2019 and continuing through April 4th. The classes are from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, with an hour for lunch, and are held at the OSU Extension Service, Tillamook County meeting room 105. Although this is a long day, participants often say that the time flies and the topics are presented in a very understandable way.

Please contact the OSU Extension Service, 4506 Third Street, Tillamook, 503-842-3433 for additional information, or check out the website at

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/tillamook>

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

<http://bit.ly/TillamookMG>

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



It doesn't seem possible that November is upon us and holiday seasons are just around the corner. Preparations continue in our gardens putting our beds to rest for winter. We are cutting back our plants in our perennial beds, mulching around the berries, trimming the chrysanthemums back when they finish blooming and we are pruning our floribunda roses. It is also a good time to plant trees, shrubs and evergreens.

I have enjoyed spending time in the garden planting heathers, conifers, evergreens, coral bark maple and its dwarf version: Winter Flame. What a wonderful sense of accomplishment! While busy planting, the ravens and our two resident eagles fly overhead to check on the progress. I love living on the coast and living so close to the natural world. However, I am less fond of the pesky slugs and snails.

We have a new slate of TCMGA officers for 2019. I am delighted for our organization because we will have such a strong leadership for 2019. The 2019 Board will be introduced during the Awards Banquet on December 5th at 6:00PM at the Elks Lodge in Tillamook where the Master Gardener of the Year, Early Bloomer, the Learning Gardener, Behind the Scenes, and the Golden Trowel Awards will be presented. I am looking forward to greeting the Master Gardeners and delight in the successes of a year well done.

Highlights of the past year include our successful Plant Sale in May and the Garden Tour of six amazing gardens - two of which were hosted by our very own Master Gardeners. Our beautiful Learning Garden was open during the Tillamook County Fair in August and had the largest attendance ever and we always have fun on Pruning Day, whether it rains or shines.

I am proud that the Tillamook Master Gardeners Association was awarded the Marje Luce Search for Excellence Award for our Pruning Day and the Karl Carlson Memorial Fund Award for signs in the Learning Garden from the Oregon Master Gardeners.

Karen Sarnaker

TCMGA President 2018

2019 Master Gardener Classes Start Jan. 10th Sign-up NOW!

Tillamook County OSU Extension Master Gardener classes are held Thursday's, starting January 10, 2019 and continuing through April 4th. The classes are from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, with an hour for lunch, and are held at the OSU Extension Service, Tillamook County meeting room 105. Although this is a long day, participants often say that the time flies and the topics are presented in a very understandable way. Please contact the OSU Extension Service, 4506 Third Street, Tillamook, 503-842-3433 for additional information, or check out the website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/tillamook>.

For those that have the time and desire to volunteer in their community, the fee for the training is \$120, which includes the Sustainable Gardening text book and all class materials. OSU Master Gardeners provide 60 hours of volunteer service during the year after they complete their training. They work with other Master Gardeners to answer questions at the OSU Extension Service office, volunteer at the Master Gardener Learning Garden and they help educate others in the community about gardening.

For those that do not have the time or desire to volunteer, they too may take the training and receive a certificate of horticulture. The fee for this option is \$240.

REGISTER ONLINE AT: <http://bit.ly/TillamookMG>

Just say ‘no’ to bad gardening practices

No one likes to be told “no,” but sometimes you’ve got to buck up. Even the most seasoned gardener will admit to at least one or two bad habits. You know who you are; you haven’t cleaned your shovel all season. Well, we’ve gathered the expertise of eight of our Oregon State University Extension Service horticulturists to pave the way to the truth. Sorry, you’re going to read the word “no” a lot.

NO: Don’t prune your rhododendron and other spring-blooming plants (lilac, forsythia, azalea, etc.) during the dormant season or you’ll be cutting off the flower buds. Instead, prune right after flowers fade in spring. – Neil Bell



NO: Don’t plant a Sierra or coast redwood in your garden. Unless that’s the *only* thing you want in your garden. – Neil Bell

NO: Don’t be ignorant of your plants’ water needs. “We deal with a lot of over-watering and under-watering issues, or as I like to tell folks that they over-love or under-love their plants,” said Rachel Suits, OSU Extension horticulturist. Understanding water requirements is not an easy task and is different for each plant, but simple observation and soil moisture monitoring can help gardeners get a better handle on irrigation, she said.

NO: Don’t plant something in the wrong place. You don’t want to plant your shade-loving hosta on the south-facing wall of your house. Remember: Right plant, right place. – Rachel Suits

NO: Don’t plant aspen in or near turfgrass. These trees create groves and suckers will come up through the lawn. Be sure you know that aspen create groves and have the space/room for them or select another tree for planting adjacent or near turf. – Amy Jo Detweiler

NO: Don’t choose a plant based on what it looks like in the container at the nursery. Make sure you take into account how big it will be in 20 years. Too-big trees get topped, which looks bad and is not good for the tree because it leaves large pruning wounds ripe for disease and insect infestation. – Heather Stoven

NO: Don’t rely on compost for everything. People assume that compost is fertilizer and provides all of the nutrients plants need, especially in vegetable gardening. Compost helps with soil structure but does not provide key plant nutrients. Buy fertilizer too and use it! – Weston Miller

NO: Don’t overplant. Plan for the long term. Get a piece of gridded paper on which to plan out planting areas and

count each square as a square foot. Research what the eventual size of your plant will become and plan accordingly. Especially important is to consider are the plants that you place close to the house. Meanwhile, you can fill the areas in with annuals and plants that you might be able to move to other parts of your landscape later on. You’ll have more mature plants at less cost! - Scott Thiemann

NO: Don’t reach for a broad spectrum pesticide without identifying the problem first. Getting the problem diagnosed can save money by determining if there is a real pest issue and then tailoring the management to the timing and the method that works best. It protects the environment from unnecessary pesticide applications, too. Call or go see an [OSU Extension Master Gardener](#), who can help diagnose your problem. – Brooke Edmunds

NO: Don’t skimp on the requirements for planting a tree. Take the time to prepare the soil, plant at the proper depth, select the best type of tree for the location and give TLC for the first few years. The effort in establishing a tree pays off down the road. Take a look at the app [Planting and Caring for a New Tree](#) for more particulars. – Brooke Edmunds

NO: Don’t think that a raised bed is a wonderful way to have a great garden soil quickly. The main problem with raised beds is that the gardener has to buy the medium to fill the raised bed frame. When a gardener does that they have no idea if the medium is soil and where it came from, or if it is a blend of soil and other materials. Not knowing what kind of soil or blend you will get makes it difficult to know whether it needs certain nutrients and how much. It is a good idea to ask the medium provider what type of soil they sell (sand, silt, clay), has anything been blended with the soil (organic material), and have they had their soil tested for nutrients or contaminants. If the medium supplier can’t answer your questions, you may want to collect a sample of the medium and send it to a testing lab. Once you know what kind of medium or soil nutrients your raised bed has you will be able to make additions that will provide a good growing environment. Get more information in Extension’s publication [Raised Bed Gardening](#). – Stephen Renquist

NO: Don’t plant fruit trees without understanding how much care goes into producing good-quality fruit. Fruit tree care is not easy. It requires year-round attention from planting the tree in a well-drained soil where it will get at least 10 hours of sunlight, to proper training and pruning, thinning fruit, using a low input pest spray program, and providing water and fertilizer during the growing season. Fruit trees that are not cared for can also spread disease and insect pests to neighboring areas. There is a whole raft of publications in OSU Extension’s catalog to coach a gardener to make low input pest management decisions that will help you grow quality fruit. Just search for “fruit tree.” – Stephen Renquist

Time spent in the garden now saves work in Spring

Don't hang up your gardening tools just yet. There's still plenty to do.

"It's easy to forget gardening as we transition into fall, but work you do now will save you work next year," said Weston Miller, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. "For example, add compost and lime to the vegetable garden, cover with coffee sacks and the worms will go crazy and the soil will be great next year."

While you're thinking about the soil, turn your mind to mulch. Spreading carbon-rich woody mulches in landscapes now will protect the soil from compaction and minimize weeds. And speaking of weeds, as the current mulch started to break down, you might have noticed some new, little weeds moving in. Those are winter annuals, Miller said, and include chickweed, dead nettle, cardimine and speedwell.

"They'll be green and they'll be small," he noted. "Use a scuffle hoe and put mulch on top. Or put newspaper or cardboard and a woody mulch and you'll smother them."

If a new vegetable or flower bed is in your future, start now and the bed will be ready to plant in spring. Choose one of two ways. You can chip away the grass, dig in some compost and lime and cover it for winter. Or, scalp the grass with a weed whacker, add a little nitrogen fertilizer, cover with a thick layer of newspaper (no pages with color) or cardboard and enough compost to keep it from blowing away. Come spring, dig in the newspaper or cardboard and plant. Make sure to add fertilizer next spring.

While spring is the traditional season for planting, fall is a good time, too, Miller said. It's not super hot so you won't have to water a lot. The soil is warm so plants have more time to get their roots established. In spring, the soil is cold and people can forget to water when the rains subside.

It's also a good time to transplant plants that need to be moved. Choose an appropriate place for relocating by thinking about sun exposure and the size of the plant at maturity. It's best to plant it in the right spot and not have to transplant it later.

Be careful about trying to move established plants. Soil is very heavy and it is difficult to dig and move large rootballs. Consider hiring a professional landscaper with the right equipment if you think you need to move an established tree or shrub.

For transplanting smaller plants, dig the hole twice as big as the estimated rootball of the plant to be moved. The rootball is approximately the same diameter of the plant above ground. Prune the plant if desired and then, using a sharp spade go around the outside and score the roots. Get as many roots as possible. Pop it out, put it on a tarp and drag it to the new location. Plant it at the same depth as the top of the soil. Don't plant it too deep. Water in and apply mulch.

Whether to cut back perennials now or in the spring is up to you, but birds and other wildlife will thank you if you leave them up. Besides, Miller noted, the garden will be less interesting if everything is cut back.

Other jobs to do now:

- Clean, sharpen and oil tools, including lawn mowers, edgers and weed whackers.
- Harvest and store squash and pumpkins.
- Dig and store potatoes.
- Build a cold frame and plant cool-weather vegetables like arugula, mache, mustards, radishes and turnips.
- Plant garlic.
- Bring in houseplants, fuchsias, geraniums, dahlias and begonias.
- Rake leaves into vegetable and flower beds.
- Start a compost pile.
- Bait for slugs.
- Flush out irrigation systems and turn off. Cover faucets to protect from freezing.
- Plant spring-blooming bulbs.
- Apply fertilizer to lawn for the last time this season.



Winter Care of Perennials



Now that the temperatures are cooling off, or shall I say cold, it is time to put your perennials to bed for the winter. For the most part, perennials will overwinter here just fine by following these simple steps.

Cut - Once your perennials start to lose their leaves, die back and go dormant, you can go ahead and cut them back in late fall or early winter. By cutting them back to 6 - 8" above ground the stem will be able to hold snow in place which helps to insulate your plants. You can also wait until spring to cut them back, however mulch is easier to apply if they are cut back.

Mulch - Mulch perennials with 2 - 5" of mulch for the winter. The mulch can be any kind of material such as hemlock mulches, pine post peelings, dried grass clippings, etc. It serves the dual purpose of keeping in winter moisture, and acting as insulation for the root system. Our perennials risk losing their root systems from tissue damage with our continuous freezing and thawing conditions. It is best to wait until the ground has frozen lightly before applying mulch, this insulation will keep the ground frozen.

Even though many plants appreciate protective winter mulch, there are some perennials that do better without additional winter mulch. These plants are intolerant of being too wet throughout the winter and risk root rot or losing their centers. On the flip side, some of perennials are very tender and require extra winter mulch, five inches or more for adequate protection. At right are two lists of some of these perennials.

Water - Remember to provide winter water to all of your perennials during dry spells when the top portion of ground has thawed and can accept water. Water 4-6 weeks during these dry periods where there is no snow cover. Keep in mind that your perennials will wake up at different times in the spring, so don't give up hope if you don't see signs of life right away!

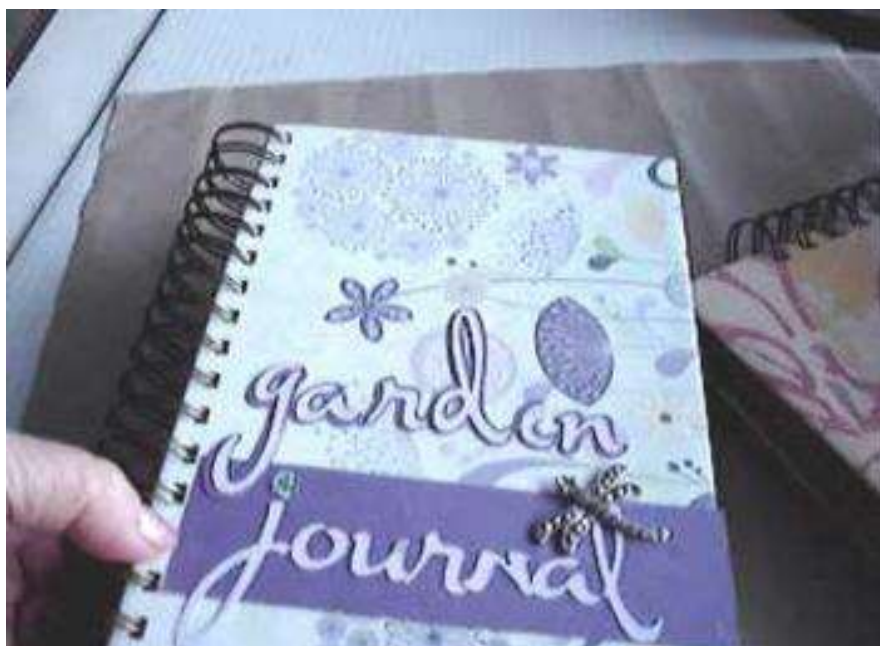
Perennials—no additional mulch through winter

- Aster Aster spp.
- Basket of Gold *Aurinia saxatilis*
- Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia fulgida*
- Blanket flower *Gaillardia aristata*
- Creeping Phlox *Phlox subulata*
- Coreopsis *Coreopsis* spp.
- Daisy, Shasta Daisy *Chrysanthemum* spp.
- Daylily *Hemerocallis* spp.
- Delphinium *Delphinium* spp.
- Dianthus (Pinks) *Dianthus* spp.
- Evening Primrose *Oenothera* spp.
- Flax *Linum* spp.
- Gas plant *Dictamnus* spp.
- Gayfeather *Liatris spicata*
- Geranium *Geranium* spp.
- Geum *Geum* spp.
- Germander *Teucrium* spp.
- Globe thistle *Echinops* spp.
- Grasses – most ornamental grasses
- Hens & Chicks *Sempervivum* spp.
- Iris *Iris* spp.
- Lamb's ear *Stachys byzantina*
- Larkspur *Delphinium* spp.
- Mexican Hat *Ratibida* spp.
- Pasqueflower *Pulsatilla* spp.
- Pearly Everlasting *Anaphalis* spp.
- Penstemon *Penstemon* spp.
- Poppy *Papaver* spp.
- Purple Coneflower *Echinacea* spp.
- Pussy-toes *Antennaria* spp.
- Rockcress *Arabis* spp.
- Russian Sage *Perovskia atriplicifolia*
- Salvia *Salvia* spp.
- Silvermound *Artemisia schmidtiana*
- Soapwort *Saponaria* spp.
- Snow-in-summer *Cerastium tomentosum*
- Spiderwort *Tradescantia* spp.
- Spurge *Euphorbia* spp.
- Stonecrop *Sedum* spp.
- Sulfur flower *Eriogonum umbellatum*
- Sunrose *Helianthemum* spp.
- Tansy *Tanacetum* spp.
- Thrift, Sea pink *Armeria* spp.
- Thyme *Thymus* spp.
- Valerian *Centranthus* spp.
- Yarrow *Achillea* spp.

Tender perennials—extra mulch (5" +) in winter

- Ajuga *Ajuga reptans*
- Bergenia *Bergenia cordifolia*
- Bulbs
- Chrysanthemum *Chrysanthemum morifolium*
- English Daisy *Bellis perennis*
- False Mallow *Sidalcea* spp.
- St. John's Wort *Hypericum patulum*
- Lavender *Lavandula* spp.
- Pincushion Flower *Scabiosa caucasica*
- Plumbago *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*

A garden journal provides a year-to-year record



At the beginning of each season, draw a sketch of your garden beds and write down the variety names and planting dates in the journal. Or use a camera to do the same.

Later, record weeding, fertilizing and harvest dates and how well each variety performed. Germination, flowering dates and pertinent weather information also are useful. Record other details such as irrigation methods, what you used for trellising and other support or how you controlled pests. These details can provide valuable insights over the years to come.

"If you record pest outbreaks in relation to what plants they affect, it can help you plan next year's garden. The same holds true for beneficial insects and their host plants," Fick said.

Now is a good time, while gardening has moved into low gear, to start a gardening journal to reflect on what happened in 2018 and to begin planning for the coming season.

What worked in the garden this past year and what needs to change next time? How much room did your winter squash really need, which tomato variety produced the best and how much shade did the fuchsia need? If you wait until spring to think about it, the years could slide into each other. Details can get slippery.

"A gardening journal can help you plan from year to year by leaving a written record of exactly what, when and where seeds and plants were grown," explained Barb Fick, home horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

A yearly record of where things are planted also helps with crop rotation, Fick said, changing the types of vegetables and flowers planted in any given location each year.

"Rotation discourages depletion of soil nutrients, pest outbreaks and soil-borne disease."

You can record each year's seasonal landmarks such as precipitation patterns and unusual weather, dates of the first crocus bloom, arrival of hummingbirds and first frost.

What kinds of butterflies and other pollinators did you see and when? If you keep records from year to year, you also can compare the performances of different varieties.

A journal also comes in handy to keep track of the amount of money spent on seed, fertilizer and garden tools. It also can be a good way to keep track of yields and a safe place to record the varieties of woody plants you plant.

"Too often, gardeners save the tag on a woody perennial for reference, but don't put the information elsewhere," Fick said. "The tag disappears and whoops, was that 'Berberis thunbergii,' 'Rose Glow' or 'Crimson Pygmy'?"

If you decide to start keeping a garden journal, it need not be fancy or expensive. A blank, bound book or ring binder filled with loose-leaf paper is a great place to record what you do in the garden and yard. Or, splurge and get a commercial journal or a special gift for the gardener in your life. There are many on the market.

"Most of all, a garden journal can give you a feeling of accomplishment," Fick said. "When you add up the hours, varieties and methods used, most gardeners are proud of what they've done."

Extension experts offer gift ideas for gardeners

Whether you want to splurge or stay within a budget for the gift-giving season, the Oregon State University Extension Service has you covered.

Ten Extension Service experts stepped up with ideas for the gardeners in your life. Their thoughtful suggestions range in price from nothing but time to more than \$100.

“Garden Insects of North America” – Toni Stephan, horticulture and small farms instructor with Extension in Deschutes County, thinks Whitney Cranshaw’s much-touted book is a good choice. “I’m giving it to my sister this year. She’s a new Master Gardener and this will be a great resource for her,” Stephan said. (Amazon, \$18.89)

Coupon for garden help – “This gift would be for weeding, planting, harvesting, whatever the gardener needs,” said Cindy Peterson, Master Food Preserver and Master Gardener coordinator for Extension in Coos County. “Many older folks still want to enjoy their landscape or vegetable garden but can’t keep up with the labor. By giving the gift of time, they get work done, but also get to enjoy spending time with someone they love.”

Donation to garden-related nonprofit organization – Gail Langellotto, Extension’s statewide Master Gardener coordinator, likes the idea of giving to a group such as Growing Gardens or Lettuce Grow. “I have been blessed by the generosity of others throughout my life with scholarships for my education, many generous Master Gardeners who have supported the Master Gardener endowment,” she said. “It feels good to pay it forward.”

Soil thermometer – Weston Miller, a horticulturist with the Extension Service, suggests this simple tool for avid vegetable gardeners. “This will let them know when it’s time to plant various crops,” he said. “They should look for consistent soil temperatures above 50 degrees for cool season crops and above 60 degrees for warm season crops.” (Cost: \$7-\$30)

Tea and catalog – “I have had some wonderful English folks in my program,” said Joy Jones, a 4-H and agriculture expert in Tillamook County. “One of their ideas that I liked was a seed or nursery catalog combined with a pretty teacup or nice mug with a garden theme or design and some herbal teas. Sit back, sip a cup, and plan for next year!”



Garden tote – This gardener’s friend for carrying fruits and vegetables, freshly cut flowers or tools is the selection of Jordis Yost, coordinator of Extension Master Gardener program in the Portland area. She particularly likes one from Williams-Sonoma made of wire and trimmed with paulownia wood that allows dirt to fall through and holds a good amount. (\$39.95 at Williams-Sonoma.)

Pruners or backpack sprayer – “Gifts? Well, how about a nice pair of Felcos,” said Neil Bell, an Extension horticulturist in Marion and Polk counties. “Everyone with a garden needs to prune something and those are excellent and not

cheap!” He also suggests a 3- to 4-gallon backpack sprayer for those applying horticultural oils or other pesticides. (Felco pruners \$33-\$66 at Felco website. Backpack sprayer comes in variable prices, starting at about \$50.)

Master Gardener program registration – Make the 2019 OSU Master Gardener classes that special stocking stuffer or gift under the tree. Classes begin in January in Tillamook County. For more information contact the OSU Extension office at (503) 842-3433.

Mason bee starter kit – For a backyard fruit-tree grower, Brooke Edmunds, Extension’s horticulturist for Linn, Benton and Lane counties, recommends a mason bee set up. “Give a decorative house, paper tubes and a coupon to get cocoons in the spring,” she said. “Non-aggressive and fun to watch, mason bees are great early spring pollinators of fruit trees.” (\$15 for a basic house to more than \$100. A middle-of-the-road kit that includes the guide “Mason Bees” is available from Crown Bees, a Northwest company, for \$54.95.)

Extension field guides – One last thought is to double up with a pair of popular field guides. “**Trees to Know in Oregon**” (\$18) features aides to help you identify hundreds of trees, including full-color photos. “**Shrubs to Know in Pacific Northwest Forests**” covers 100 shrubs with more than 500 photos. (\$12)

PNW Native Plants for the Woodland Garden

Many people think of shade or woodland gardens when they think of growing native plants. In fact, many woodland plants do very well in garden settings, but careful selection and care is essential to making your woodland garden flourish.

Tips

- Most woodland plants thrive on soil rich in organic matter, so add leaf mulch or composted wood chips to your woodland garden every year if possible. About two inches of mulch each year will help your garden thrive.
- Many of our woodland plants come from the foothills of the Cascade Mountains or Coast Range. Higher elevations often bring more rainfall, so your woodland garden may require more irrigation than other types of native plant gardens.
- Look for small trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants that thrive in the shade. Some native plants that actually prefer more sun may survive in the shade, but may not flower, or may grow too tall instead of maintaining a compact form.
- Some woodland flowers, trilliums for example, are still being dug from wild places and potted up for sale. Instead, look for plants that have been propagated in nurseries and be willing to pay the real cost of the growers' efforts in bringing these woodland beauties to a saleable size.
- Ferns and delicate fern-like plants look at home in a woodland garden. Since many woodland wildflowers bloom only briefly in the spring, ferns will add a year-long structure to the lower plant layer.



Western mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)

Suggested plants:

Small Trees:

- Cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*)
- Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*)

Shrubs:

- Evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)
- Red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)
- Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*)
- Western mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)
- Cascade Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*)
- Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)
- Wavy-leaved silk-tassel (*Garrya elliptica*).

Groundcovers:

- Inside-out flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*)
- Woods strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)
- Oregon wood-sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*)

Herbaceous plants:

- Small-flowered alumroot (*Heuchera micrantha*)
- Pacific bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*)
- Fringecup (*Tellima grandiflora*)
- Goat's beard (*Aruncus dioicus*)
- Western white trillium (*Trillium ovatum*)
- Stream violet (*Viola glabella*)

Ferns:

- Deer fern (*Blechnum spicant*)
- Sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*).

Insects and spiders move in, finding shelter for winter

This time of year, insects and spiders are out and about – some in large numbers – looking for places to hunker down for winter.

“Just like us, they’re coming inside to get warm,” said Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist for Oregon State University Extension Service. “They’re not feeding on homes or humans, they’re just looking for cracks or crevices. Most are minding their own business. They aren’t aggressive toward people, not even the spiders.”

That explanation often isn’t comforting when insects find your house the perfect spot for a long winter’s nap. Boxelder bugs can swarm the side of homes and out-buildings by the thousands, giving homeowners a fright. Spiders, which are looking for mates, can also cause anxiety.

However, of the 700 to 800 species of spiders in Oregon, only the black widow has the potential to cause serious harm to humans. This spider is found in the drier areas of southern Oregon and east of the Cascades more commonly than in the Willamette Valley, according to Gail Langellotto, OSU Extension entomologist. One brown widow was found recently, probably a hitchhiker from another area. Hobo spiders, research shows, are not venomous, but their bite may cause pain, redness and itching. Poisonous brown recluse spiders do not live in Oregon.

The distinctive red and black boxelder bug has long been the bane of homeowners, who find them piled on top of each other on the warm south- or west-facing walls of buildings. They don’t do much damage in the garden, unlike the shield-shaped brown marmorated stink bug, which feeds on a large number of plants, including blueberries, raspberries, apples, figs, hazelnuts and many ornamental plants.



In addition to brown marmorated stinkbugs and boxelder bugs, other insects most likely to be found invading your home right now are Mediterranean seed bugs and springtails, both very small.

“Springtails are tiny, like pieces of dirt but they move around,” Edmunds said. “They get their name because they can jump up to several inches by means of a tail-like mechanism.”

Springtails live in soil, especially soil amended with compost, in leaf litter and organic mulches and under bark or decaying wood. They feed on decaying plant material, fungi, molds or algae. They love moist environments and if they do make it indoors, you can often find them in sinks, bathtubs, floor drains, damp basements and crawl spaces. Unless they find moisture, they’ll soon die.

Mediterranean seed bugs, which can be identified by distinctive black triangular and diamond-shaped markings on a tan body, are commonly found among tall grasses and weeds and feed on a wide variety of seeds.

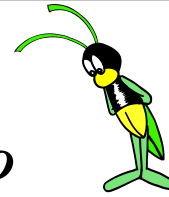
To help keep all of these insects outside, caulk openings and cracks around doors and windows and repair screens, Edmunds recommends. Get rid of debris and leaf litter near the house, especially around foundations, to reduce the shelter they need to overwinter. Vacuum up any bugs that get inside, seal and dispose of the vacuum bag or empty it into a bucket of soapy water.

“Insects get through spaces so small you don’t even think about them,” she said. “You want to keep as many out as possible and then vacuum up the rest.”

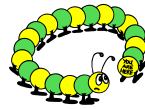
There’s no need to suck up spiders, which are beneficial in the garden and can just be ushered back outside.

Insecticide sprays are generally not recommended for these insects. They are often no more effective than vacuuming, and repeated applications may be required. At best, pesticides will provide only temporary relief. Pyrethroid insecticides are available for treating foundation walls around the perimeter of buildings. If required, these applications are best done by a professional.

What's "Bugging" My Garden?



by Evelyn
VonFeldt
OSU Master
Gardener



Maybe on a walk in the woods you have noticed leaf galls, the most common that I remember seeing is the *Quercus garryana* or Oregon oak gall found on the midvein on the underside of oak leaves, I remember stomping on the galls thinking they were some kind of mushroom but they were actually the home of a tiny wasp larvae. The female wasp lays an egg on the leaf of their specific choice (this one being oaks) and a gall or swelling is formed by the plant because of the irritation cause by the insect growing there making a perfect home for the larvae to develop in. Some larvae have what is called a "blind gut" and don't excrete fecal matter until after they pupate into the adult stage.



The *Andricus brunneus* on the Oregon oaks usually found in the dryer Willamette Valley where I saw them as a kid, and farther south. The tiny adult wasp is short lived and is small to minute a couple of millimeters long emerging in the fall to mate and lay eggs for the larvae to overwinter in, pupate and start the process all over again. Different gall wasps have specific host plants and often their galls can help you identify the host insect.



The *Andricus atrimentus* wasp produces a dunce cap gall on blue and other oaks of the *Quercus* species. The galls are only about 4 mm tall and for obvious reasons called dunce caps.

There is another type of gall called a crystalline or *Andricus crystallinus* gall which has a reddish brown to white hairy mass of crystalline-like rods showing above the hairs to 14 mm tall, these are also found on oaks as are *Andricus stellaris* the sunburst gall similar in appearance but much smaller 4 mm.



The Star gall *Antron douglassi* and the *Antron quercusechinus* or Echinid oak gall have blunt star-shaped growths 15mm and 10mm in size.

Lest you think only oaks produce galls look at the mossy rose gall *Diploepis rosae* which produces an irregularly shaped mass of greenish yellow feathery strands for the host larvae to live in. I remember seeing these on a rose plant in a house we lived in in Hillsboro back in the late 80's. I removed the plant not realizing I was removing an insect pest too.



And there are a host of insect pests that can cause the galls to be formed by the plants. They include aphids, adelgids, eriophyid mites, flies, psyllids, sawflies and wasps as above. So much more for us all to learn about!

Sources: Insects of the Pacific Northwest, Bug Guide, Entomology Today, Colorado Extension, PNW Insect Handbook.

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

NOVEMBER

Planning

•Force spring bulbs for indoor blooms in December.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Check potatoes in storage, remove any going bad.
- Place a portable cold frame over rows of winter vegetables.
- Place mulch around berries
- Cover rhubarb, asparagus beds with composted manure and straw.
- Rake and compost leaves that are free of diseases & insects. Use mulches to prevent erosion
- Clean, oil lawnmower, other garden equipment and tools; Drain and store hoses; Renew mulch around perennial flower beds after removing weeds.
- Trim chrysanthemums to 4 to 6 inches after they finish blooming.
- Last chance to plant cover crops for soil building. Use a 3- to 4-inch layer of leaves, spread over the garden plot.

Planting/Propagation

- Take cuttings of rhododendrons and camelias for propagation; propagate begonias from leaf cuttings.
- Prune roses (tea, floribunda, NOT climbers, ramblers) to about 3 feet.
- Good time to plant trees and shrubs.
- Still time to plant spring-flowering bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses. Don't delay.
- Good time to plant garlic for harvest next summer; and to transplant landscape trees and shrubs.

Pest Monitoring/Management

- Rake, destroy leaves from fruit trees that were diseased this year. Remove and discard mummified fruit.
- Check firewood for insect infestations. Burn affected wood first

Houseplants & Indoor Gardening

- Reduce fertilizer applications

DECEMBER

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Spread wood ashes evenly on vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 pounds/100 square feet/year. Don't use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.
- Protect new landscape plants from wind. Use stakes, guy wires and/or windbreaks as needed.
- Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut remove stalks perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds, and hoe or pull winter weeds.
- Turn the compost pile, protect from heavy rains, if necessary.
- During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tilling, ditching, and French drains are possible short-term solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, and fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water

Planting/Propagation

- Good time to plant trees, shrubs.

Pest Monitoring & Management

- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. baits as necessary.
- Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. Read, follow pesticide label directions.

Houseplants & Indoor Gardening

- Protect poinsettias from cold, place in sunlight, don't let leaves touch cold windows; fertilize with houseplant fertilizer to maintain leaf color.
- Monitor houseplants for adequate water and fertilizer. Water and fertilizer requirements generally are less in winter.

JANUARY

Planning

- Plan to replace plants that are susceptible to diseases with resistant cultivars in Feb.
- Take cuttings of deciduous shrubs and trees for propagation.
- Have your soil tested in your garden plot. Contact Extension office for a list of laboratories or view online.
- Begin planning this year's vegetable garden.
- Keep a garden journal.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Reapply or redistribute mulch that has blown or washed away
- Clean pruners, other small garden tools with rubbing alcohol.

Pest Monitoring & Management

- 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 to landfill before bloom.
- Watch for field mice damage on trunks of trees and shrubs. Eliminate hiding places, removing weeds. Use traps, approved baits

- 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 Feb.

Houseplants & Indoor Gardening

- Monitor houseplants for correct water and fertilizer; guard against insect infestations; clean dust from leaves.
- Propagate split-leaf philodendrons and other leggy indoor plants by air-layering or vegetative cuttings.
- Plant dwarf annual flowers inside for houseplants, - coleus, impatiens, and seedling geraniums.
- Western Oregon:** Gather branches of quince, forsythia, and flowering cherries and bring indoors to force an early bloom.

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Always identify and monitor problems before acting. First consider cultural controls; then physical, biological, and chemical controls (which include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides). Always consider the least toxic approach first.

Coming Events

Fall Home & Garden Classes Dec. 1st

Tillamook County OSU Master Gardener Fall Home & Garden Classes - Saturday, December 1st at the OSU Extension Service building, 4506 Third St., Tillamook (503) 842-3433. The classes are open to everyone.

- 9:00 am - 10:30 am - Hearty Soups or Garden Tools.
- 10:40 am - 12:10 pm - Cooking with Instant Pot or Propagating Perennials
- 12:10 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch on your own
- 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Plant Identification Aps for Your Phone or Dahlia Dividing & Swap

No pre-registration. Pay and register on the day of classes. \$5.00 per class (per person) Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. or 30 minutes before a class starts. First come—first serve. Register at the front desk.

REGISTER NOW!

2019 OSU Master Gardener Training

Would you like to learn more about gardening on the Oregon Coast? Would you like to get to know people with similar interests and then share what you learn with others? For those that have the time and desire to volunteer in their community the fee for the training is \$120, includes Sustainable Gardening text book and all class materials. For those that do not have the time or desire to volunteer, they may take the training and receive a certificate of horticulture. The fee for this option is \$240. Classes are held each Thursday, starting January 10, 2019, continuing through April 4th. The classes are from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, with an hour for lunch, at the Extension Service meeting room. Please contact the OSU Extension Service, 4506 Third Street, Tillamook, 503-842-3433 for additional information, or at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/tillamook>.

REGISTER ONLINE AT: <http://bit.ly/TillamookMG>

***Oregon State University
Publications are available at:***

***[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/
catalog/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/)***

***If you do not have internet, you
may request a copy of most of
the publications cited in this
newsletter from:***

***OSU Extension Service
4506 Third Street
Tillamook, OR 97141***

Phone: 503-842-3433

Master Gardener OFFICE HOURS

***OSU Master Gardeners ARE IN
@ OSU Tillamook County
Extension Service
4506 3rd Street
Tillamook, OR 97141***

The Tillamook County Master Gardeners volunteer service in our community and give hundreds of hours in service to the community by answering home horticulture questions.

Please stop by the Master Gardener Office with your questions.

**Office Hours
NOVEMBER & JANUARY**

***~ Monday's~
12:30 to 4:30 PM***