

The Gardener's Pen

News for all of Oregon's Master Gardener volunteers

Ann Kinkley (Linn County), editor, gardenerspen@gmail.com

DESIGNING DARING DEMO GARDENS

Learn from fellow MGs, best practices, successful endeavors.

See page 3.

GARDEN FUTURE NEEDS HELPERS

Low water, no water, native plants, fire-wise designs and much more! See page 2.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Match your interests to the needs of our state. There's something for everyone! See page 4.

Oregon MG Program celebrates 50 years

The 2026 *Joy of Gardening* conference will focus on the 50 year anniversary of the Oregon Master Gardener program. Everyone is invited to participate in the planning committee, which will start soon. It takes a state-wide team to create our excellent annual conference. Contact: crusch3837@gmail.com

How to buy a native plant

A handy site from the Garden Ecology Lab: <http://bit.ly/46zB2Pu>

A few steps to help you find wild-type native plants, online or in-store.

STEP 1: Select your plant



Annual



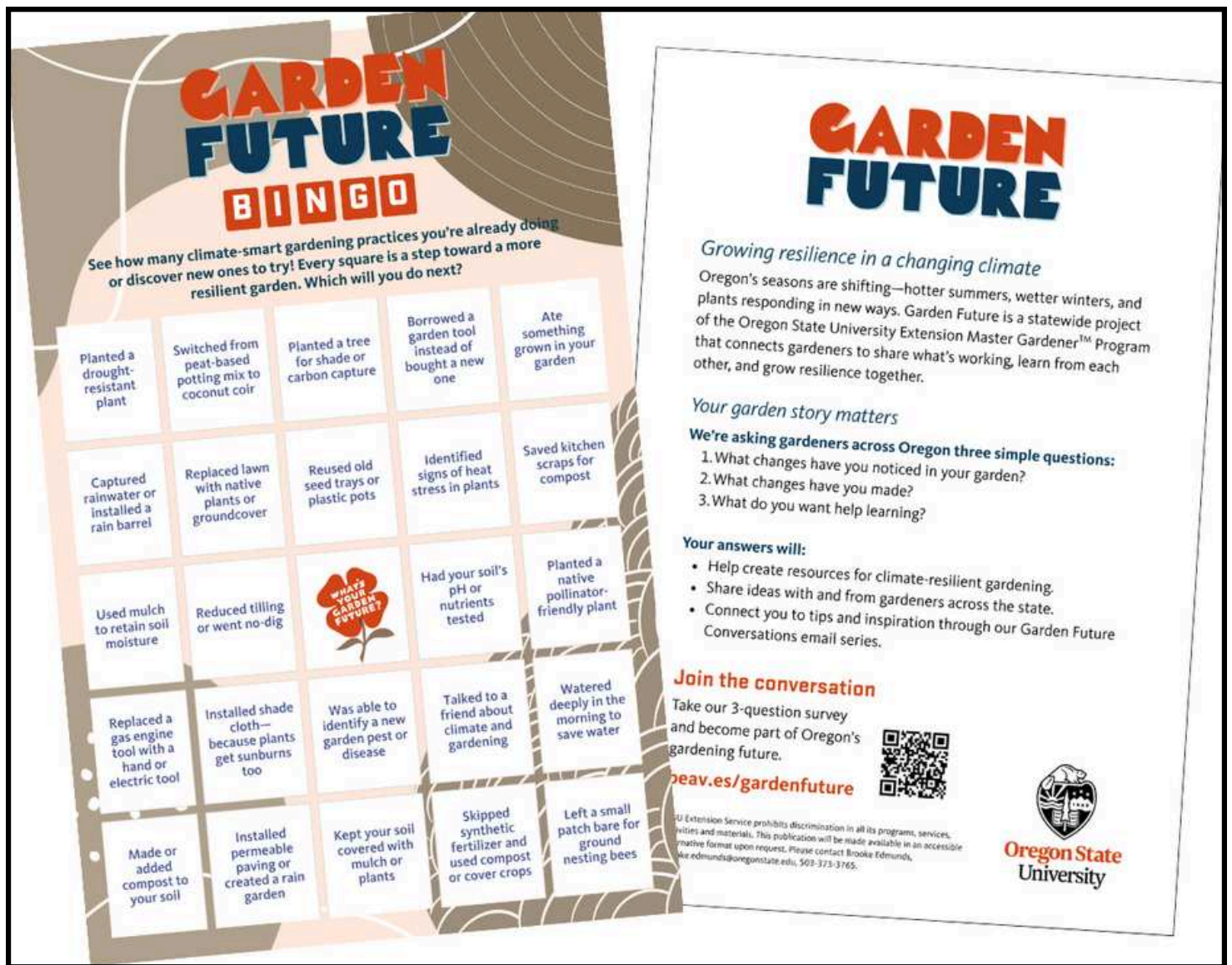
Perennial



Shrub



Tree



We've launched a new series as part of Garden Future (beav.es/gardenfuture) featuring climate resilient gardens in Master Gardener demonstration/education gardens. Please ask your **demonstration garden leads and teams** to participate, and make sure their good work is being featured. Stories are posted on our blog, on the demonstration garden feature page, and on the Garden Future resources page, as well as in our social media and Garden Future newsletters. That's a lot of recognition! See our first feature in this series, the Douglas County Inspiration Garden and their incredible xeriscaping work: <http://bit.ly/3lyuoki>.

Garden Future yard signs are here!

These signs, designed to stand out and spark curiosity, are a perfect way to highlight the areas of your demonstration garden that showcase climate-resilient plants and practices. You might place one in:

- A bed that requires little or no irrigation
- A pollinator- or native-plant-focused section
- An area with drought-tolerant techniques like dry farming
- A space designed for fire-wise gardening

The signs do more than mark a spot — they communicate to visitors that your garden is a living example of resilience in action. We've partnered with a small Oregon business that specializes in durable, eco-friendly signs. Ordering is simple (and affordable), and we've created step-by-step instructions to make the process easy. You'll find everything you need — including downloadable sign files — at the link below:

[Download files + ordering instructions here]



Resources for master gardeners

DO YOU WANT TO BE IMPRESSED?

And grateful for the excellent work done by our volunteers? Check out this beautiful [2025 Awards Booklet](#) detailing our statewide and local award winners, who were celebrated at our *Joy of Gardening* conference. Congratulations to all the winners!



Here are the upcoming OMGA board meetings for chapter representatives and guests. Get the Zoom link from your rep to hear what's happening around the state.

Quarterly board meeting:

Friday, November 7, 3:30-5:00pm

Retreat to plan for 2026:

Friday, December 5, 3:30-5:00pm

Are you interested in helping to *grow* a **Growing and Belonging Committee with OMGA?** Join the conversation. A group is starting up soon - please indicate your interest [here](#).

Here's a continuing education credit about "Cultivating Community Partnerships": <http://bit.ly/3KgO7FN>

Amazing accomplishments

Each quarter, your chapter representative sends a report to our board secretary - and we get to read about all the exciting activities and events our fellow MGs are doing. Not only that - it's a great place to get new ideas for your chapter, as well as learn other methods to accomplish your local goals.

<http://bit.ly/3IxxqoT>



Veteran Memorial Rose Gardens at Sorosis Park, The Dalles

Demo gardens galore!

Whether it be called a Learning Garden, Companion Garden, Sensory Garden, Native Garden, Experimental Garden, Veterans' Garden, Community Garden, Education Garden, Heritage Garden, Waterwise Garden, Food Bank Garden, Memorial Garden, Grow-a-Row Garden,

School Garden, Discovery Garden, Inspiration Garden, or Tribal Garden - by any name, they educate our communities with Open Garden days, tours for pre-school through high schools, senior living groups, day cares and garden clubs.

Find all 50 here: <http://bit.ly/4mt1Mac>

Our **website** is undergoing a make-over to give you the tools you need - when you need them. See our progress at omga.org.

Interested in politics?

Want to ensure the vitality of the master gardener program in Oregon? OMGA needs an advocacy chair.

Contact Chris at crusch3837@gmail.com



Ready for a new challenge?

In addition to your local chapter projects - there are many opportunities to **contribute to the statewide program**. We want to match your interests and skills to the needs of the greater organization, either through OSU-initiated endeavors or Oregon Master Gardener Association committees and events. We work together to seek out the needs of our constituents and provide the best way to meet them. **The size of your chapter doesn't matter!** *Joy of Gardening* conference planning, advocating for the Master Gardener volunteer program, managing social media and websites, connecting with community partners, educating the young and old, deeply delving into new research, etc. **Talk to your chapter representative**, Chris Rusch at crusch3837@gmail.com or Leann.locher@oregonstate.edu to get started! You'll be glad you did.

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING

Find more events here:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/events>

- Sept 20** Growing Native Plants - Beaverton
- Sept 27** Celebrando la Cosecha (Celebrating the Harvest) - Yamhill Co.
- Oct 7** Rainwater Harvesting for Landscape Use - Online
- Oct 11** Mason Bee Harvesting and Storing for Winter - Salem
- Oct 17-25** Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens - Online via Jackson Co.
- Oct 14** Stress Re-leaf: Saving Trees from Climate Burnout - Online
- Nov 15** Plant propagation by hardwood and softwood stem cuttings - Portland



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<https://oregonstate.edu/land-acknowledgment>

