

The Gardener's Pen

A Publication of the Oregon Master Gardeners™ Association in Cooperation with OSU Extension Service™

2019 State Master Gardeners of the Year



Tobie Habeck has been a MG since 2007 and has contributed over 2,500 hours to the OSU MG program in Marion County. She has consistently held a variety of leadership positions, including Secretary, OMGA rep, VP and President. She has provided leadership in the Marion Garden, overseeing development of plots displaying lily cultivars and deer resistant plants. She was chair of communications and publicity for the MCMG Association, a role critical to awareness of the many MG projects in the County. She has coordinated the activities of the Speakers Bureau, which is

very active and accounts for a significant number of our public contacts each year. This included giving presentations herself. She was also a key organizer of a collaboration with the Oregon Garden to develop a display of grafted vegetables, including tomato tasting; which proved very popular with garden visitors. The project was a recipient of Search for Excellence awards in both 2016 and 2017. **CONGRATULATIONS, Tobie!**



Eric Bosler has done much to support the MG mission. He was instrumental in setting up and teaching for several years in the Seed to Supper program. He staffs plant clinics at the extension and at community events. He provides mentorship to new MG's almost every year and engages them to find what interests them to keep them in the program. He has become a regular guest on the local radio station to promote topics on gardening in general, and Central Gorge's Association events. Eric was OMGA President

and now serves as President. He is engaged in statewide activities, leadership trainings and seminars and keeps his association very up to date on state-wide happenings. Eric is co-chair of the greenhouse committee which involved extensive hours in researching and planning construction of a greenhouse and shade structure. He has been instrumental in leading the group on the construction of this project, was the brains of how it all went together and led the volunteers on site. **CONGRATULATIONS, Eric!**

2019 State Behind the Scenes Award



Since taking the MG classes in 2007, **Jim Liskey** has contributed over 4,000 volunteer hours. He has stepped up to act as Chair of the Marion Garden for 2008-2010. Besides being involved in activities in Marion County, Jim has also contributed to the OMGA and was a leader in chairing **Mini-College** for two years. Jim served as the OMGA President-elect and then President in 2014 and remained on the Executive Committee as past President. In 2016 he undertook to adapt the Junior MG

curriculum from Texas A&M University for a new outreach program to youth in Marion County. He partnered with OSU Marion County 4-H staff to train MG volunteers and others to plan and deliver day camps and workshops during the summer at several venues. **CONGRATULATIONS, Jim!**

October 2019

The Scoop on
composting



OMGA™

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The deadline for the

December 2019 issue is:

No later than Nov. 25th, 2019

"Save the World thru Gardening"

Send your articles to:

GardenersPenNewsletter@gmail.com

**DON'T TELL
SECRETS IN THE
GARDEN. THE
POTATOES HAVE
EYES, THE CORN
HAS EARS AND THE
BEANSTALK.**

from the President's desk...

...by Eric Bosler, 2019 OMGA President, Central Gorge



Tempus Fugit. Indeed time flies...here we are with fall upon us and the year nearly three quarters gone. But now is not the time to delve into retrospective, we'll save that for a future issue of the Gardener's Pen, there's still much to do so let's look at some recent events and cast an eye toward the next couple of months. Here's a brief review of three major topics that have been at the forefront of activity for the OMGA.

Changing rules and regulations:

Awareness of the ever changing regulations such as Dodd-Frank and the dynamics of state government has brought into focus the need to reevaluate the requirements to which MG chapters must adhere. As OMGA's primary function is to assist our chapters as they "conduct business" we are working diligently to keep up-to-date with the rules and regulations which apply to not-for-profit organizations and to augment your chapter leadership with the knowledge, skills and tools, needed to properly create and maintain the chapter's reports and records.

The Treasurer's job is a main focus for much of this activity and our State Treasurer, Patrice Sipos, has been working closely with the IRS, the State of Oregon, and our Chapters to clarify reporting requirements, streamline procedures and implement standardization in accounting practices. Patrice has conducted face-to-face workshops, in Bend and in Tangent. She has another scheduled for November in Tillamook prior to the 4th quarter Leadership Forum. The workshops have been well attended and are receiving excellent reviews. In addition to these meetings, Patrice has made herself quite accessible via email. We are also assisting our chapters, if they wish to change their accounting software, to move to a more efficient and standardized format. This should make life easier for your Treasurer. If you are interested in more information or in attending a Treasurer's Workshop reach out to Patrice at; OMGA Treasurer treasureromga@gmail.com.

Changes in banking and administrative rules have promoted some questions about insurance and liability. To better understand current standards and practices and to provide accurate recommendations, OMGA will be attending a seminar conducted by the Nonprofit Association of Oregon. The "Nonprofit Board Training and Resources" workshop is "designed to give key information...about...leadership roles and responsibilities." OMGA is actively seeking ways to increase the assistance we provide to the individual chapters we serve and to offer sound advice in an ever changing landscape of rules and regulations.

The OMGA 3rd quarter Board meeting was most generously hosted by Linn County Master Gardeners: THANK YOU!

Friday lead off with a Treasurer's workshop followed by a very interesting Leadership Forum presentation and discussion featuring Jacob Lebel. (See photo to at right.) An organic farmer from Roseburg, Jacob lead us through the genesis of the American youth inspired, climate change based lawsuit, Juliana v U.S. and shared some of his experience in operating an organic farm which raises the full spectrum from produce to livestock. We hope to



have a synopsis of Jacob's presentation posted on the OMGA website along with this message from Gail Langellotto regarding climate change. <https://omga.org/climate-change-statement/>

Saturday's well attended Board meeting highlighted a "celebration" that presented the County Chapters' and state Master Gardener awards, longevity recognition, as well as OMGA grants and achievements certificates. It is truly amazing the dedication and commitment MG's have for our program when you see recipients of 40 years of participation and hear descriptions of programs which implement and deliver our mission to the communities we serve. Due to a prior commitment Gail was not able to attend the Board meeting. Her program report was in-depth and comprehensive. It is posted on the OMGA website. <https://omga.org/state-program-leader-3rd-q-report-to-the-oregon-mg-association-board-of-directors/>



cont'd from the President's desk

...by Eric Bosler, 2019 OMGA President, Central Gorge

Planning is well underway for the 4th quarter meetings in Tillamook. November 1st and 2nd are not that far off...mark your calendar and plan on joining us. Watch for "Coming Attractions!"

It's no secret: I LOVE MINI-COLLEGE!

I attended for the first time in my wife's third year as a Master Gardener and we were hooked... and we have never missed one since.

A number of people are working diligently to make the Oregon Master Gardener Mini-College happen in 2020. This effort is dual in nature.

Track one: New and improved classes with a focus on workshops, labs, field work using the unique resources available on campus at OSU. Our state co-ordinator, Gail Langellotto is excited with the prospect of again having **Mini-College** on campus and the venues this offers.

Track two: Development of a standing committee of people to work on **Mini-College**. This would concentrate experience, spread the task load, encourage teamwork, stimulate continuity from year to year and eliminate "term out". The ultimate goal is an ongoing process to produce an exciting and engaging educational and social experience attended by increasing number of attendees.

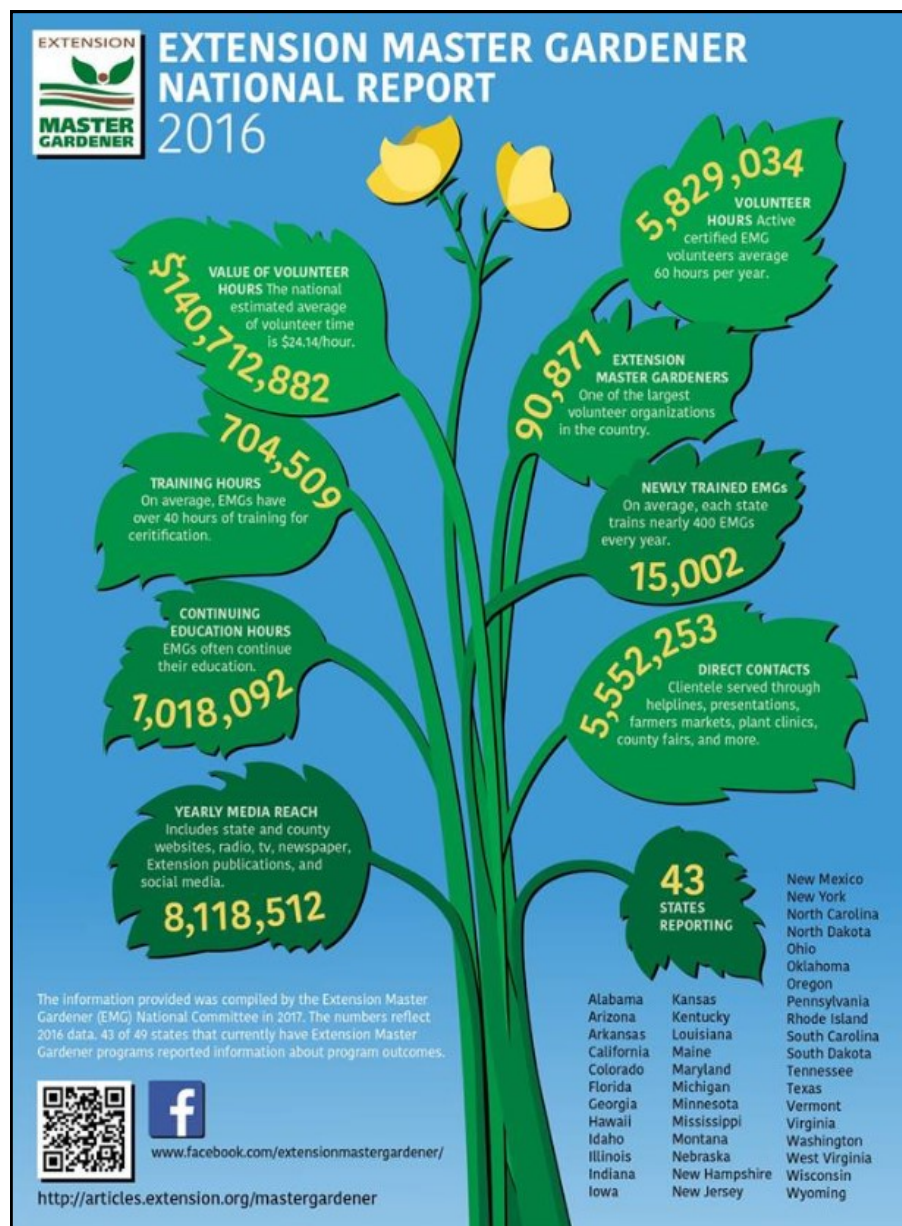
Look for some exciting developments regarding **Mini-College** and, if you have any suggestions or would like to play a role, no matter how large or small, in the efforts please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us at OMGA.

I'm finishing up this message having just participated in the Jackson County Master Gardener's Board retreat. This was basically a session to review where the chapter is at this point in the year, plans being made for the future, and to take a look at some creative options to deal with some of the issues they have. My first reaction is that, regardless of size (JCMGA is our largest chapter), geography, or demographics, there is so much that our chapters have in common. There are similar challenges,

we strive for common goals. MG's are actively and creatively seeking solutions and have experienced many successes. We would do well to do a better job of sharing with one another these efforts and outcomes. Second, it would be so much to our advantage to improve our ability to share with one another what is going on in our chapters, the questions and those solutions that our creative minds have developed.

It is truly amazing, the level of commitment and passion we have for our program and just how much energy is put forth each year by Master Gardener's in pursuit of our common mission to provide sound advice and education in outreach to the communities we serve.

*Thank you for
all you do!*



invasive species Resources for Master Gardeners

...by Gail Langellotto, PhD, Statewide MG Coordinator

Rob Emanuel was a wonderful Extension educator in Tillamook County, from 2007-2011, where he focused on protecting Oregon's landscapes and waterways from invasive species. He currently works at Clean Water Services, where he works on watershed restoration projects. Rob's Power Point presentation, '[Invasive Species 101: A Primer for Master Gardeners](https://www.slideshare.net/RMEmanuel/mg-invasive-spp-minicollege-8609/1)' is posted online for all to view. If you would like a good primer on invasive species, Rob's presentation is a great place to start (<https://www.slideshare.net/RMEmanuel/mg-invasive-spp-minicollege-8609/1>).



Gardeners play an important role in invasive species management. Unfortunately, gardening has been implicated in many invasive species introductions. Some suggest that 82% of woody invasive plants in the United States were first introduced for horticultural purposes (Reichard and White 2001). Specifically in Oregon, many of the plant species that are on the Oregon Department of Agriculture noxious weed list (i.e. they are invasive) were once very popular among gardeners. These include [Bachelor's Button](#), [Spurge Laurel](#), and [Old Man's Beard](#). Now, instead of being the propagators of invasive plants, gardeners are valued partners in the fight against invasive species.

Why should we be worried about invasive species?

** Invasive species often outcompete native plants and animals, which results in a loss of native biodiversity. If you've ever seen native riparian areas become overtaken by [Japanese Knotweed](#), it is a loss of native beauty and biodiversity to mourn. Or, a drive up to Portland along I-5 provides a glimpse into how [English Ivy](#) can overtake forest fragments.

** Invasive species can be costly! For example, [leafy spurge](#) is abundant in the Oregon counties of Klamath, Grant and Cook. Where it is present, it can reduce the carrying capacity for cattle by 50-75%! [Scotch Broom](#) infestations in Western Oregon are estimated to result in an economic loss of \$47 million dollars, due to a reduction or loss of timber production.

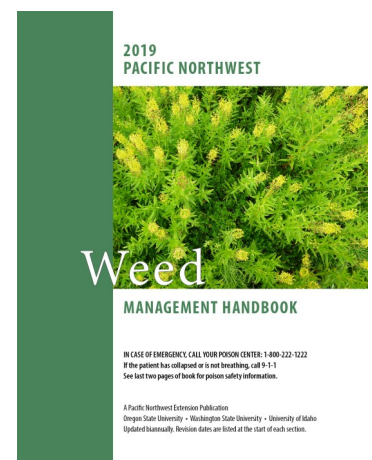


Educate yourself about invasive plants, and you are in a prime position to educate clients about the potentially negative impacts of invasive species on our environment and our economy.

When a client comes into the Plant Clinic, or calls the gardening hotline and asks 'What is this plant?' - you have an educational opportunity.

First: inform the client that the plant is [designated as a noxious weed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture](#).

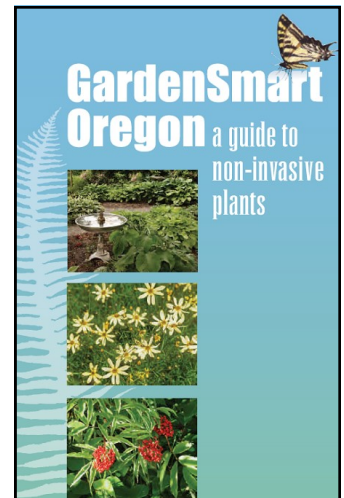
Second: encourage the client to remove and dispose of the invasive plant. Become familiar with the latest control options for a particular plant. Because [Japanese Knotweed](#) is able to grow from even the tiniest of stem fragments - mechanical cutting and removal is not an effective means to control this plant. Leave a small stem fragment (about the size of your thumb) on the ground, and the plant may come back in force. Instead, herbicide applications are much more effective. Of course, whenever using any type of pesticide, including herbicides, follow all label directions and check the [PNW Weed book](#) to make sure that a particular herbicide is registered for use by homeowners. When disposing of invasive plant materials (clippings, pulled plants, flowers, ANYTHING), **do not put them into compost**. Instead, one option is to bag them in a sealed plastic bag, so that you can dispose of them in the trash. Where municipalities allow, some invasive plant materials may be burned.



cont'd: Invasive species Resources...

Third: offer options to the client who can't part with a beautiful but invasive cultivar of Butterfly Bush (or another attractive invasive). **GardenSmart Oregon:** a guide to non-invasive plants, was developed nearly a decade ago, but still has wonderful options for replacement plants to ornamental invasives. For example, golden currant (*Ribes aureum*) is listed as a native alternative to invasive Scotch Broom. Bluebeard hybrids (*Caryopteris X clandonensis*) are listed as a non-native alternative to invasive Butterfly Bush. There may be some gardeners who can not or will not remove the invasive plants in their yard. Encourage them to deadhead invasive ornamentals faithfully before they go to seed. Root barriers may be used to try and contain an invasive in a yard.

Finally: don't encourage the propagation and spread of invasive plants. Don't share a plant with your friends unless you know it is non-invasive.



Choose native plants and non-invasive, exotic plants for your own garden. Check for potential '**hitchhikers**' on plants you purchase from a local nursery or at a plant sale. Become educated about the primary invasive plant species in your area - as well as species that are a potential threat to your area, but have yet to be found. For example, Garlic Mustard is widespread in Multnomah County and has been found in some counties around Oregon (e.g. Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Benton, Polk, Clatsop, Columbia, Washington, Clackamas, Umatilla), but has not yet been found in many Oregon counties. You can be a first detector, and help contain the spread of this invasive in your county, if you are aware of potential threats.

If you find an invasive plant that is new to your area, report it to the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline. You can report online at <https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>, or via phone at 1-866 INVADER.

Reference: Reichard and White. 2001. Horticulture as a pathway of invasive plant introductions in the United States. *BioScience* 51: 103-113.

To find out where you can obtain a copy of "GardenSmart Oregon", go to: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/197473>

How to Manage Plant Pests with Soaps

by Marcia Sherry, MG Yamhill County

Have you ever wondered about the effectiveness of insecticidal soaps in the garden to control plant pests or which ones to use on what plant/pest? Are they safe to use if it's call a "soap"? These questions and many more have come to mind over the years while gardening indoors and out, trying to eliminate those teeny, tiny pests on my plants. After doing some online research, I found this University of Florida, June 2019 publication "**Managing Plant Pests with Soaps**" (#ENY344) by Matthew Borden and Adam G. Dale¹: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in1248>.

This publication explains the differences between soaps, insecticidal soaps, how to use them, the pros and cons, risks and guidelines on the proper use of each in an easy to understand publication.

1. Matthew A. Borden, graduate research assistant, Entomology and Nematology Department; and Adam G. Dale, assistant professor, Entomology and Nematology Department; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL



Longevity Awards

For the past several years, OMGA has recognized our Master Gardener members who have generously supported the Master Gardener program by remaining a member of the OMGA and volunteering their services and expertise in their communities for 20 years or more. This year we are honored to add several more members to this prestigious list. Please recognize the following Master Gardeners:

40 Year Recognition Awards

Helen Howard ~ Marion
Dorothy Drews ~ Multnomah

30 Year Recognition Awards

Betty Ison ~ Douglas
Peggy Corum ~ Jackson
Betty Hewitt ~ Jackson
Claudia Groth ~ Multnomah
Margaret Bayne ~ Washington

20 Year Recognition Awards

Marlene House ~ Clatsop
Linda Thames ~ Douglas
Richard Johnstone ~ Douglas
Carolyn Chamberlin ~ Jackson
Susan Maesen ~ Jackson
Carol Robinson ~ Jackson
Denise Strejc ~ Jackson
Trinity Tucker-Huth ~ Jackson
Toni Van Handel ~ Jackson
Susan Yamins ~ Jackson
Belinda Blauer ~ Josephine

Christine Golden ~ Marion
Jean Edmison ~ Multnomah
Darlene Myers ~ Multnomah
Robert Allen ~ Tillamook
Jean Natter ~ Washington
Cindy Yager ~ Washington
Diane Lockwood ~ Yamhill
Evelyn LaMotte ~ Yamhill
Beth Durr ~ Yamhill
Marcia Sherry ~ Yamhill

**Thank you! For your many, many years of
service to the OSU Master Gardener Program.
You are very much appreciated!**

Most recipients were not able to attend the Board of Directors meeting, but will receive their awards through their Chapter recognition event, therefore we did not have a picture to include.



Chapter Master Gardener Awards

Chapter Master Gardener of the Year Recipients

Deborah Kern ~ Benton
Eric Bosler ~ Central Gorge
Vickie Minor ~ Central Oregon
Nancy Muir ~ Clackamas
Becky Thormanhler ~ Clatsop
Laurie Anderson ~ Coos
Barbara Cary ~ Curry
Fred Alley ~ Douglas
Sandy Hammond ~ Jackson
Michael Ann Zewer ~ Josephine
Judi Blank ~ Klamath

Jan Gano ~ Lane
Mary Jane Bonelitz ~ Lincoln
Larry Steele ~ Linn
Richard Clarkson ~ Marion
Rich Becker, Corinne Thomas-Kersting ~ Multnomah
Lorena Elliott ~ Polk
Betty and Jake Lyons ~ Tillamook
Cindy Russell ~ Wasco
Ron Spental ~ Washington
Carol Parks ~ Yamhill

Congratulations



Eric Bosler
Central Gorge
MG of the Year



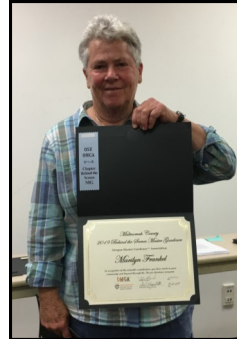
Lorens Elliott
Polk County
MG of the Year



Betty and Jake Lyons
Tillamook County
MG of the Year



Linda Vognild
Polk County
Behind the Scenes



Marilyn Frankel
Multnomah County
Behind the Scenes



Linda Stephenson
Tillamook County
Behind the Scenes

Chapter Behind the Scenes Recipients

Nanako Smith, Fred Prah ~ Benton
Margo Demeier ~ Central Gorge
Kris Lamar, Dick Nelson, Paul Baker ~ Clackamas
Nancy Bouse ~ Clatsop
Janet Tilton ~ Coos
Kathy and Steve Hart ~ Douglas
Annette Carter ~ Jackson
Pat Etchells ~ Josephine
Tara Gallagher ~ Klamath

Janet Marcisz ~ Lane
Diane Primont ~ Lincoln
Melinda Marion ~ Linn
Laverne Gray ~ Marion
Marilyn Frankel, Nancy Fine, Dave Owen, Jennifer Simpson ~ Multnomah
Linda Vognild ~ Polk
Linda Stephenson ~ Tillamook
Helen Dorbolo ~ Washington
Glenda Hulett-Wenner ~ Yamhill

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2019 MG State Awards



Eric Bosler and Tobie Habeck



Barbara Davidson



Jim Liskey

State Master Gardener of the Year Nominees

Eric Bosler ~ Central Gorge

Tobie Habeck ~ Marion

Barbara Davidson ~ Jackson

Nominees for State Behind the Scenes

Jim Liskey ~ Marion

Michael O'Loughlin ~ Yamhill

(Picture unavailable for Michael)

Congratulations



2019 Free Compost Workshops Saturdays 10 am - Noon

Oct. 19 Santa Clara Community Garden

Oct. 26 OSU Extension - Lane County

Nov. BRING Recycling

Brought to you by the City of Eugene & OSU Extension - Lane County.
For beginning to experienced composters. Hands-on workshops which
cover the basics of composting, which materials to use, different
methods and types of compost. No registration required.

For directions and more information, visit:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/county/lane/events>



Caught this in action in my
backyard and thought you
would enjoy it....Ann Kinkley



Check out this website:

- nwf.org -
enter your location and it
will give you lists of native
plants and pollinators in
your area!



**This is "OUR" Master Gardener
Newsletter. Please participate
and share your Chapter's news,
events and stories.**



Compost Happens, or Does it?

...by Dr. Leonard Perry, Horticulture Professor Emeritus, University of Vermont, Dept. Plants and Soil Science

A compost pile only makes desirable compost for the garden if conditions are proper. If you've begun composting in a bin or pile, and it isn't turning into that rich dark organic matter that you see in photos and buy in bagged compost, the process may need some help.

If your **compost has a rotten smell**, this may mean your compost is too wet or too compacted. In either case, sufficient air isn't getting to the microorganisms that are what make materials decompose into the final compost. **To add more air, turn the pile with a garden fork or similar tool every few days.** You can add a dry, porous material such as sawdust or straw if the pile seems too wet. Another option is to break the pile into smaller ones. If you do this, though, it may not get hot enough for these microorganisms.

If, on the other hand, your compost is too dry it won't decompose. If you're in a dry area, or drought without much natural rain, moisten layers as you add materials to your pile, and re-wet them as needed. They should be as moist as a wrung-out sponge.

If you smell ammonia, this indicates that there is too much nitrogen and not enough carbon. These same microorganisms use carbon for food, and nitrogen to make proteins. Without these, or with the improper balance, the microorganisms won't do their job effectively. So if you smell ammonia, add more high carbon material such as straw and less high nitrogen materials such as grass clippings.

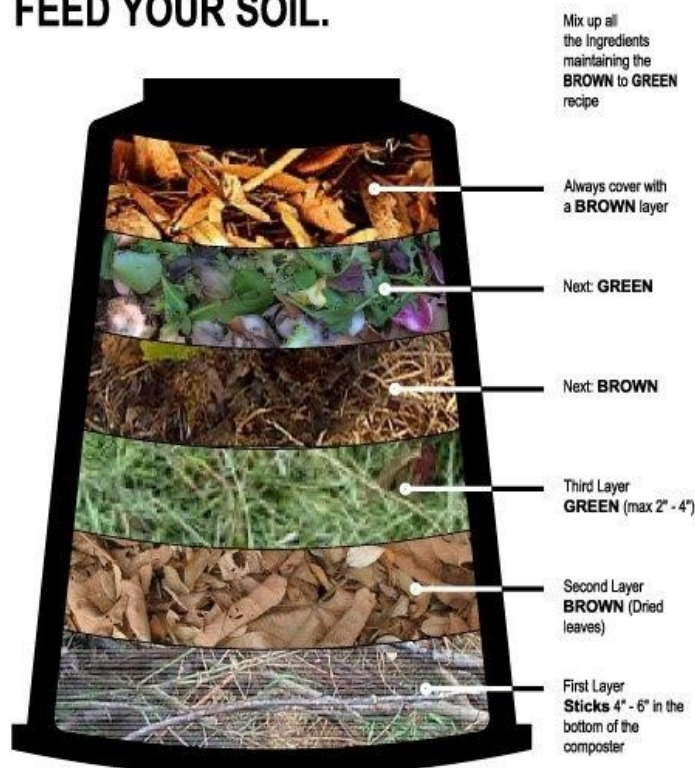
You should aim for about **30 parts carbon to one part nitrogen**, by weight, although this doesn't have to be exact. A rule of thumb that some use is to add two to three parts (by volume) of brown materials (carbon containing) to one part green (nitrogen containing). If your compost is decomposing slowly, perhaps you have too much brown material and need to add more green.

Fallen leaves, straw, sawdust (not from pressure treated wood), paper (shredded paper decomposes more quickly), cardboard and woody material such as twigs (again, best shredded) are **high in carbon**. Moist, dense material such as manures, coffee grounds, vegetable and fruit trimmings and green gardening

trimmings are **high in nitrogen**. Lush, green grass clippings are a great source of nitrogen, even greater if you fertilize your lawn. However, in general, it is best to mow regularly and to leave the clippings on the lawn to decompose there.

Even with the right ratio of brown and green materials, your compost may proceed slowly or not at all if there are no microorganisms. This is the reason many add layers of soil in between layers of green and brown materials. You might aim for about five to eight inches deep of the brown, two to three inches deep of the green, and then a layer of soil or composted manure one to two inches deep. Repeat these layers until your pile is high enough or bin is full.

A COMPOST RECIPE TO FEED YOUR SOIL.



KEEP MOIST: As wet as a wrung out sponge.

AERATE: Air helps to speed up decomposition. Aeration should be done throughout the entire composting process.

KEEP COVERED: Use a compost lid, cardboard or canvas over top of your pile.

Simplified diagram of layering a compost pile.



compost Happens.....cont'd

A problem that many have is the compost pile not heating up properly. Composting microorganisms do their job in the range of 95 to 160 degrees F. Too low a temperature and they work slowly, if at all. Ideal temperature in the interior of compost piles is about 120 to 130 degrees (F). Temperatures can be measured with compost thermometers—basically a dial on a long rod—obtained at complete garden supply stores or online.

If, over weeks or months your compost just isn't progressing, or the season is cool, consider if your pile is too small. Large piles hold heat in the interior better. **Not enough moisture, poor air circulation, and lack of nitrogen also are reasons the compost pile might not be heating up properly.** In addition to tips already mentioned, try insulating the pile with straw to hold in heat more effectively.

Another reason compost might be progressing slowly, if at all, is that the acidity (pH) is too acid, or too alkaline. These same microorganisms prefer a neutral to slightly acid environment. Many materials you add to compost are acidic, hence the reason a sprinkling of lime often is recommended (to raise the pH). Too much lime, or too many wood ashes which serve the same purpose, and the

pile will be too alkaline (high pH). You can check this with inexpensive soil test kits from garden stores. Add more materials if the pH is too high.

Got pests? Raccoons, chipmunks, and even rats are attracted to meat scraps or fatty food wastes in the pile. Don't add these types of waste. Don't add weeds from your garden if they have gone to seed, nor diseased plant parts. These will cause future garden problems.

Follow all these tips for an **"active"** pile, and you should end up with good compost, eventually. Be patient, as in cooler climates and with small piles or bins as in most home gardens, compost may take up to a year to be ready. But your soil will be better for it in the end, and you'll be recycling all these great organic materials into your garden rather than into a landfill.

Short on time or don't care to worry with all these steps for active composting? Then you can just add wastes to a bin and let nature take its course with **"passive"** composting. It takes longer to make compost than actively managing the pile, but is easier and better than not composting at all.



Here are a few websites with more information on composting:

http://whatcom.wsu.edu/aq/compost/fundamentals/benefits_benefits.htm

http://whatcom.wsu.edu/aq/compost/fundamentals/benefits_uses.htm

<https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8367.pdf>

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/compost/process.cfm>

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9034.pdf> -

on worm composting



New Improved Compost Facility for JCMGA

...by Susan Koenig and Barbara Davidson, Jackson County MG's

Our long-serving **Compost Garden Education Mentor** (GEM), Chris Hjerrild, retired at the end of the 2018 demonstration gardens season. He had presided over piles of "green" and "brown" yard waste and a team of dedicated composters for many years. Unfortunately, we didn't have members who stepped forward to organize and process our green and brown materials and the area became an eyesore of weeds and grass.



Our current JCMGA President, Susan Koenig, was convinced that she and some apprentices, Matthew Allen and Sky Colvin along with a few experienced Master Gardeners (Scott Goode and Steve Hassen) who could work their magic. After meeting several times during the winter, the new compost operation began to take



At the request of Rich Roseburg, we moved to a new location better suited to accommodate the wheelbarrows that bring the plant material and water for the piles. We expect to be at the new location for several years until the proposed educational pavilion is built on or near the same spot.

Our compost team decided to start the new operation with two types of compost piles this year—a **lasagna** and a **"hot" pile**. Lasagna is a method of layering green and brown materials in a long pile, which decomposes and "melts" into the ground through worm action.

The pile is kept wet and covered to speed decomposition. New layers are then added each week. This is a 'no turn' method and the one we started this year. Our apprentices were able to learn the workings of worms first hand and even get some for their own gardens.

We decided to put up two shade structures which we can work underneath while processing material brought to us from the demonstration gardens. Matt and Susan covered the structures with tan shade cloth held in place with zip ties around the frame. Zelda Willmore and Matt Allen were apprentices helping with this project.



This new compost facility includes the relocation of our metal tool shed which now rests on a concrete foundation and includes better organization of tools. This move was the opportune time to inventory our tools, discard worn out items, and then go to the Board to request funds for replacements. The Board responded with an appropriation from our treasury and many Board members made personal contributions which totaled over \$1,000.



We turned to our **"head builder,"** Steve Hassen, for planning a three-bin hot compost pile. The "hot" pile also uses a combination of the appropriate ratio of green and brown material heaped in a 3'x3'x3' pile, which is kept moist and turned periodically into a new bin to aerate it. If successful, the pile heats to at least 140 degrees, and if it reaches 155 degrees, the weed seeds die, too. In years to come we may try other methods, but the "lasagna" and the "hot" pile will keep us busy for now.



winter Blooming shrubs

...by Linda McMahan, OSU Associate Professor Emeritus

Some of my favorite flowering plants have to be those that bloom in the winter. **The burst of color in the midst of rain and gray weather and the starkness of deciduous winter trees is a special and uplifting treat.** If you plan appropriately, there will always be a time of year when you can visit your garden and see something in bloom.

You may already be familiar with the late winter blooming forsythia and crocus, typically beginning to bloom in early February, and white or pink winter-blooming heaths. To further enhance winter months, **look for some of the less common plants.** You may have to look carefully for some of these plants—some are only available at specialty nurseries, but are well worth the search. They include many plant forms—trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants for all eye levels of the garden.



landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu

Some of the boldest are the trees or large shrubs. The **witch hazel**, considered to be a small tree or large shrub, is in the genus *Hamamelis*. They all have light to dark yellow flowers,

typically blooming in December, January or February in Oregon. Two species, the American witch hazel (*H. virginiana*) and the Ozark witch hazel (*H. vernalis*), are US natives. Perhaps the most popular is the Chinese witch hazel (*H. mollis*). Its bright yellow flowers will brighten any dark winter day. All have bright yellow to red fall coloration, adding multi-seasonal interest. Hybrid forms with specific flower characteristics are also available. Plant in full or filtered sunlight and provide summer irrigation for best success; these are hardy in USDA Zones 5 or higher.

For December to January blooms, look for another small tree or large shrub, **Camellia sasanqua**. Unlike the more familiar Japanese camellias, the sasanqua camellia blooms earlier and grows in a more open form. But like its more common relative, it has been bred for many colorful flower forms, from the purist white to pinks and reds. This species is evergreen and hardy to USDA Zone 7; it



<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/camellia-sasanqua>



prefers rich soil with regular summer irrigation.

Another large shrub is called wintersweet, known botanically as *Chimonanthus praecox*. As the name suggests, this January bloomer produces a powerful and sweet fragrance; the flowers are waxy and light to medium yellow. It grows to USDA 6, making it suitable for much of western Oregon and Washington. Wintersweet is deciduous, bush-like in that it grows from multiple trunks, prefers sun to light shade, and regular water but well-drained soil.

For **fragrance on a smaller scale**, try sweetbox in the genus *Sarcococa*. Several different species and hybrids are available, but the most common is usually sold as *S. humilis* or *S. confusa*. This **compact evergreen** shrub from China makes a bold statement. The flowers themselves are white, but the fragrance is amazing. Since they are hardy to only USDA Zone 7-9, I have had these January-February bloomers right outside my front door in a protected area. The flowers are followed by attractive and shiny black berries which persist for much of the year. These 3-5 foot tall shrubs prefer part shade, rich soil and regular irrigation.

Another shrub from China, is **winter jasmine**, *Jasminum nudiflorum*. It can bloom off and on between November and February. Some forms are hardy to USDA Zone 6, making it



<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/jasminum-nudiflorum>

suitable for most of western Oregon. This species is not fragrant, however, the bright yellow flowers add seasonal interest to the garden. It is almost vinelike and deciduous.



cont'd... Winter Blooming shrubs

Finally, two herbaceous plants—**cyclamen** and **hellebores**—are worth the effort. **Hardy cyclamen** (*Cyclamen coum*) flowers in November or December, followed by the emergence of the colorful heart or kidney-shaped variegated leaves. Flowers are usually a medium to deep pink with each flowering stem uncurling like a corkscrew as it emerges. The plant grows from an underground storage unit called a corm. The corms are often sold with the fall bulbs, but many nurseries offer them as potted plants as well. **Make sure that you shop for these by species names as less hardy species are also available.** The species comes to us from the Middle Eastern countries and is hardy to USDA Zone 5.

Hellebores of the genus *Helleborus* offer more wintertime interest. Sometimes

called the **Lenton Rose** or **Christmas Rose**, these plants come in several species, hybrids and color or foliage forms. Hellebores are sturdy plants that grow 1 to 2 feet tall, with large (2-4 inch wide) flowers in white, yellow, green, pink, or purple depending upon the species. **Some of the species are hardy to USDA Zone 4, making them suitable for gardens throughout most of Oregon.** Bloom times will vary depending on your climate, but in most places, you can expect blooming to begin by late February.



<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/dirt/index.cfm?tagname=hellebores>



OMGA MINI-SILENT AUCTION at the November OMGA Board of Director's Meeting *CHRISTMAS FOR YOUR GARDEN*

The stockings are getting fuller and fuller and the items in them are wonderful!!!!
Thanks to all the chapters who have contributed so generously and so creatively.

The photo catalog will be available soon. It will be sent to your OMGA Representatives, Alternate Representatives and your President.

The bidding process is as follows:

- ◆ Decide the item(s) on which you want to bid.
- ◆ Let your OMGA Representative know the maximum price you want to bid.
- ◆ At the November OMGA Board of Directors meeting you or your OMGA Representative will place your bid on the item(s) you selected.
- ◆ The highest bid wins.
- ◆ You or your chapter representative will pay for and collect the items after the meeting.

Come and join us for a great meeting and a fun Silent Auction.



OMGA Mini-College Update

Save the Date

Friday and Saturday, July 24 and 25, 2020



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener

**Oregon Master Gardener Association
and OSU Master Food Preservers
MINI-COLLEGE
at Oregon State University
CH2M HILL Alumni Center**

Plans are being made for an outstanding event that will include hands on workshops, lecture classes, tours, time to socialize with old friends and meet new ones and much more.

An **“organizing committee”** is hard at work. Other work groups will be formed in the near future and a call for assistance will be made. Please let either Eric Bosler (ericbosler@hotmail.com) or Sue Nesbitt (sue.nesbitt1231@gmail.com) know if you are interested in participating on one of the committees or have a talent you would like to share.

Circle these dates on your calendar now and plan to attend
an interesting, educational and fun gardening event.

APPRECIATING WITHOUT A LOT OF SUN

...by Jeana Schorr, MG Josephine County

Every foggy/rainy morning when I look out my big east-facing window (the reason we bought this house), I can almost hear the firs and pines sighing. Considering how much water the trees take up from fog, I'm probably not far off. We've lost a lot of trees the last few years due to drought, so I'm extra mindful of those I still have. I make sure nothing gets stacked under any of my trees and that over the summer the topography hasn't changed causing pooling of water or soil where it

doesn't belong. I keep an eye out for their overall health; any branches browning? We'd even considered watering a few of my pines last summer. After all, I love my giant pinecones, as do the squirrels. On ending my rounds recently, I noted Iris (we're assuming it's the same cute little bunny that hung out in our iris bed last year) has been doing some flower trimming. Oh well, I'm sure she'll leave some awesome deposits.



splinters from the Board

...by Marcille Anson, OMGA Secretary, Tillamook



3rd Quarterly Board of Director's Meeting - September 7th, 2019 at Linn County in Tangent, Oregon

An interesting Leadership Forum was presented by Jacob Lebel of Roseburg, OR, a plaintiff in Juliana vs. US, on how recent climate events are affecting his efforts to develop his small farm.

Patrice reported on treasurers' workshops she is presenting to help chapter treasurers learn good practices.

Gail, Langelotto, OMGA State Coordinator, reported on many staff changes taking place.

Gail gave guidelines for receiving educational credit for reading research-based publications related to sustainable gardening.

Gail reported on online urban ag courses and online Master Gardener courses available to help with Master Gardener training.

Sue Nesbitt reported on plans for 2020 Mini College to be held at OSU along with Master Food Preservers and asked for volunteers to help with planning.

State and Chapter Award certificates were presented to those receiving them.

Contact your chapter representatives to read a draft of the minutes from this meeting.

Executive Committee Meetings

Friday, February 6th

Location to be determined

Leadership Forums

Date

Location

Friday,
November 1st

Tillamook County

Topic/Speaker:

Grant Writing

Board of Directors Meetings

Date

Location

Saturday,
November 2nd

Tillamook County

Contact:

Linda Stephenson

Watch for announcements of times, speakers at the Leadership Forums and locations of each.

Third Quarter Leadership Forum - Climate Change

Our third leadership Forum for 2019 was held in Linn County on Friday, September 6. Our speaker was Jacob Lebel from Roseburg, Oregon. Jacob spoke to us about how climate change has affected his life and farm in Southern Douglas County. He explained a project he is spearheading on his farm called the Earth One Project. He spoke about his passion as a Climate Change activist and his work with the Children's Trust lawsuit. This is a first-of-its-kind climate change lawsuit against the U.S. government arguing that the government has a constitutional duty to not destroy the life and security of young people by causing climate change and environmental damage. The lawsuit is named **Juliana v U.S. More** can be found on this at OurChildrensTrust.org.

Fourth Quarter Leadership Forum - Grant Writing Workshop

The final Leadership Forum will be held in Tillamook County on Friday, November 1st. This will be a workshop on **Grant Writing**. At this meeting, we will also celebrate some past Karl Carlson, Search for Excellence, and Extension Educator recipients with short presentations on their individual projects.

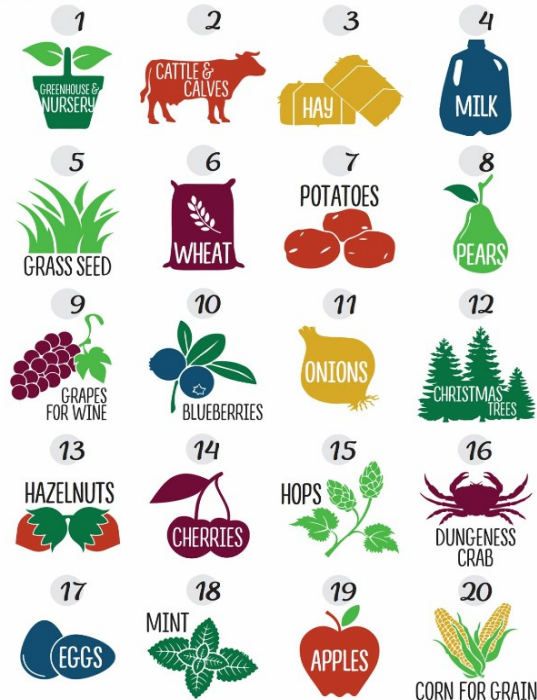


I hope that everyone will enjoy these topics. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Did you know...

Oregon's Top 20 Agricultural Commodities



Based on 2017 Data & Estimates of Value Production from National Agricultural Statistics Service, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, OSU and the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. This is not a ranking compared to other US states. More stats online at:



<https://oda.direct/AqFactsFigures> and www.oregon.gov/ODA - created 8/2018

Why do leaves change color in the Autumn?

Most of the spectacular colors of autumn have actually been in the leaves all summer, however they were "covered up" by the dominant green of the chlorophyll. As weather cools, and shorter days settle in, the chlorophyll begins to break down, revealing new and varied color pigments. The brightest colors are seen when late summer is dry, and autumn has bright sunny days and cool nights.



White Birch

GREEN - Chlorophyll

Chlorophyll is responsible for helping trees and plants turn sunlight into food. For most months, it is the dominant color seen in most leaves until it fades away. As many trees shut down their food production, they turn to stored sugars to survive the winter.



Swamp Chestnut Oak

RED - Anthocyanin

Unlike other leaf colors that always exist in the leaf, anthocyanins are produced as the chlorophyll is broken down. The anthocyanins are often seen in leaves named for their autumn splash of red including Red Maples, Scarlet Oaks, and Red Sumacs.



Sugar Maple

ORANGE - Carotene

Sugar Maples may be one of the best examples of carotene in action. Their bright signature orange fills many hills and country roads throughout the northern US. Sassafras leaves also turn a slightly more muted orange. As its name implies, Carotenes are also the chemical responsible for giving carrots their unique coloring.



Aspen

YELLOW - Xanthophyll

Xanthophyll can be seen throughout the fall in trees including beeches, ashes, birches, aspens, and some oaks. It also contributes its bright yellow color to autumn squash and corn.

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we grow gardeners



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The Gardener's Pen Newsletter
is published three/four times per year:
April, July, October and December/January
by the Oregon Master
Gardener Association.

Deadline for the December/January issue is:
No later than November 25th, 2019.

Theme: "Save the World Thru Gardening"
Please send your articles and photos to:
Marcia Sherry, Managing Editor @

GardenersPenNewsletter@gmail.com

OMGA™

2019 OMGA Executive Committee

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
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| 1st Vice President: | Vacant |
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