

The Gardener's Pen

Oregon Master Gardener Association Fall 2022

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News for all Master Gardeners in the state of Oregon

MINI-COLLEGE WAS A BLAST!

The Joy of Gardening Conference this past July once again fulfilled expectations for a fun, efficient and educational event. It was so nice to meet new (and old!) MG's in person. *See page 4.*

WHAT WE NEED

We need funding, from the state and local governments, to properly execute our mission of bringing THE BEST information to our constituents. Thousands of Oregonians depend on us to learn how to grow good food!

See page 2.

MG'S ARE BACK IN ACTION

Events are resuming with a force to bring research-based information, gorgeous plants and gardens to a county near you. Check out the offerings on page 4.

Join the Jackson County Master Gardeners for four separate days of conferences on Zoom. Fridays: October 28 and November 4 and Saturdays: October 29 and November 5. There are 16 classes offered including fruit tree pruning, challenges from a changing climate, grapes and berries, native plants and pollinators, adapted landscaping and preparing for fire. Most sessions will be recorded and available for a limited time for paid participants. Landscaper Board CEH re-certification available. For more information: <https://bit.ly/winter-summer-22>

WINTER
DREAMS



SUMMER
GARDENS

Sponsored by Jackson County Master Gardener Association



Meeting Recap

When: September 12, 2022

What: Fill vacant MG program positions in Benton/Linn, Clatsop/Tillamook and Douglas counties - and elevate MG programs statewide.

Who: Dr. Ivory Lyles, OSU Extension, Chris Rusch, OMGA president, Sherry Sheng, OMGA Advocacy Task Force

Extension will submit a \$21 million funding package to the Oregon Legislature; the request includes three positions for Master Gardener Program staffing.

Dr. Lyles wants the decision on staffing the MG Program to be deliberate and thorough. Therefore, he has charged a committee (three MGs: Chris Rusch, Sue Nesbitt, Judith Kenner and three extension regional administrators: Gail, Sam Angima and Weston Miller) to address the following by 6/30/2023:

1. Conduct a statewide needs assessment of master gardener needs as it relates to level of support. This needs assessment should not seek to identify qualifications or degree of people providing support to MG.

2. What structure should OSU Extension provide to ensure MG has the support as near as possible to the areas identified in the needs assessment? The committee is to discuss the needs assessment to identify the appropriate staffing pattern to align with need, curriculum, etc., with justifications.

3. How best to meet OSU Extension deliverables on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) commitment but with appropriate verification standards. *Report continues on pg 4.*

Emerald Ash Borer

Agrilus planipennis

What does it look like?



Female EAB beetles lay eggs on ash trees. After hatching, the larvae bore through the bark. (© D.B. Lyon)



© Matt Bertone

This cycle results in ash tree mortality. EAB has already killed tens of millions of ash trees in North America.



Adults can fly, and after emergence and mating, they seek out new trees.



EAB larvae create galleries as they feed on tree tissue beneath the bark.



Adult beetles exit through D-shaped holes chewed through the bark. (© Debbie Miller, USDA)



What is it?

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an exotic invasive wood-boring beetle that infests and kills ash trees in its introduced range. EAB presents a significant threat to ash trees throughout North America.

How will it impact Oregon?

Emerald ash borers are destructive pests that bore into ash trees and feed on tissue beneath the bark. EAB poses a serious threat to Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), and can potentially have devastating ecological and economic impacts if it is introduced to the Pacific Northwest.

What should you do?

Early detection and reporting is our best defense. Report a suspected EAB sighting to the OSU Plant Clinic. The OSU Insect ID Clinic also provides free insect identification.

OSU Plant Clinic

Department of Botany & Plant Pathology
bnp.oregonstate.edu/plant-clinic



Oregon State University
Extension Service



Where is it?

It was first discovered in 2002 in Michigan, but the emerald ash borer has since been detected in at least 30 more states.

Where did it come from?

The emerald ash borer is native to parts of Asia. It was likely transported to the U.S. in solid wood packing materials.

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING

Every quarter, your OMGA chapter representative reports the marvelous educational events you sponsor in your area. There are an astounding number of programs created and completed by the volunteer master gardeners in our state. Read the most recent report to get helpful hints from your fellow MGs.

Some of the things you can read about:

Field trips, water-wise garden, Garden Fair, enormous plant sales, Seed-to-Supper classes in demo garden, potlucks (+menus!), school vegetable and pollinator gardens (with a coordinator funded by local school district), Victory garden, donate produce to food banks, Grow-a-Row, mobile plant clinic, children's garden with heart-shaped beds based on storybooks! Plant Prowl: get-together to investigate several problems in a garden, private garden tours for our members, pizza luncheon for plant clinic volunteers, plant clinics at farmers markets, (Tillamook – with no county agent or program assistant – went to five different markets once a month!), give classes at a museum, seed library, SNAP ED at demo garden, community garden for Latinx community, participate in Kids Faire, partner with Rotary and other groups, propagation team, Backyard Habitat Certification, two-family "Open Garden" event. See "chapter reports" at: <https://omga.org/minutes-and-reports/>

Infected rosemary plant

Ligurian leafhopper . . . a new invasive pest to Oregon was first reported through the Lane County MG Plant Clinic. Please make sure your plant clinicians are aware of this tiny pest. Not much is reported for management strategies, other than Neem Seed meal looks promising for control (out of University of Florida). Responds to normal leafhopper management strategies. This pest seems particularly prevalent on plants in the mint family. <https://bit.ly/reportinvader>





Continued from page 2:

Dr. Lyles has asked the respective extension regional administrators to produce interim solutions for supporting master gardeners before there are funds for a permanent fix. There has been some action in Douglas, Linn, and Benton counties, he is waiting for recommendation from the regional administrator who oversees Clatsop and Tillamook counties.

Dr. Lyles reiterated that he wants to know what master gardeners need. This means: what kind of support? For example; plan and deliver training for new MGs, support current MG work in plant clinic and other types of gardening education, etc. With that information, he will do his best to fill those needs.



Joy of Gardening Conference

Although the temperatures were high during the two-day conference, most attendees rated it a success and are likely to return again. The silent auction, which included more than 170 items or baskets donated by chapters around the state, garnered \$5,136.99 to help replenish the OMGA operating budget. MG's attended a baseball game Thursday night, educational talks on Friday and Saturday, and enjoyed marimba music (and some line dancing!) at the awards banquet. Thank you to all who attended.



Get involved!

We need you to help lead the OMGA

All Master Gardeners can join the Executive Committee (not just chapter representatives). Please consider putting your experience and talents to work. Have fun, meet great MG's and make a big difference all across the state. Talk to your chapter rep or email Chris at crusch3837@gmail.com. omega.org/executive-committee/

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