



4th Quarter Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (Approved)
November 3, 2018
10 am – 4 pm
Hosted by Multnomah County Master Gardeners
Oregon Food Bank
7900 NE 33rd Drive, Portland, OR 97211

Attendance

Benton: Richard Taylor
Central Gorge: Sandy Montag; Shari Bosler; Eric Bosler, President Elect
Central Oregon: Gary Weber; Jeanine Johnson, Second Vice President
Clackamas: Seamus Ramirez, Past President and Database Manager
Clatsop: Joanie Chapel
Columbia: Debbie Broberg; Katherine Johnson, Treasurer
Coos: Terry Harris
Douglas: Rosemary Brinkley, Nancy Fuller, Patrice Sipos
Jackson: Barbara Davidson, Historian
Lane: Kate Kloos, Sharon Faust
Lincoln: Deanna Trail; Julie Huynh, Assistant Historian
Linn: Janice M. Gregg
Marion: Cyndy Shorter
Multnomah: Lorna Schilling, Marilyn Frankel, Cynthia Groth
Polk: Marsha Graciosa
Tillamook: Linda Stephenson; Betty Lyons; Marcille Ansorge, Secretary
Washington: Jacki Lindquist
Yamhill: Nancy Woodworth; Sue Nesbitt, President; Marcia Sherry, Newsletter Editor; Cathy Burdett;
Tonya Beebe
State Coordinator: Gail Langellotto

Welcome – Corinne Thomas-Kersting, Multnomah County Chapter President

Corrine expressed thanks to the Oregon Food Bank for hosting the meeting and to Lorna Schilling and Marilyn Frankel, Multnomah County Master Gardeners, for making the arrangements and other members who helped with serving the food. She also thanked Einstein Bagels for donating the bagels. She welcomed those attending and gave a PowerPoint presentation of the activities of the Chapter. This highlighted the demonstration garden, which donated 3000 pounds of food to the Oregon Food Bank in 2018. The Multnomah Chapter has a strong partnership with Clackamas and Washington Counties. She expressed thanks to OMGA for Extension Educator Grants, one of which provided an outdoor classroom at the demonstration garden and another which helps with projects to involve children. The Chapter holds an annual Incredible Edibles Plant Sale to raise funds and has pruning workshops of the fruit trees at the Oregon Food Bank.

Additions to the Agenda – Sue Nesbitt, President

Sue asked for additions. Marcia Sherry asked that she present a Yamhill request. This item was added to new business. Barbara Davidson asked to present a Jackson County request and this was added to new business also. Barbara Davidson (Jackson) moved and Lorna Schilling (Multnomah) seconded that we accept the agenda with the additional items. Motion passed by voice vote.

Announcements

Gardener’s Pen – next edition topics and due dates – Marcia Sherry

Marcia, Newsletter Editor, announced that the next issue of Gardeners’ Pen will be sent out in late December or early January. The theme is gardening technology and the deadline for articles is November 30. All OMGA members are encouraged to send in articles related to the theme. Marcia wants to highlight a chapter in each issue and asks members to send in articles about their chapter activities. Also she will include a list of events of chapters although she asked that Plant Sales dates be saved for the April issue.

2019 OMGA Meeting Dates – Host Chapters – Sue Nesbitt

Sue presented a schedule for OMGA meeting dates for 2019.

2019 OMGA Meeting Dates

<u>Executive Committee</u>		<u>Leadership Forum and Board of Directors Meeting</u>	
Date	Location	Date	Location
Friday, February 1, 2019	_____	Friday and Saturday, March 1 and 2, 2019	_____
Friday, May 3, 2019	_____	Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8, 2019	_____
Friday, August 2, 2019	_____	Friday and Saturday, September 6 and 7, 2019	_____
Thursday, October 10, 2019	_____	Friday and Saturday, November 1 and 2, 2019	_____

She asked chapters to consider hosting these meetings.

OMGA Board of Directors Retreat – Sue Nesbitt & Eric Bosler

The annual retreat is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, December 10 and 11, 2018, at the Hopkins Forest Demonstration Center. The retreat will begin at noon on Monday, dinner will be served that evening, and continue the next day.

OMGA Database Updates – Seamus Ramirez

Seamus asked that as chapters hold elections, members should send in any changes to him at alwaysok@hotmail.com so that he may keep the database up to date.

Reports

Approval of OMGA Board of Directors Minutes September 15, 2018 – Marcille Ansorge, Secretary

Marcille asked if there were any changes, corrections or additions. There were none. Sharon Faust (Lane) moved and Jeanine Johnson (Central Oregon) seconded that they be approved as presented. Motion passed with voice vote.

OMGA Treasurer’s Report – Katherine Johnson, Treasurer

Katherine reviewed the financial report as of October 28, 2018 that she had sent out by email. The restricted funds were \$7582.83, cash reserves, \$23,559.91, and non-restricted funds \$71,743.46 for a total of \$103,136.20 in the treasury. The second page of the report showed the bank account and Katherine noted that there are still outstanding checks. The report included Income/Expense by Category as of October 28 and total income was \$52,214.17. Total expenses to date total \$43,094.91. The value of the E*Trade investment is \$52,629.99 for a gain to date of 1.68%. Katherine presented the 2018 budget along with actual income and spending to date for items budgeted. Growing Gardeners had budgeted income of \$25,000 and had actual income of \$24,236.32. Expenses for Growing Gardeners

totaled \$22,464.03; \$22,000 had been budgeted. The assumed business name fee was paid this year at a cost of \$1050.00; this is paid every other year. Attorney fees have exceeded the budget to date by \$203.00. \$2500.00 has been transferred for the annual education event reservation for 2019. Expenses to date total \$43,094.91, leaving a balance of \$9,119.25

Katherine reported that the account number for the Fred Meyer Rewards program has changed; forms were available for members to pick up to make the change. She noted that the Rewards program for Fred Meyer must be renewed each year.

Finalization of the OMGA 2019 Budget – Katherine Johnson, Treasurer & All Board Members

Katherine presented the proposed budget for OMGA and reviewed it with the members. Janice Gregg (Linn) moved and Seamus Ramirez (Clackamas) seconded that we accept the 2019 budget. Members noted that the income for the annual educational event was increased to \$40,000.00 from \$25,000.00 in 2018 and questioned why. Sue explained that it is planned to be held at the Riverhouse in Bend in October with a different format from past events. On Friday, there will be tours and workshops and on Saturday three or so featured speakers with some breakout sessions. Some of the planning may be done by Janette Woosley, who has done registration in the past for the conferences. Discussion continued on whether the figure for the income from the annual event should be \$40,000. Suggestions were to keep it at \$25,000 as in the past and also to lower it to \$30,000. It was decided to change it to \$30,000; members voted on the motion and it passed by voice vote with no opposition.

Master Gardener Educational Conference 2019 – Sue Nesbitt, Eric Bosler, etc.

Plans at this time

In addition to the plans discussed in the section on the 2019 budget, Sue emphasized that in the planning for the 2019 annual educational event, no one chapter would be responsible for organizing it. Central Oregon is the chapter located in the Bend area; however, members from around the State will be responsible for the planning.

Oregon Food Bank Tour and Recognition for Katherine Johnson

At this point, Devin Dinihanian, Seed to Supper Coordinator for the Oregon Food Bank, arrived to give members a tour of the Oregon Food Bank facility. Before leaving for the tour, Sue recognized 12 years of service that Katherine Johnson has given to OMGA as Treasurer. She was presented with a bouquet of roses and a card of thanks signed by the members. In addition, a cake recognizing her service was served as dessert. The tour was followed by lunch served by the host chapter.

Naming contest with prizes

In the discussion about the budget for the annual educational event for 2019, Sue suggested that a new name be given and that there would be a prize for the person whose name was chosen; this would be decided by the first Board of Directors meeting in 2019. Sue commented that the title “Mini College” has been in existence from the 1970s and that a change should be considered. For 2018, it was called Growing Gardeners but in a survey after the event, many indicated that they didn’t like that name. Seamus noted that the name “Growing Gardeners” was chosen to indicate that the event was not for just Master Gardeners but also for the general public. There were many opinions given in favor of keeping it Mini College and suggestions that a theme be added. Eric Bosler asked that the logo designed for Growing Gardeners be kept and asked for a straw vote for those in favor of keeping it as Mini College and having a theme, the one for 2019 being “Growing Gardeners”; members overwhelming were in favor of doing so. The contest will not take place.

Leadership Forums – Eric Bosler, President-elect

Eric reported that a good presentation had been made the previous day on forms of communication within chapters as well as communication with the public. Donn Callaham (Yamhill) spoke on setting up

newsletters, Tom Canales (Yamhill) presented information on how chapters could create websites, and Julie Huynh (Lincoln) told how to use Facebook for outreach. Eric suggested also that brochures, business cards, and bookmarks about events, projects, and the organization itself were ways of communicating with the public.

He reviewed the other Leadership Forums throughout the year. The first was presented by Jim Liskey (Marion) on the Junior Master Gardener program, the second was on how to get “manpower” for demonstration gardens, and the third quarter was a report by OSU personnel on the future of Extension and Master Gardeners in Oregon.

OMGA Website’s newest improvements – Seamus Ramirez

Seamus Ramirez, Database Manager, reported that changes to the website will be developing over time. All chapters now have a link from the website.

State Program Coordinator – Gail Langellotto

Gail presented the following report:

I’m looking forward to seeing many of the OMGA Board members, at the 4th quarterly meeting in Portland, this weekend. My report to the Board can be found, below. I have cc’d the MG Faculty and Staff, for their information.

- 1) **Best Management Practices for MG Plant Sales:** Since mid-August, an advisory group consisting of myself, OSU Extension faculty (Brooke Edmunds), OSU MG volunteers (Linda Coakley and Ruth Estrada), and ODA Invasive Pest Professionals (Beth Myers-Shenai and Chris Hedstrom) have been working on developing guidance for best management practices for MG plant sales. This effort emerged as a result of increased awareness of how plant sales and plant swaps might serve as venues for invasive pest introduction or spread. Given the focus of the Master Gardener Program, we wanted to work together to do our part to stem the introduction spread of invasives, while delivering high quality plants to MG Plant sale customers. What is attached to this email (See [Appendix A](#)) is what our group has developed. As questions related to this document arise, I will start developing an associated FAQ list. Please let me emphasize, however, that the intention is not to police plant sales, but to provide guidance on how we can all work together to truly practice sustainable gardening.
- 2) **Updated MG Code of Conduct:** The Master Gardener Code of Conduct form has been updated, to include a provision prohibiting workplace violence (<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/2018/10/22/updated-volunteer-code-of-conduct/>). Because the form has been updated, Master Gardener volunteers should review, sign, and file the latest version of this form (together with their Conditions of Volunteer Service form, which must be re-signed on an annual basis), when they file their annual OSU paperwork.
- 3) **Garden Ecology Lab Update:** We just finished the second year of our two pollinator studies (one focused on native plant-pollinator associations, and the second focused on documenting the pollinators that can be found in Portland area gardens). You can get an overview of the native plant work (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=724&v=J7MKZZlipvg) and of the garden pollinator work (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3592&v=UHjQZA67isQ) by viewing the webinars that we recently presented, as part of Brooke Edmunds’ advanced training webinar series (each one is eligible for one hour of Master Gardener continuing ed hours). I should be getting all of the 2017 bees back from the American Museum of Natural History, next month. The taxonomist who is identifying our bees estimates that in one year, we collected 45-50 species . . . which is actually fairly good for urban gardens! We also have an third, survey-based study, where we are assessing how much land area gardeners have (or could have) planted to pollinator habitat. For the 1,386 gardeners who have responded to the survey, we found that 91% plant for pollinators, and estimate that together, they have between 515-681 acres dedicated to pollinators. That’s the good news. We also

measured how well gardeners who have gone through various training programs can identify bees and bee-friendly flowers. We found that Oregon Bee Atlas (<https://www.oregonbeeproject.org/bee-atlas/>) are the best. Second best are Master BeeKeepers and those who have self-studied. Last place was Master Gardeners, tied with the general public. Hmm. That was a surprise to me. Andony Melathopolous (Oregon Bee Atlas, OBA) and I are talking about how to make the OBA training broadly available to Master Gardeners and the general public. All of this is in an effort to develop regionally-appropriate resources that support sustainable gardening in Oregon. You can follow along with our program (we try to publish regular updates) on our blog: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardenecologylab/>.

Gail commented that in regard to the first item on Best Management Practices for MG Plant Sales, she expected many questions. She stressed that she was not the plant police and would not be checking plant sales to see if guidelines were being followed. The document is a guideline on how to transition to selling disease- and insect-free plants. Gail stressed that all MGs have a role to play to keep invasives from spreading. Cynthia Groth (Multnomah) noted that chapters should use this as a selling point in sales, that the plants are disease and insect free. Cyndy Shorter (Marion) asked if one could propagate plants from home gardens and the answer is yes; the issue is moving soils and one can use clean soils when propagating. Gail is actively seeking questions and members are to email her with any they have.

In relation to the second item, the Code of Conduct, because of incidents from the past year, some of the behaviors needed to be made more explicit, such as yelling, shoving, cursing, etc. In other words, don't be aggressive.

Related to her research program, she commented that other parts of the State have asked for research done there also. She explained that because of time and budget and the focus on creating sustainable urban gardens, it works best for her to focus research in the Portland area. She does hope to implement citizen science research programs in other parts of the State.

Old Business

OMGA Purposes, Mission and Vision – Sue Nesbitt

Sue reported that while there had been work done on mission and vision statements, she had recently looked at the Communications Toolbox on the OMGA website and discovered that there were already such statements. These are:

Oregon Master Gardener Association Purposes, Mission and Vision

- The purposes of the Oregon Master Gardener Association as stated in our Bylaws are:

1. To enhance and supplement the Oregon State University Home Horticulture Program (Master Gardener™ Program).
2. To assume responsibility for performing special tasks and engaging in continuous activities related to the Program.
3. To work with other garden organizations to enhance gardening when appropriate
4. To award scholarships for post-secondary education in the fields of horticulture and plant sciences on the basis of scholastic merit and need.

- Mission

We are committed to sustainable gardening through:

- Partnering with the OSU Master Gardener Program to promote sustainable gardening practices.
- Advocating for funding to deliver the Master Gardener Program across Oregon; and

- Fostering quality continuing education of all Master Gardeners.

Vision

- Enable OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners as the premier source of information on sustainable gardening.

Sue noted that the purposes are part of the by-laws and therefore cannot be changed. After discussion related to wording for the Mission and Vision, it was felt that these were acceptable as stated.

OMGA Representatives Handbook –Sue Nesbitt

Sue Nesbitt has compiled a representatives handbook for each chapter and these were handed out. The purpose is to give representatives the information they need and help answer questions they may have about OMGA. Sue noted that there is not a job description of a representative because that is written by each chapter itself. Sue asked that representatives add financial reports and minutes for each meeting. She also stressed that it is the responsibility of the representative to pass on the handbook when a new representative is elected.

New Business

Request from Jackson County

Barbara Davidson said that the leaders of the Jackson County Master Gardeners have asked that any chapters that have a business or financial plan for their chapter send a copy to them. These may be sent to Barbara at barbdav@charter.net

Request from Yamhill

Marcia Sherry said that Yamhill Master Gardeners would like to know what other chapters are doing and asked if there could be a link through the OMGA website to newsletters for other chapters. This could be done and Marcia volunteered to coordinate this and Julie Huynh volunteered to help.

Elections

Presentation of Slate of Officer Nominees & Committee Chair People – Eric Bosler

Nominations from the Floor

Voting

Eric Bosler presented the slate of officers which is as follows:

President	Eric Bosler	Central Gorge Chapter
President Elect	Chris Rusch	Douglas Co.
1 st Vice President		
2 nd Vice President	Julie Huynh	Lane Co.
Secretary	Marcille Ansoerge	Tillamook Co.
Treasurer	Patrice Sipos	Douglas Co.

He noted that there is no candidate at present for 1st Vice President and urged members to encourage chapter members to consider the position. He asked for nominations from the floor for all positions. There were none. He asked for a motion to accept the new officers unanimously. Kate Kloos (Lane) so moved and Deanna Trail (Lincoln) seconded the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

There being no further business, Sue ended the meeting with thanks to the Multnomah Chapter for hosting and wished all happy holidays.

Submitted by Marcille Ansoerge
OMGA Secretary

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Appendix A

Finalized 10/31/2018 **Best Management Practices for Master Gardener Plant Sales to Avoid the Spread of Pests**

Contact: Gail Langellotto | Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator, Professor of Horticulture | gail.langellotto@oregonstate.edu | 541-737-5175

Overview

Plant sales are an important source of revenue and outreach for many Master Gardener Chapters. Master Gardener plant sales can draw hundreds of community members who are looking for good deals on quality plants. In many cases, a Master Gardener plant sale may be one of the few, or the only interaction that some members of the general public have with their local Master Gardener Program. Providing clients with plants that align with the Master Gardener mission of sustainable gardening, as well as plant tags that educate customers about proper care and cultivation, are two ways to extend the message of sustainable gardening plants and practices to the broader community.

As a general rule, Oregon’s Master Gardener chapters are doing a wonderful job with their local plant sales. This document is intended to provide guidance to help all of Oregon’s Master Gardeners adopt procedures that will protect Oregon’s natural resources from invasive pests, and to also amplify the message that Master Gardeners promote sustainable garden plants and practices. Adopting a more sustainable approach to our plant sales will ultimately raise the profile of Master Gardener-sponsored plant sales, and will raise the confidence that our customers have in our plant materials.

Horticultural trade, including plant sales and plant swaps, have repeatedly been identified as an area of concern for the introduction and spread of invasive plants 1–5. The risk of moving invasive and emerging pests from plant materials and soil is underscored by Quarantines and Control Area Orders from the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Often, these quarantines and control orders are most applicable to commercial growers. However, they occasionally apply to non-profit plant sales and landscapers, such as with the Japanese Beetle, European Chafer, and Oriental Beetle Quarantine (603-052-0127).

In order to ensure that Master Gardeners and Master Gardener 501(c)3 Associations adhere to best management practices to reduce or eliminate the risk of invasive pest introduction and spread, OSU Extension and the Oregon Department of Agriculture have developed a set of guidelines for temporary plant sales.

1. Kay, S. H. & Hoyle, S. T. *Mail order, the internet, and invasive aquatic weeds. J. Aquat. Plant Manage* **39**, (2001).
2. Reichard, S. H. & White, P. Horticulture as a pathway of invasive plant introductions in the United States: most invasive plants have been introduced for horticultural use by nurseries, botanical gardens, and individuals. *Bioscience* **51**, 103–113 (2001).
3. Ward, J. New invasive weed threatens Coos County: the policeman's helmet, originating from India, sold illegally at garden market. *The World* (2018).
4. Robinson, B. S., Bennie, J., Inger, R., Early, R. & Gaston, K. J. Sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste: anthropogenic dispersal of plants via garden and construction soil. *J. Urban Ecol.* **4**, 1–6 (2018).
5. Society, C. K. I. S. Invasive plant species for sale in Kootenay region: warning issued by watchdog council. *Boundary Creek Times* (2018).

Recommendations

In order to advertise a plant sale as a 'Master Gardener' plant sale in the state of Oregon, groups must:

- **Apply for and receive a temporary nursery license from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).**

Rationale: This is a legal requirement to conduct a non-profit plant sale in Oregon. It allows the ODA to identify plant sales within key areas of concern for invasive species spread, such as an area where quarantines are in place to prevent the movement of plants and soil outside of the quarantine boundaries.

Specific steps: For application instructions, see:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NurseryChristmasTree/Pages/NurseryLicensing.aspx>

- **Only sell plants that are free from pests**

Rationale: Avoid the spread of pests and maintain the Master Gardener program's reputation for selling high quality plants.

Specific steps that support the sale of pest-free plants include:

- Start clean: Use clean containers, pots and trays. Use commercial or sterilized planting media. Sweep and sanitize any greenhouse or shade house benches, floors and structures as best as possible. Sanitize pruning shears and other equipment.

Rationale: Using clean containers, sanitized planting mixes and clean growing spaces will reduce the risk of disease, weed and insect introduction and spread.

- Only propagate from clean plant material. Examples include commercially grown plant starts, seed, purchased bulbs, cuttings from healthy plants grown in sterilized mix. Do not accept or sell plants donated from home gardens, or another similar source.

Rationale: Home dug plants moves garden/native soils, which has been identified as a vector for spreading invasive weed seed, soil-borne fungi (e.g. Potato wart on Solanaceae), nematodes, and other soil-inhabiting invasives. Washing plant roots is not an acceptable method for removing soil from donated plants. Many plant pests are microscopic and will not be removed during root washing.

You may note that some commercial nurseries propagate and dig plants in/from 'native' soils. However, nurseries are subject to annual inspections to retain their commercial

4. Robinson, B. S., Bennie, J., Inger, R., Early, R. & Gaston, K. J. Sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste: anthropogenic dispersal of plants via garden and construction soil. *J. Urban Ecol.* **4**, 1–6 (2018).

license. Potential problems, including risk of invasive species introduction, are identified and remedied on a regular basis. In addition, commercial nurseries have a strong economic incentive to actively eliminate risk of invasive species introductions and spread. Their plant materials could be rejected for sale by knowledgeable wholesale buyers, and/or their reputation and future sales could be damaged if invasives are detected in their stock.

- Visually inspect plant sale stock and remove diseased or infested plants before selling. Properly treat or remove any plants that appear infected or infested with diseases, insects, weeds, mollusks, etc. The Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks and your county Extension faculty or staff can assist with proper diagnosis of plant issues.
- **Only sell plants that are properly identified, cross-checked against state and local noxious weed lists, and tagged.**

Rationale: Master Gardeners should be educating clients about sustainable gardening. An accurate plant tag is an important part of educating clients about the identity and cultural care requirements of home garden plants. Opportunities for mis-identifying plants increase on untagged plants. Donated plants are also a concern over movement of infested garden soil-see above.

Specific steps to ensure plants are properly identified:

- Do not accept donated plants as these may be difficult to accurately identify, particularly during the vegetative stage thus risking unintentional sale of noxious weeds.
- Cross-check all plants against state and local weed lists.

Oregon's Noxious Weed List can be found here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/OregonNoxiousWeeds/Pages/AboutOregonWeeds.aspx>

Check with county Soil and Water Conservation District office for local weeds of concern:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/naturalresources/swcd/pages/swcd.aspx>

Label all plants for sale. The minimum recommended information to be added on a plant identification tag is the scientific name, common name(s) and cultivar (if known).

Resources and References

1. Counties that have successfully transitioned to more sustainable plant propagation methods include Douglas and Yamhill Counties. Local Master Gardener chapters might want to visit with the plant sale committees of these counties, to learn more about their specific procedures.
2. Plant Tag Printing: The Yamhill County Master Gardeners print 4" labels that have plant category (annual, perennial etc.), size (dimensions @ maturity), bloom color, bloom time, cultural requirements (sun, shade, water). The group supplements this information with a supply of bench cards that are used during the plant sale. The bench cards have color photos of plants in bloom, as well as plant information. The group uses a TTP 247 Plus Desktop Thermal Printer from OBC Northwest (<http://obcnw.com/desktopthermalprinter.aspx>; Item #FLETTTP247PLUS; \$597.15). Software is included with the printer.
3. Oregon Master Gardener Association Grants: Counties seeking funding to support the implementation of these recommendations should consider applying for an Oregon Master Gardener Association Extension Educator Grant or to the Karl Carlson Memorial fund. Information on these programs can be found at <https://omga.org/programs-and-awards/>.
4. Oregon Insect Pest Alerts can be found here:
<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/IPPM/InsectsSpiders/Pages/PestAlerts.aspx>

Acknowledgements

This document is the result of cooperative input from Master Gardener volunteers (Ruth Estrada and Linda Coakley), OSU Extension faculty (Gail Langellotto and Brooke Edmunds), the Oregon Department of Agriculture Insect Pest Prevention and Management (Chris Hedstrom), and the Oregon Department of Agriculture Integrated Weed Management (Beth Myers-Shenai)

Case Study of Yamhill County Master Gardener Association Plant Sale Procedures (with comments by Gail Langellotto, OSU Extension, Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator)

Over the years, the Yamhill County Master Gardeners have adopted reduced risk practices to reduce or eliminate the threat of invasive species introductions. The bulk of the propagation work is divided among a greenhouse committee, and a perennial committee. Their procedures are outlined, below, with commentary on how specific practices work to reduce threat of invasive species introductions. Individuals interested in reaching the plant sale committee chairs should contact the Yamhill County Extension office (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill>). Since plant sale committee chairs may change over time, the local Extension office can connect you to the current plant sale chair(s).

This case study is divided into:

Yamhill County Greenhouse Procedures

Yamhill County Perennial Plant Propagation & Procurement Procedures

Perennial Propagation

Cuttings

Seed

Bare Root Fruit

Perennial Procurement

What Is Needed to Assist Master Gardener Associations and Sustainable Plant Sales

Yamhill County Greenhouse Procedures

The greenhouse committee meets in late fall to review the previous year's sales and decides what to grow next year. A plan is developed from where to buy seeds (**Comment** : Propagating from seed from a reputable source reduces issues with plant identification and invasiveness, as noxious weeds are not permissible for sale in Oregon) ;

Sources Territorial Seeds, Ferry Morse, Burpee, Lake Valley, Livingston and seeds saved by MG's.

In December an order is placed with Yoshitomi Bros for annuals plugs (**Comment**: Purchasing plant starts from a reputable source similarly reduces issues with plant identification and invasiveness) that are not grown successfully in our unheated greenhouse. The order will be picked up in late March and transplanted to grow on for our plant sale,

In January a plan is developed for what seed will be planted during what week until the plant sale. The greenhouse is prepared for seed starting and seed starting begins in early February. We buy Plug Germination Mix (PGX Blend) (**Comment**: Growing plants in media, rather than in soil that has been dug, reduces issues with invasiveness, by removing the possibility that the soil harbors invasive pests.) from Growers Nursery Supply. Seeds are started in rows in open trays without drain holes. Trays are covered with plastic clear lids and placed under grow lights and heated gro mats. As seedlings are ready for transplanting they are transplanted into containers and placed on benches in the greenhouse to grow on until the plant sale.

Plants are tagged with identification tags (**Comment**: Plants that are properly tagged provide the customer with the basic information they need to successfully care for their plants.) and price tags,

In late April a trip is arranged to go to Yoshitomi to buy finished product (**Comment**: Purchasing plants from a reputable source reduces issues with plant identification and invasiveness.) to supplement the annual plants we have grown.

An inventory is taken presale and post-sale. (Continued on next page.)

Yamhill County Perennial Plant Propagation & Procurement Procedures

Perennial Propagation

We are not using material divided from Master Gardeners' gardens, effective 2018.

Cuttings: the vast majority of perennial plant material that we sell comes from cuttings. Cutting material comes from a variety of sources: members home gardens, plants growing in front of the Extension Office, plants in our display garden, and plants that YCMGA planted around the Yamhill County Fairgrounds. For the 2019 YCMGA sale, we will have 165 varieties propagated by cuttings, 31 varieties by seed, and 12 varieties from bare root purchases. This will be close to 80% of propagation by cuttings. It is the easiest way to propagate a wide variety of plants.

Lists of cuttings needed are generated on a weekly basis, depending on plant readiness (soft wood vs hard wood cuttings). In this email members are reminded of post-harvest care, sanitation, and general information regarding plant health. Material is inspected prior to being cut and stuck, for both vigor and for pests.

Plants are inspected for insects and insect activity (leaf damage for example) as well as vigor. For logical reasons low vigor plants are not propagated, as these would contribute to a low "take", reducing our sale bottom line and wasting our time. Likewise we are careful not to introduce insects into our growing systems. The originator of the cuttings is the first line of defense, checking for insects, and all committee members check as well, prior to cutting and sticking material.

Desired perennial cuttings are discussed in December – January prior to the cutting season that starts in mid- May.

Cuttings/plugs, and perennials from seed are transplanted in fall into 4" pots filled with ProGrow F5. These 4" pots are transplanted into gallons, once again into ProGrow F5.

Seeds: Perennial seed is purchased from reliable sources. (**Comment:** Purchasing seed from reliable sources reduces issues with identification and invasiveness.) Territorial Seed, Harris Seed, Botanical Interests, Nichols Garden Nursery and Outside Pride are some that we have used. Ed Hume, Ferry Morris, Lilly Miller & seed collected from member's gardens is less frequently used. Seeding directions on the packet or website are followed.

Bare Root Fruit: YCMGA purchases bare root fruit stock (**Comment:** Purchasing bare root stock from a reputable source reduces issues with identification and invasiveness.) from Weeks Berry Nursery; 503.393.8112; weeksberry.com They have been in operation since 1908. Bare root plants are potted into appropriate size containers with ProGrow F5 mix. ProGrow mixes are sold to a number of retail and wholesale nurseries.

All planting is done at Yamhill County Fairgrounds, either in the GH or outside on picnic benches. The picnic benches are covered with plastic prior to work starting. A surface sanitizer (such as Lysol or alcohol) used on clippers prior to work starting.

Purchases are made by the Propagation Chair, often with input from committee members. Approximately 2-3 weeks before the sale we look to see if there are any gaps in our plant pallet, generally where there has been a crop failure; or where we would like to have some color. These plants are purchased from Peoria Gardens, near Corvallis. They are a very sustainability oriented company and use beneficial insects on a routine basis. I purchased plants from them during my professional career. From year to year we make a practice of varying the plants for sale. This is to prevent our offerings from becoming stale in the public's eyes. We track plants going back at least 2 years.

Weeks Berry Plants are ordered in August, when the current catalog come out.

Soil: is purchased from ProGrow and delivered by them. It is stored in our greenhouse. We use their F5 mixture. pro-gromixes.com Sherwood, OR 1.503.682.3500.

An inventory or perennial plants is taken, presale and post-sale, at the same time as the greenhouse annuals inventory.

What Is Needed to Assist Master Gardener Associations and Sustainable Plant Sales

- A method for introducing garden divisions into our plant mix and a quarantine approach of some kind. Hosta, Iris, Grasses, Sedums are some that are quicker to propagate from divisions.
- Yamhill County is shifting to procurement of these plants, rather than propagation. Specifically, a client sale number has been obtained from Ball Horticulture so that plants such as Iris, Grasses, Hostas and other perennials can be purchased directly from wholesale growers. These growers will take care of any and all inspections, certifications and so on. Along with plants purchased from Peoria Gardens, Yamhill County MG's should be able to introduce new plants for sale. YCMGA sale costs will go up, but our past experience with purchased plants indicates that we should be able to recover all costs, plus a (variable) profit.
- Specific notification from OSU Extension faculty, regarding insects and invasive plants to look out for.

