



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™



CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2023
CGMGA & OMGA

Cindy Collins

One of our long time Master Gardeners, Cindy Collins died peacefully at home during the predawn hours of July 3, 2023. A full moon was shining brightly above her rustic farmhouse in the mid Hood River Valley, and Cindy adored full moons.



Surrounding her home in the moonlight were her carefully tended gardens and her orchard where she grew cherries and pears. Cindy's path to becoming a successful orchardist was multidimensional, much like Cindy herself. She was born in San Francisco on November 11, 1959, and was later joined by three brothers. Her family relocated to Lakewood, WA where a small cabin near White Pass Ski Area became their weekend home, allowing all of the Collins siblings to become expert skiers and ski racers. Cindy's favorite race was the downhill, the event that involved the greatest speed and risk.

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Month at a Glance

Aug 3: Thursday: 9-10am: La Jardinería radio show in Spanish <https://radiotierra.org/>

Aug 9: Wednesday: 10-12 pm: CGMGA Executive Committee meeting at Extension meeting room and via zoom (contact Christie Bradley for link)

Aug 17: Thursday: 9-10am: La Jardinería radio show in Spanish <https://radiotierra.org/>

Aug 17: Thursday: 5:30pm: Garden Visit at Elaine Johnson's house in Hood River (details below)

Aug 18: Friday: Deadline for submissions to the August CGMGA newsletter

Aug 25: Friday 8am: Master Gardeners on the radio, KIH 1360

Oct 7: Saturday: 4pm: Garden Visit at Dennis Carlson's to tour his homestead focused on growing food.

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After a successful fourteen-year career in the high-tech industry, Cindy made a dramatic career change when, as she put it, "I bought the farm." She gradually mastered the art of fruit farming, and her curiosity and fearless approach to problem solving allowed her to tackle the technical complexities of farm machinery and infrastructure. Cindy simultaneously found time to restore her old farmhouse and classic barn, and she planted gardens everywhere that transformed her property into what felt like heaven on Earth. After joining Central Gorge Master Gardeners in 2006, she took on leadership roles and was named Master Gardener of the Year in 2009. She earned this honor through serving as the e-newsletter editor, Co-leader of the Spring Plant Sale (before the Master Gardener greenhouse was built), establishing irrigation at the Learning Garden, and teaching pruning classes for other Master Gardeners, local Garden Clubs, and the public. She also was elected to the Board of Directors of the Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District, where she served from 2008 until 2020.

Cindy had many talents and often made her own clothes and knitted many sweaters and hats for herself and others. There was always at least one jigsaw puzzle



in progress in her home. During harvest time she could be found drying, canning, or baking with the fruits from her orchard and vegetables from her garden. Cooking and entertaining also brought her great joy. The multiple flower beds she established around her home are evidence of her skill in landscape

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Work Parties:

Library Garden: Fri, Aug. 8-10am

Learning Garden: Thurs, Aug. 10: 8-11am
Thurs, Aug. 24: 8-11am

FISH Garden: Sat, Aug. 5: 9-12pm
Sat, Aug. 12: 9-12pm
Sat, Aug. 19: 9-12pm
Sat, Aug. 26: 9-12pm

Parkdale Memorial Garden: Wed, Aug. 16: 9am
(contact Nancy Slagle)

design. Her black labs, Arthur, and later Beau, were her constant companions in her orchard, and home. Her longtime partner, Dick Iverson, shared much of her life and enjoyed great times with her.



In her final years of life, the cancer that she had survived, and gracefully kept at bay for over 13 years, began to overtake her. She continued to operate her orchard, go skiing with friends, prepare the most amazing foods, and recently was making plans to add flowers to her flower beds. Her family and friends will miss her deeply in many ways, but most of all we will miss her calm, warm, and gentle manner that belied the heart of a lioness that lay within.

A Celebration of Life will be held on August 12, 2023 at 3 PM in Cindy's barn on her orchard at 4374 Willow Flat Road, Hood River. All those wishing to share in the joy of her life are welcome to attend.

Donations in Cindy's memory may be either sent to Central Gorge Master Gardener Association, 2990

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Experiment Station Drive, Hood River, OR 97031 or made via Square to her Memorial Fund, <https://square.link/u/T5XVn7V>

Cindy was a dear friend, neighbor, fellow Master Gardener, and an all-around good person. She took on challenges and taught herself whatever she did not know but needed to know. She was a contributor in every facet of her life. She fought a difficult battle with humor and grace. Sandi

Cindy taught me much about pruning and so much more. So talented! So kind. So smart. I will miss her. Anne Saxby
My best memory of Cindy is when she taught an irrigation class for MGs, maybe 2010. I learned that I didn't have to hire out all the time and that I could figure out how to repair my irrigation. She was just one of the kindest and smartest women I've known. Best, Louise

A little white truck and a big black dog. A friendly barn and a friendly porch with Mt Adams watching over a well-run orchard. A really nice person smarter than many. A large smile. John

Soft-spoken, a hard worker who shared her knowledge and vision as she planned her gardens and orchards. A skilled knitter. The baker of great cherry pies! Arthur and later Beau were always there for our annual potting parties. Shari

Cindy's leadership, organization, knowledge and sharing will always be appreciated. She taught me how to prune my Japanese maple will still always think of her as it changes colors throughout the season. Kathy Lien

Cindy served on the SWCD board from 2008 – 2020. When I came to the District in 2018, she stepped in and helped me with her amazing computer and

accounting skills. Her support and kindness were invaluable. Heather Hendrixson

I will always remember the time Cindy took to spend with me. Teaching me the importance of understanding "the why" of what we do. To approach the world with a curiosity and approach people with kindness as they are all teachers from which we can learn. Kris Schaedel
Both as a Master Gardener and later as a dear friend and colleague, Cindy is one of my sheroes. She was soft-spoken, but confident and clearly capable – running her own orchard and amazing garden. She (and her dog – the calmest lab on the planet – Arthur) were always



friendly welcoming faces with whom I always looked forward to spending time. I'm so grateful to have gotten to share paths with her for a while. Jordan Kim

Cindy was pure joy, full of goodness, and lived life well. I'm forever grateful to have had a close friendship with this amazing woman. Whether I was picking Cindy up for a day on the slopes, dropping by to work with her in her flower beds, or to share a meal at her home, I'd always be greeted the same way. Her black lab, Arthur, and later Beau, would run alongside my car

announcing my arrival with deep Labrador barks. As my fur nephew would be 'helping' me out of my car, I'd look up to see Cindy walking towards me with arms outstretched saying, "Hey, you!", followed by a warm hug.

After meeting through Master Gardeners, our love of skiing and snowboarding is one of the things that brought us closer together. Her ability on skis and mine on a snowboard were nearly equal. We'd take turns driving to Meadows, and calling what run we'd do next. We'd also get tired at the same time and after

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getting on our final chairlift for the day, we'd look at each other and say in unison, "Last run." This would be followed by light snacks at the car and a stop at Sawtooth Roadhouse for salad, pizza and a beer on the way home.



We had the opportunity to work together in her many flower beds throughout our friendship. Whether it was cleaning up winter tree debris from her shade beds, weeding the flower bed near her barn and planting annuals in preparation for her niece's wedding, or cutting back tulips and daffodils after their blooms had faded, we always enjoyed each other's company and had a great time.

Cindy's home was also warm and welcoming. There was often the aroma of fresh baked goods wafting through the air, with a wood fire burning in her fireplace on cooler days. At cherry and pear harvest time, her dehydrator would be in constant use, while newly filled canning jars lined her kitchen counter. Produce from her vegetable garden would be preserved, shared, or consumed with family and friends. Cindy loved to entertain and her home was stocked with essentials so that casual events could happen at any time.

The conversations that Cindy and I shared never ended... we'd just take breaks to pay attention to other parts of our lives, and pick up where we left off the next time we were together. There were also times where we'd enjoy the view from her deck with a beer in hand, and say nothing at all.

Cindy was pure joy, full of goodness, and lived life well. I'm forever grateful to have had a close friendship with this amazing woman.

Margo Dameier

Notes from the President

I write this with cherry-stained fingertips since my one cherry tree was exceedingly prolific this year. Over 200 pounds of cherries – not counting what the birds snacked on. I hope your gardens and orchards are providing an abundant harvest as well.

Thinking of cherries always makes me think of my friend, Cindy Collins, who died in July after a long struggle with cancer. She was an amazing cherry and pear orchardist here, after an earlier successful career in IT. As a Master Gardener she was a driving force in getting our Plant Sale going and I worked with her for several years when we rehabilitated and first started using the OSU glass greenhouse. She was focused and got things done. But she also had a very kind heart and was there for support and help whenever you needed it. I will miss her greatly, but I'm so glad I got to know her through Master Gardeners.

I was able to meet some more Master Gardeners in July at the Joy of Gardening Conference in Corvallis. The conference was totally enjoyable and I picked my sessions well. My favorite was the Shitake Mushroom growing class where we got to drill holes in logs and inject mushroom spawn. Best of all I won the mushroom log the instructor was giving away! It will sit in a moist corner of my garden for several more months until it hopefully starts to fruit.

We were also able to visit an Inspiration Garden in Independence Oregon which lives up to its name. There are about 20 different sections to this 7 acre linear garden and it was entrancing to walk through it. All maintained by the Polk County MG group. It's easy to find if you want more inspiration for your garden. Perhaps next year when YOU go to the Joy of Gardening conference!

In the meantime, we have another Garden Visit here in August. Hope to see you then.

Leanne Hogie

CGMGA & OMGA



Lots of GardenTainment options for this month. Save these ideas for the future if you're having fun playing outside now. But if the smoke and heat come in here are some indoor distractions.

First, when I was in Corvallis for the MG conference, I saw a Board Games store downtown. Who knew those even existed anymore??? I looked at lots of interesting options but then I saw "Gartenbau", a gardening board game. If you make it through all the levels the winner is crowned "The Master Gardener"! Well, I had to purchase that game and can't wait to play it with 3 of you. You board game fans contact me and we can figure out a time to make that happen.

OMGA

The OMGA educational conference "*Joy of Gardening*" (JOG) 2023 is in the books and by all reports was a great success. The keynote presentation by *Andony Melathopoulos* was extra special. His work with native pollinators and the Oregon Bee Atlas is amazing. We will be seeing more about this great educator and his work. A YouTube of his presentation is available: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hwRMq7rz_Y

Thank you to CGMGA for support for JOG. The contribution to the Silent Auction is most sincerely appreciated and is a big help in putting on this annual event. Special thanks to our friend Marbe Cook. Her beautiful art quilt was the center piece of the Send-A-Friend raffle which hit a new high in support of the scholarship fund which assists Master Gardeners with the cost of attending JOG.

At the 11th hour the Oregon State Legislature passed a budget which increased funding for OSU programs. As a direct result 4 vacant positions in the Extension Master Gardener program will be funded. This is great

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A couple of other ideas came in from other Master Gardeners last month. If you like mysteries, Camille Jones recommends the British show "Rosemary and Thyme". It is about two women who are gardeners and in addition to the plant and garden activities they also solve crimes, similar to Murder She Wrote. Britbox is the best way to watch it but you can get a 7-day free trial on Amazon if you have Amazon prime.

If you like trees and like to read Shari Bosler suggests "The Power of Trees" by Peter Wohlleben, author of "The Hidden Life of Trees." A chapter titled "Red Flags for Aphids." had amazing descriptions of the color change of fall leaves, including a discussion from Switzerland on how deciduous trees are changing their behavior in response to climate change! It's a complicated world out there.

Leanne



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news. While it's not impossible for a MG Chapter to function without a coordinator (CGMGA has done it) leadership directly empowers a chapter to flourish and better serve the Mission. CGMGA is a prime example of this.

The advocacy project, spearheaded by Clackamas MG Sherry Sheng, was directly responsible for the successes with the state budget and for OSU increasing the resources focused on the Master Gardener program. Thank you to Sherry and to our local participants Beth Flake and Leanne Hogie.... Great Job!

Leadership on the statewide level is also critical. Unfortunately, the process to find someone to fill the vacancy left in the OSU Extension MG managers position when Gail Langellotto moved on to a role more focused on teaching and research, has experienced a setback at the candidate offered the position has declined for personal reasons. Brooke Edmunds, whom you all know, has stepped in as interim manager. The search will resume shortly.

Summer, as usual, will be a busy time in all aspects of the Master Gardener program. It's great to be involved with our projects and reap the fruits of our labor. But, whether a Garden Visit, work party, or at the celebration of Cindy Collins, a wonderful Master Gardener friend recently passed, take an opportunity to share time with one another and to appreciate the great experience of being a Master Gardener.

Eric, CGMGA rep

EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

HRSWCD Weed of the Month: Puncturevine – A Painful Pest Invading Hood River



Photos by Rich Old, XID Services, Inc. Bugwood.org

Puncturevine is a sprawling annual plant that forms a dense mat with very sharp, spiny seed heads. Also known as goathead, puncturevine has branched stems that can spread up to 6 feet wide, stemming from a single

crown. Flowers are small, yellow and have 5 petals. The leaves are hairy, 1-3 inches long, and divided into leaflets, each about 1/4 inch long. The seed head is woody with very sharp spines. Seeds are easily spread

by sticking into footwear, vehicle tires and animals. Puncturevine thrives in sunny, dry, rocky locations such as roadsides or gravel parking lots. This plant poses serious problems for recreationalists and agriculturalists alike. The seeds can easily puncture a bike tire, inflatable raft or dog's paw. Plants are actively producing seeds now and will continue to do so until the first frost.

Puncturevine has been found throughout Hood River County, including along the Mosier-Twin Tunnels trail, the Hood River waterfront, the Odell industrial area, Eastside Road, Lost Lake Road and along Tucker Rd. It has also been found in area farms and open spaces where seeds are being spread by tractor tires and other activities. If you see it, pull it and please report it to the Oregon Invasives Hotline at

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EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

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www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org or 1-866-INVADER. Unfortunately, Hood River County does not have the capacity to address infestations of this weed. Landowners should be prepared to address any infestations found on their own property. To remove it, try to get the entire taproot and all the seeds, bag it and put it in the garbage for landfill disposal. This is one weed to get before it gets you!

Heather Hendrixson, HRSWCD



Photo by L. Scott



Photo by Rich Old, XID Services, Inc. Bugwood.org

Your Trees are Thirsty

by Karen Jenkins

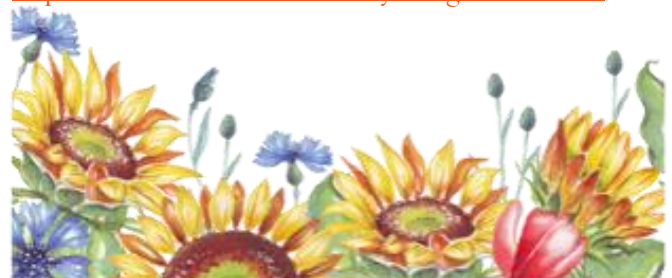
Warm, breezy days and lots of sun this summer. While many native plants are well adapted to the Gorge's hot, dry, summers it is good to have a watering plan for your most valuable landscape plants, including your trees. How long does it take to replace a fifty year old tree? Maybe another 50 years, or a big check to cover the cost of hiring professionals to transplant a mature nursery tree. When the mercury rises, and Mother Nature doesn't offer any help know which trees in your garden will need an extra drink of water before they show signs of drought stress.

One of my favorite tips is to take a bucket (empty 5 gallon cleaned out paint bucket) and drill 2- 4 small (1/16th inch) holes in the bottom. Place the bucket at the dripline of the tree, fill with water from the hose, and let the water slowly drain into the soil. Move the bucket around the root zone and repeat, depending on much water you'd like your tree to have. Remember that deep watering once or twice a month is better than more frequent shallow watering. Interested in more



information on watering plants? Visit the landscape plant page at UFL:

<https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/irrigation2.shtml>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Garden Visit at Hope Ranch Lavender

By Margo Dameier

About 30 Central Gorge Master Gardeners and guests gathered for the second Garden Visit of the 2023 season on July 13 at Hope Ranch to see and learn more about lavender. The picture-perfect summer day progressed into a spectacular evening while a delicious potluck dinner and lavender lemonade were enjoyed by those in attendance.

Hope Ranch is owned by Mike and Ivy Roulette, but Mike credits the success of the farm to Ivy who earned her Central Gorge Master Gardener certification in 2010. Demands of new ownership and establishing their farm while giving birth to, caring for, and homeschooling their three children, Grace, Ben and Olivia, have put her Master Gardener efforts on the back burner for the time being. She has plans to recertify in the future and we look forward to her return to our Association.

Ivy loves everything about lavender. She actually glows while educating others about this beautiful aromatic herb. We also learned about their crop failure in their first year, and how community volunteers showed up and removed the thousands of dead plants while Mike was undergoing medical treatment. After much research and consulting a lavender specialist, they learned that the wrong variety of lavender was shipped to them. The variety that they received simply does not grow in the wet winter conditions of the PNW. This knowledge enabled them to begin planting varieties that thrive in the Gorge. She also explained that after lavender has bloomed, it doesn't tolerate overhead watering. Established plants in bloom should receive occasional drip irrigation when the weather is hot and dry.

Ivy also spoke about the best way to dry lavender, how to make lavender sugar for use in baking, the distilling process for extracting oil, and the types of products that she makes with the lavender she grows.

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FISH Garden

At the FISH garden we have had to cancel Wednesday afternoon work due to the heat. So, in August our work parties will be every Saturday at 9am-12pm. The dates are August 5, August 12, August 19, and August 26. (There is no perfect day, all things considered).

On August 26, we are going to have a **Tomato & Pepper Tasting Plus** from 10am to 12pm at the FISH garden. It is open to the community. We are looking for people who grown a lot of these, with many varieties, to donate samples. You can come and sing the praises of your favorite variety, or we can get them from you and present them. Details to follow. There will be other tables on tool cleaning and vermiculture and maybe more.

-Tracy

Waterwise Garden

Please join the Hood River Library team for another special summer work session from 8 to 10 on August 4. We will resume our regular third-Friday work parties in September.

Questions or comments? Text Norma at 509-969-2187.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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If you weren't able to attend the Garden Visit, or would like to return to this magical spot in the Hood River Valley, Hope Ranch Lavender, 2585 Fir Mountain Road, Hood River, OR is open to the public six days a week (closed Tuesdays) in the summer months. Visit www.hoperanchlavender.com for current hours, and be sure to read the article about Hope Ranch on page 64 of the Summer 2023 edition of The Gorge Magazine. Available free at various locations throughout the Gorge.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Visits—Save the Date!

We had a wonderful evening at Hope Ranch Lavender Farm in July. Our August potluck and garden visit will be at Elaine Johnson's house in Hood River. Please join us. Garden visits are open to Master Gardeners and their partners to gather together, learn from each other, socialize and most importantly enjoy a potluck meal.

Date: Thursday, August 17th

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: 1201 Cascade in Hood River

Pot Luck: Bring all of the usual accessories if you can, i.e. chair, plate, fork, napkin, drink, and dish to share. If you are unable to bring a dish to share, your company is enough.

In October, we'll have our last garden visit of the season at 4 PM on Saturday, October 7th at Dennis Carlson's to tour his homestead focused on growing food.

Thanks much,
Beth Flake



SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

Scott Fitch

by Stephanie Gale-McKnight

In Master Gardener years, Scott Fitch has been a Master Gardener for two and a half lifetimes. In non-MG years, that's 25 years (so from 1998!). Any way you look at it, that's a "wow!" As if that wasn't a big enough deal, Scott has also been awarded MG of the Year 2000, Behind the Scenes 2005, Outstanding Cooperator Award 2005 and Lifetime Master Gardener 20 Years of Service. That's a lot of swinger bars.

Scott grew up pulling quack grass with his brother in the Idaho wheat fields. However, despite that or maybe because of that, he still developed a love of gardening and the soil. He even spent his entire career working with the soil and environment. While he grew up in Idaho, he lived and worked in varied places, such as, Bend, the coast, The Dalles and Hood River.

So, to say that Scott has always been a "soil person" would be an understatement. Although he is quick to point out he is only one of many "soil people" in the Master Gardener program. When asked what he is excited about for the future, he cites the current experiment of the black plastic covering part of the garden space at the Fish Food Garden which hopefully will help eradicate some of the

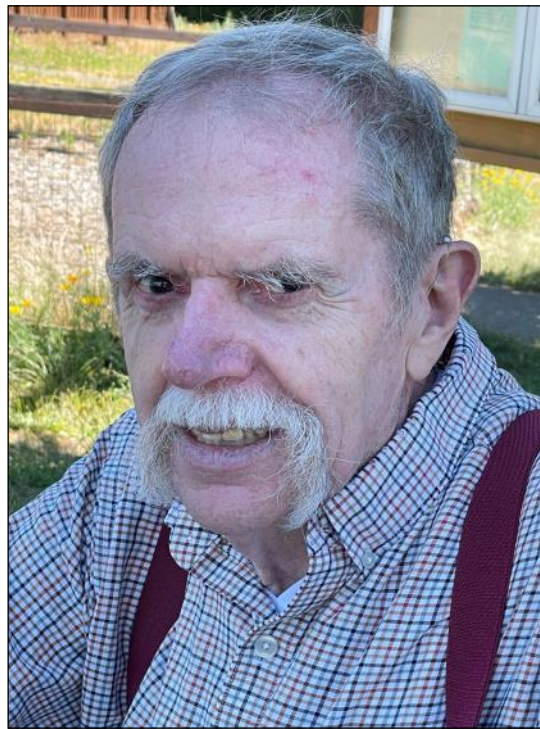
quack grass (I sense a theme here.) underneath and then with mulch (his area) will hopefully double the production space. Scott volunteers multiple days a week on the mulch there. He is also quick to put in a plug for more volunteers. "People addicted to weeding" as he says.

Scott's enthusiasm for the garden is understandable considering his history with the garden. He has been volunteering there since when he was part of a "van

crew" that came from The Dalles to work in that garden. Yes, it's as epic as you think, a minivan of Master Gardeners who traveled together to garden. At that time, Scott was living in The Dalles where he became certified as a Master Gardener. He had heard of the program from his co-worker, Fred Paige (he and his wife Patricia owned the van), and a small advertisement in the local newspaper. That, along with his already established love of gardening sealed the deal. Fred, Patricia, and Elizabeth Daniel (who lived in Mosier) were his van mates. Scott is quick to point out that he "stood on their shoulders."

They were his mentors in the Master Gardening world, and he gives them full credit to this day. Scott has been through the garden transitioning from a church affiliated garden to a master gardeners garden.

When asked what keeps him volunteering and active in the organization all these years, he states his continuing love of gardening and always learning. In fact, his favorite gardening advice (if he could just give one piece of advice to new gardeners) is "if you don't get the seed out of the seed packet, you won't have a crop." Solid advice for all of us, so just get out there and garden! Scott said so.



In order to allow time for formatting the CGMGA Newsletter, please submit articles or calendar items by **the 3rd Friday**. Send newsletter information to Shari Bosler at sharibosler@hotmail.com. Thanks!



Gardening Resources

- | | |
|--|--|
| ◇ <u>Hood River County Master Gardeners</u> | ◇ <u>Area</u> |
| ◇ <u>blogs.oregonstate.edu/cgmga/</u> | ◇ <u>GardenSmart: A Guide to Non-Invasive Plants</u> |
| ◇ <u>Growing Your Own</u> | ◇ <u>Where to Pickup a free copy of GardenSmart</u> |
| ◇ <u>OSU Publications</u> | ◇ <u>Oregon Flora</u> |
| ◇ <u>Monthly Gardening Calendars</u> | ◇ <u>https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/</u> |
| ◇ <u>PNW Handbooks</u> | ◇ <u>Transplanting Established Trees & Shrubs</u> |
| ◇ <u>HortSense</u> | |
| ◇ <u>UC IPM</u> | |
| ◇ <u>OSU Gardening</u> | |
| ◇ <u>WSU Gardening</u> | |
| ◇ <u>Weed Identification</u> | |
| ◇ <u>Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management</u> | |



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