The President's Post

Nancy Fuller

I was so hoping that all our social distancing would be over by now. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Though our county has begun to reopen under the Phase 1 guidelines from the state, OSU has not yet lifted the restrictions it's placed on the MG communities.

We have no official word as to when we may begin to get back into our greenhouses and Discovery Garden. As soon as we hear any changes, we'll be letting everyone know.

We are also not able to do community outreach at the farmer's markets or any other public venue, including the Douglas County Fair. Though the markets are open, we have to abide by OSU's guidelines, and the Fair has been cancelled. Let's hope that we'll be back out there soon.

The Executive Board is going to once again examine the chapter's financial status at the June 10th Zoom meeting. We've had some generous monetary donations from chapter members so we're going to see if and how much we can distribute to all the gardens and greenhouses and still have enough to pay all the bills and have an amount held back for any emergency. No one will receive their original full budgeted 2020 amounts, but the Board is hoping to equitably share some of the donations.

Shared by Kish Doyle

I've been told through emails and text messages that members' personal gardens have "never looked better". Though we can't garden together for now, we can still be out in the fresh air watching our vegetables, flowers - and weeds - grow. Enjoy!

Word from Steve

Douglas County Master Gardeners,

I know all of you are anxiously waiting to hear when we can start our OSU Extension Master Gardener activities again. We have been asked to follow the context of the Phase 1 reopening of Oregon counties that began on May 15th. OSU Extension is under different guidelines than Oregon businesses. For example, orders from the governor's office suspended in-person instructional activities at OSU and at Extension offices through June 13th.

We are still awaiting direction from OSU and OSU Extension, relating to face-to-face activities, events, and instruction. OSU Extension expects to hear from the governor's office within the next week with more detail about how and when we can begin our activities. I am looking forward to resuming our Master Gardener program in June if allowed and will share what changes will be necessary for our activities.

Eastside Greenhouse Project Continues

Bonnie Durick

Last fall began the outline of the project for the new tables and irrigation system in the plant nursery at the Eastside greenhouse. We applied for a grant from the Ford Family Foundation and were awarded a grant for $5,000. Work began before the first of the year and continued through the winter completing the building and setup of the tables outside. Still needed were funds to complete the revision of the irrigation system so we applied for a grant with the Cow Creek Foundation. Their closing date was March 1, 2020, and we just found out last week that we were awarded a grant for $2,500. We have the contract and once that is all signed and returned to them, we should expect the check to come the middle of June. They normally hand out the awards at an event at Seven Feathers to all recipients of their grant awards, but due to the current restrictions, the checks will be mailed. Once the check is in hand, work can begin to complete this project. A huge thanks to The Ford Family Foundation and the Cow Creek Foundation for their generous grants.

When will the Plant Clinic be open again??

If all goes well we will be opening our Plant Clinic in July. With all of the OSU guidelines and restrictions, we will most likely not be able to return to our program of old, at least for this year. At our first phase of opening we will be answering questions by the phone and emails, but not visiting with the public. Our staffing will be limited to just one person at a time. Hopefully this is not our “new normal”, but just a temporary setback to our program. We will begin our training program again a soon as it is safe to do so.

The Plant Clinic is one of our DCMG programs that reach out to our community to help people solve a wide range of gardening and landscape questions. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to reach out to our community this planting season as we usually do.

These are very trying times for everyone. Enjoy your time at home in your garden! Stay safe, everyone, and see you all on the other side of this.

JUNE GARDEN CALENDAR:

Maintenance and Cleanup

Prune lilacs, forsythia, rhododendrons and azaleas after bloom.

Fertilize vegetable garden one month after plants emerge by applying a side dressing alongside rows.

Harvest thinnings from new plantings of lettuce, onion and chard.

Pick ripe strawberries regularly to avoid fruit-rotting diseases.

Use organic mulches to conserve soil moisture in ornamental beds. An inch or two of sawdust, bark dust or composted leaves will minimize loss of water through evaporation.

After normal fruit drop of apples, pears and peaches in June, consider thinning the remainder to produce a crop of larger fruit.

Make sure raised beds receive enough water for plants to avoid drought stress.

Mid-June: If green lawns are being maintained through the summer, apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to lawns. If you want a green lawn, water frequently during periods of heat and drought stress. Irrigate 0.25 inches four to six times per week from June through August. Measure your water use by placing an empty tuna can where your irrigation water lands.

Pest Monitoring and Management

Spray cherry trees for cherry fruit fly, as necessary, if fruit is ripening.

Spray for codling moth in apple and pear trees, as necessary. Continue use of pheromone traps for insect pest detection.

Monitor azaleas, primroses and other broadleaf ornamentals for adult root weevils. Look for fresh

evidence of feeding (notching at leaf edges). Try sticky trap products on plant trunks to trap adult weevils. Protect against damaging the bark by applying the sticky material on a 4-inch wide band of poly sheeting or burlap wrapped around the trunk. Mark plants now and manage root weevils with beneficial nematodes when soil temperatures are above 55 degrees Fahrenheit. If root weevils are a consistent problem, consider removing plants and choosing resistant varieties

Control garden weeds by pulling, hoeing or mulching.

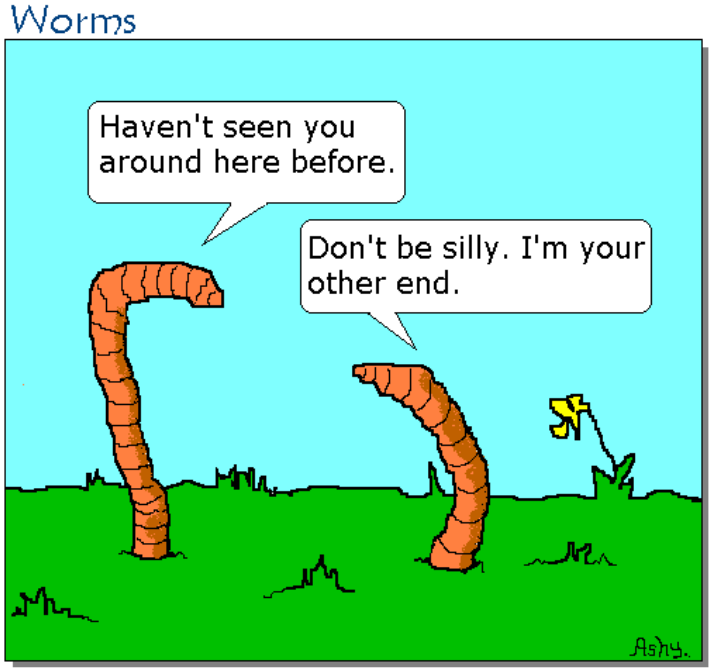
Control aphids on vegetables as needed by hosing off with water or by using insecticidal soap or a registered insecticide.

Watch for 12-spotted beetles on beans, cucumbers and squash and cabbage worms or flea beetles in cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts).

Continue monitoring blueberry, strawberry, cherry and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for spotted wing drosophila. If these pests are present, use an integrated and least toxic approach to manage the pests. To learn how to monitor and manage spotted wing drosophila.

Indoor Gardening

Move houseplants outdoors for cleaning, grooming, repotting and summer growth.



Treasurer's Report
Toni Rudolph

INCOME	
Donations	$9,745.95
Interest	$2.56
Soil Testing	$70.00
Black Apparel	$600.00
TOTAL INCOME	**$10,418.51**
EXPENSES	
Horticultural learning Center	$6.00
Plant Sale	$223.62
Black Apparel	$589.00
Utilities	$133.88
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$952.50**
Breakdown of our accounts at 5/28/2020	
NWCC - Checking	$3,194.59
NWCC - Reserve	$5,004.89
NWCC - MMK Savings	$31,280.15
Ending Balance	**$39,479.63**

Fred's Fav's

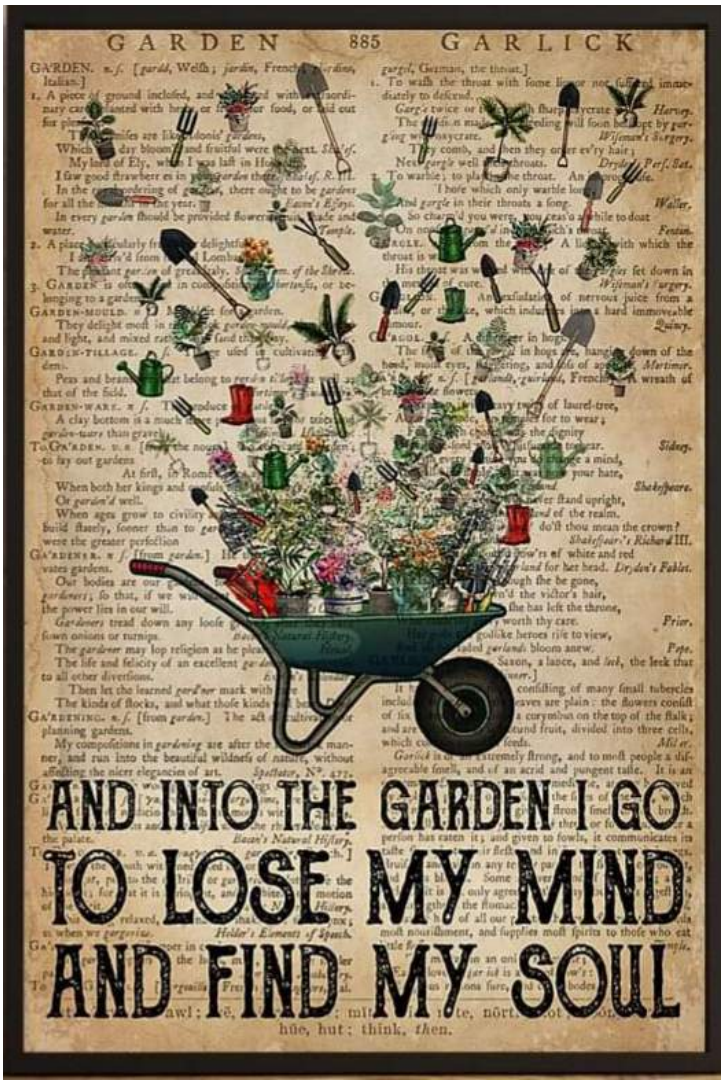
Low Input Gardening - A Sustainable System

Steve Renquist

On occasion during the past few years we have seen events in Oregon where non-target beneficial insects like honey bees have been killed by applications of pesticides, even when applicators were following the pesticide labels. It is the goal of our Master Gardener program and OSU Extension to teach people how to manage landscapes and food gardens in a low input sustainable way. Working within natural systems isn't always the easiest way to garden as it requires a great deal of knowledge about soil, plants, insects, disease, weather, watering and more. However, I find using knowledge a lot more satisfying as a good gardener rather than just using products to resolve problems. This style of gardening we teach is referred to as low input gardening or sustainable gardening.

Low input gardening is a systems approach to gardening. It starts when you plan your landscape. You need to ask yourself what plants will do best in my yard given the soil, exposure, and drainage. Think about which plants will best adapt to our climate, require the least amount of irrigation water, are the hardiest against insect and disease pests, and will provide you with enjoyment but not too much work. Once you've chosen the plants for your site with low input in mind you have already reduced the potential amount of necessary watering, fertilizing, and pest control.

If a problem does arise in your landscape, you should first look at cultural methods like the time you plant. If you plant too early, your heat-loving plants don't grow much and are more vulnerable to insects and diseases damaging or killing them. You must also learn to be patient with gardening chemicals. You often can resolve a plant problem by adapting cultural and physical practices that don't require a chemical. For example if you're raising roses and struggling to control black spot or powdery mildew you should plant varieties that are resistant to the diseases. Plant your roses in full sun not shade, and prune them each winter to maintain an open canopy. And, it is a good idea to keep your sprinkler water off the foliage. By attacking a problem using this method, the need for fungicides to control disease can be dramatically reduced. You can use integrated pest management (IPM) methods for most insect and disease problems. IPM coaches you to use cultural, and biological control methods before chemical controls. If you garden long enough you may have a problem with insects or disease that will require the help of a pesticide. When this happens look for the softest, least-toxic chemical control first. By using the least-toxic control first you create a safer gardening method for you and nature. An example would be the need to control codling moth with apple and pear crops. You cannot raise these crops without controlling these worms or larvae that tunnel into the fruit. You can choose controls that are safe for use around people and pets like Cyd-X, horticultural oil, and Surround clay. Remember that even though you are using low toxicity products they are still pesticides and require you to follow safe procedures like having proper personal protective equipment.



Asian Giant Hornet

(OSU Plant Clinic)

Insect pest species often arrive quietly and might go unnoticed until they become established and begin impacting local agriculture or forests. When you're the largest hornet species in the world, however, you're going to immediately be recognized as an out-of-towner.

That's exactly what happened near Blaine, Washington, when a resident alerted the Washington Department of Agriculture about the appearance of an unwelcome new invasive insect, the Asian giant hornet.

What is it?

The Asian giant hornet, *Vespa mandarinia*, is a large, exotic hornet that has only recently been reported in the US. They establish annual below-ground nests, and are usually dormant through the winter. You're most likely to encounter an Asian giant hornet in the spring and summer months, when workers are out foraging and virgins queens mate and disperse to establish new nests. Asian giant hornets can forage for long distances, and they prey on a variety of other insects, including honeybees.

How will it impact Oregon?

The Washington State Department of Agriculture quickly issued an alert after confirming reports of the Asian giant hornet near Blaine and Bellingham, Washington. Their quick action was driven by concern for the potential devastating impact that Asian giant hornets can have on the honeybee industry, pollination services, and crop production in the Pacific Northwest. In Europe, where the Asian giant hornet is already an invasive pest, they have shown that they can attack and quickly destroy honeybee hives.

What does it look like?

It's menacing appearance and painful sting have earned the Asian giant hornet some fearsome nicknames throughout its indigenous range, including *yak-killer hornet*, the *commander wasp* and the *tiger head bee*. Asian giant hornets are very distinctive looking, and not just because of their impressive size (workers are over 1.5 inches in length, and queens can be closer to 2 inches!). Adults have solid yellow-orange heads with large dark eyes, and a striped abdomen punctuated with a serious-looking stinger.

Where is it?

The Asian giant hornet was first reported on Vancouver Island BC in August 2019. Later that year, in December, the first confirmed reports of the introduced hornet in the US came from Blaine and Bellingham, Washington, near the US-Canadian border.

Where did it come from?

Exotic insects arrive in the US in a variety of ways. One possibility is that the hornets were "stowaways" in cargo or ballast material on a ship that crossed the Pacific from eastern Asia, where they are native. A single mated female can make the journey and then establish a colony in a new country.

What should you do?

Early detection and quick action is our best defense. If you see what you think is an Asian giant hornet, try to get a photo of it and send it to the OSU Insect ID Clinic, which offers free identification services. The best way to confirm is if you have a dead specimen you could send us. **Warning:** Asian giant hornets are not interested in people, but they will attack if disturbed.

Photos: Yasunori Koide

The Chemical Stew of Black Spot

OSU Plant Clinic Blog

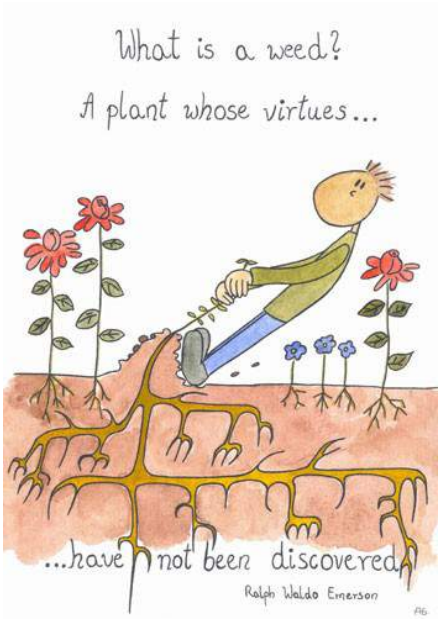
The intermittent rainfalls this spring in Western Oregon have been a bonanza for fungal diseases, and many are showing up earlier than we have seen in recent years. Take black spot of rose: a slowly creeping dark blemish on leaves that is followed by leaf yellowing and leaves that fall to the ground with a very soft “kerplunk”.

The disease is easy to recognize. The spots often have feathery edges and at first look somewhat sooty. The spots darken as the disease advances, and several can, after weeks, merge together to form a large, unsightly blotch. The black spot fungus/rose leaf combination is actually a veritable chemistry laboratory, right in your own yard. The leaf yellowing that occurs with the black spotting is due to metabolites formed by the fungus: phenolics and amino acids. The natural gaseous hormone ethylene, which is produced in high amounts in infected leaves (but not high enough for them to be flammable), is responsible for the leaves dropping from the twigs. That’s one of the things ethylene does in plants.The fungus can also infect stems of susceptible varieties, causing purple blotches while it make itself a comfy place to live. Fallen leaves under plants may be dead, but the fungus isn’t, and will produce spores under moist conditions and moderate temperatures, allowing reinfection of new leaves as they are formed. Spores are spread in water splash (rain! sprinklers!) and by gardeners working around wet plants.

Black spot is caused by the fungus *Marssonina rosae*, which is a real free-loader, hitching rides with wherever roses are shipped, including islands in the South Pacific.

Susceptible varieties can be nearly defoliated in a bad year, while those with resistance may have a few spots, but don’t take on the nude look. Maintaining good cultural practices, such as siting the roses properly by avoiding shady spots, and keeping water off the leaves, providing sufficient irrigation during dry spells, and giving the plants some nutrients now and then will help to prevent black spot by encouraging good plant vigor. For plants that seriously need protection, as those in display gardens, fungicides can be used.

A Little Weed Humor



Virus or no virus, MG's are still going to garden. Here's what some of your DCMG friends have been up to:

Vicki McAlister

I have been fighting voles. We saw them running around in the plants - as many as five at a time. They were loving our plants and the spilled bird seed from our feeder. After browsing the web, I came up with a trap that seemed to work well. I managed to catch five within a week. One of my mouse traps disappeared but I think that the vole died. I'm still monitoring but haven't seen any for more than a week.

The trap is made from the corrugated plastic that is commonly used for political signs these days. I cut it to make the tunnel with the channels up and down. Then, I sliced one side of the plastic in two lines to be able to fold into the tunnel shape. I used pieces of the sign holder for the pins to hold the tunnel in place - just push into the dirt over the path that you are trapping on. I initially started with two mouse traps inside with the trigger facing out but found that a single trap works well. One hint - tie a string onto the trap and hook to one of the pins to keep the vole from getting away with the trap.

I've also been enjoying spring in the Umpqua. The rhododendrons have been beautiful, but the hot weather was not good for the flowers. I spent the day yesterday trimming spent flowers!

Linda Thames

I harvested my very first head of cauliflower & ate some of it at lunchtime. It's gorgeous & delicious. I thank Betty Ison for sharing her starts with me!!!

So sorry to hear that Tasha King posted on Facebook that she has fallen & broken her ankle. I'll be sending her a card. I also sent out a card to Anne Waddington who is recovering from heart surgery at the ICU in Providence St. Vincent's hospital in Portland. Have sent several thank you notes for donations of various items that benefit the Discovery Gardens/MGs.

Anne Waddington

I am presently in the ICU at Providence St. Vincent's in Portland recovering from heart surgery. My Occupational Therapist (teaches me how to do things when I get home) is a Master Gardener in Washington County and designed the garden outside the window in the ICU - she and other nurses planted it! This is the most wonderful hospital I have ever been in, and I have been in a few, both here, in England and Ireland! Here's a picture of it:

Lenore Drake

Roses

The rose distills a healing balm
The beating pulse of pain to calm - Moore

Roses from My Garden

Purple Splash - Climbing Rose

Gemini HT

Altissimo - Climbing Rose

Wedding Party - F

Betty Boop - F

Nancy Fuller

Finding the purple Forktooth Ookow in the meadow really made me smile - haven't seen it in a few years and it's now in multiple areas.

The pale blue flax also brings a smile with its delicate markings and almost translucent petals.

Karolyn Riecks

I have been enjoying my Thai Silk Poppies. Attached is a photo of one that almost looks like a painting. I bought the seeds from Territorial many years ago. They are a variety of California poppy, Papaver 'Thai Silk Mix' and they reseed every year. Originally I planted the seeds in two beds, but now I have found them growing in my garden as well with no help from me. Eventually the poppies revert to the original California Orange. But I have been fortunate that I still get a good number of 'Thai Silk'. Unfortunately they only flower in the early summer.

Fred Alley

This is Maggie, on top of the rock bench and Smokey on the ground, next to the fallen rock cairn. This is my dry creek area planted with a variety of alpine plants. The cats love to lay at this location, because it's in the shade. The cats are between two large red lipstick plants, frequented by hummingbirds. What cat can't resist watching a hummingbird close up during an afternoon nap? I have many small and large rock cairns. They are believed by Native Americans to be a "Protective Entity". Hopefully they'll protect the hummingbirds!

Terril Lowe

We tried growing the Oregon Spring tomato this year (developed at OSU). So far we've been impressed. Put seedlings in the ground May 8, and already have several golf-ball sized fruit. Hopes are high for a nice plate of home grown, ripe tomatoes for Fourth of July!

Kathy Hart

Here are some Russell Lupine - 'Lady Chatelaine' - from our garden.

Ruth Stafford

I thought this was a fun link that people might enjoy.
The Story of Flowers

Remember When?
Here's to Getting Back to Normalcy

Douglas County Master Gardeners

Newsletter: The deadline for the July 2020 Newsletter is June 29. E-mail submissions to Bonnie Courter: rbcourter@gmail.com

Website: www.douglascountymg.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Master-Gardeners/251882398200487

Horticulture Agent: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/horticulture, steve.renquist@oregonstate.edu

OSU Douglas County Extension Service: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas

OSU Gardening Information: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening

OSU Master Gardeners Program: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/mg

Oregon Master Gardeners Association (OMGA): www.oregonmastergardeners.org

Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener

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