

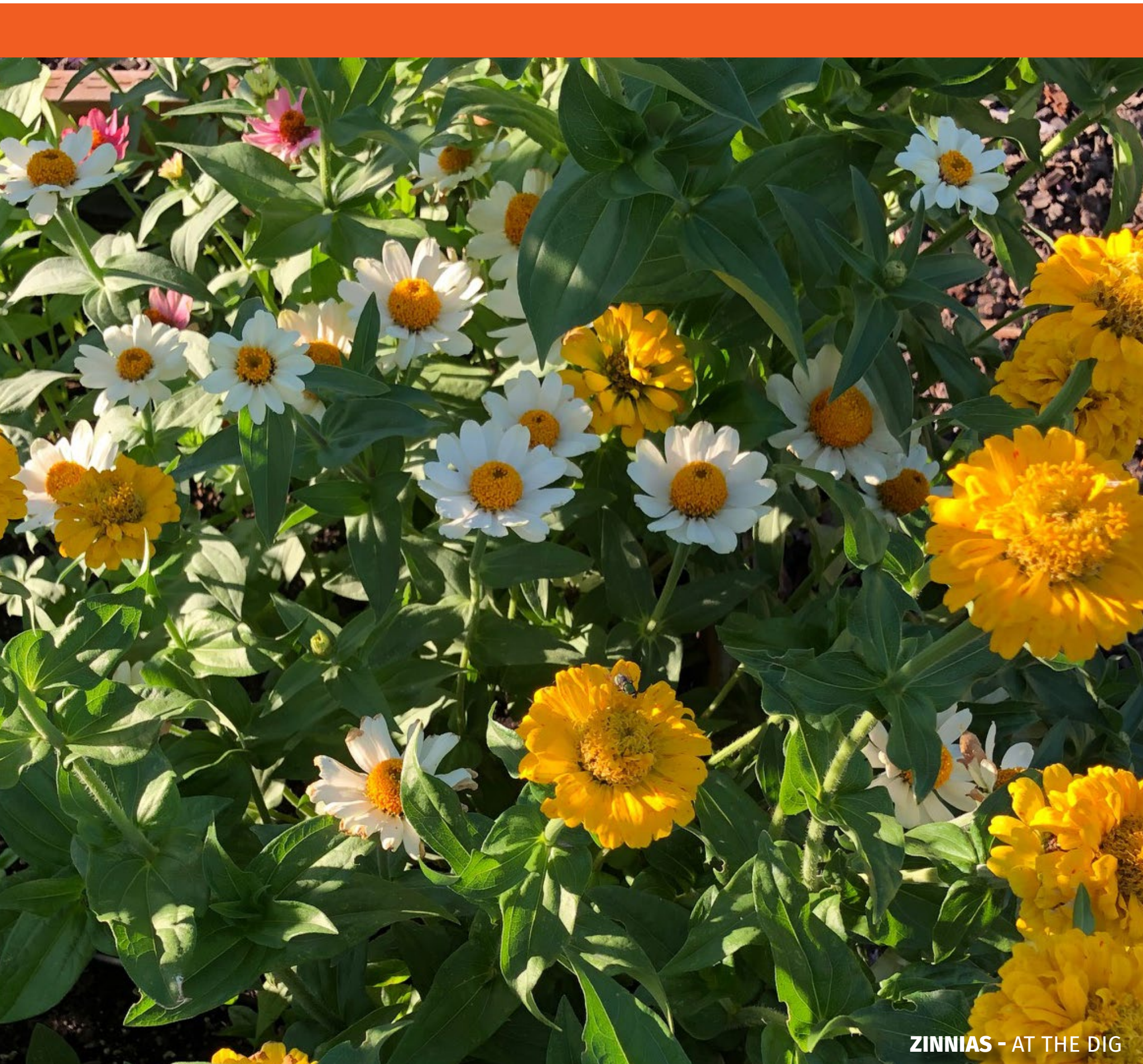


AUGUST 2022

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 9

THE DIRT SHEET

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASCO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION



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President's Corner

It feels like summer has finally arrived. We went through such a long, cool spring and early summer, wondering if we would ever have some warm weather. Now we have more than we hoped for. We'll soon be through the activity cancellations due to excessive heat and back to more moderate weather. In the meantime, protect your plants and yourselves. Keep hydrated and stay out of the intense sun and heat.

On July 19th, we had our combined Board and Quarterly meetings at Hilary Jensen's home in Tygh Valley. I think we had 17 come which was a very good turnout. We covered the business portion of the agenda and then toured Hilary's garden. We learned about the gardening challenges she has gone through living in her location. When we walked to the White River at the back of her property, it was difficult for me, at least, not to jump in and cool off. Thanks, Hilary, for hosting the meeting and showing us what you have accomplished despite challenging soil conditions.

One of the items that was decided at the meeting was to combine our Board Meeting and summer picnic at the August meeting. Garry and Peggy Peterson offered to host the picnic at their home at 2544 Old Dufur Road on Tuesday, August 16th, starting with the Board Meeting at 4:00 p.m. followed by our picnic. All are welcome at 4 p.m. to attend the Board Meeting and, again, have the opportunity to see our Board in action. If you can't come early, please join us for a fun picnic afterward. Thanks Garry and Peggy for hosting the event. More information will be sent out to everyone soon.



I want to express a very special "Thank You" to Kim McCullough for all that she has done for Master Gardeners. I'm not just talking about the past few months, but for all the years that she has been the behind-the-scenes person, making sure everything is running smoothly. As long as I have been in Master Gardeners, Kim has been there and always ready to help us with whatever we needed. This past year, Kim assumed many more tasks to make sure our program continued to operate as smoothly as possible under near-impossible conditions. Enjoy your retirement, Kim, and after the dust has settled, consider joining us. We could learn a lot from you.

Happy Gardening,
Bill Marick

August Board Meeting and Potluck

Please join us for an end of season picnic/potluck at Garry and Peggy Peterson's home. The monthly Board Meeting will be held at 4pm at the Peterson's house and the potluck will be at 5:30. Brats and buns will be provided, please bring a dish to share. Additionally, bring a chair if you have one.

Date: Tuesday, 16 August 2021

Time: Potluck 5:30

Place: The Peterson's House, 2544 Old Dufur Road

We will have someone directing the parking due to limited space.





KENDAL JOHNSON

New Wasco County Master Gardener / Community Horticulture Outreach Program Coordinator

We are pleased to welcome Kendal Johnson to the Wasco County Extension family. Kendal will be joining us September 1, 2022.

Kendal has spent the past 9 years working on OSU's Corvallis research farms; first working with USDA small fruit breeding, and then managing the OSU Vegetable Research Farm. This has provided him with experience growing a wide array of horticultural and agricultural crops. He studied agricultural engineering at Cal Poly and OSU, and has experience with irrigation design, chemical use, organic agriculture, and technology. He has a passion for gardening and the outdoors and looks forward to working with the master gardener program.

Tygh Valley board meeting/quarterly association meeting follow-up

Thanks again to everyone that came out to Tygh Valley for our board meeting/quarterly association meeting. Counting myself, there were 17 of us in attendance! It was wonderful to have some time together.

As promised, here is a re-cap of my garden situation: I live on the White River and due to river flooding over time, the whole lower portion of my property, including my garden, is 100% sand. My garden is still very much a work in progress but I have learned the absolute power of mulch and how much that helps me keep moisture in. Along with mulch, I amend every single hole or row that I plant in by fully removing the sand and replacing with a quality soil plus compost mixture. While this helps the plant grow, I have also learned that the surrounding soil can be extremely hydrophobic. If I do not keep everything regularly watered, I essentially wind up with root bound plants that cannot escape their amended hole. By mulching to keep weed growth down, I am able to water overhead and completely soak whole areas of my garden which vastly improves my ability to grow successfully. The only exception to this is my bean area which I water using soaker hoses because beans don't like their leaves to get wet. By providing wide rows of amended soil and running the soaker hose for what feels like hours, I am able to give them a decent chance at survival.

I'm hopeful that I can host the master gardeners at least once annually and we can continue to watch the garden progress.



Sorosis Rose Garden Work Party

Eleven people came to a meeting and work party for our newest MG project—The Care and Maintenance of the Sorosis Rose Garden. An email was sent out to all MG members inviting each to a meeting on Sunday July 10 at 7:00. Two of our newest MG's came, one person from the community, and one person who wants to transfer from Michigan MG program to The Dalles. In addition, Ann brought her very knowledgeable father, a former MG from The Dalles!

We agreed to deadhead the roses, cut out the dead wood, and keep the garden area weed free. In addition, we will need to decide on a chemical, or possibly, a non chemical treatment to get rid of the aphids and mildew affecting some of the roses. There are some chemical burns too, from someone previously who sprayed the roses with an inappropriate insecticide. We will be learning so much from this project—the care of the roses, identifying and eventually labeling the roses, insect control, pruning.



We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday nights at 7:00, for about an hour each time. The time will change slightly as it will get dark earlier, so we will adjust backward an hour at a time. We also decided if MG's want to work on the roses at other times, that they can do that, we just suggested that we stay in one quadrant until it is clean before moving on to another quadrant.

It was a good meeting, and good work time. We were close enough together to help each other check the roses, and to have a chance to work together.

A huge THANK YOU to all of you who were able to come to this work party!! We look forward to having this as a regular ongoing project.

HILARY JENSEN

Facebook Update



Stay connected with the Wasco County Master Gardener's Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/WascoMG/>

We've had a big month on our Facebook page. Our Tip Tuesday posts continue to be the most popular which means we are getting lots of shares, views, and engagements! All of this translates into more people liking and following our page. We had 21 new likes just this month and have almost 900 people following our page!

I make my Tuesday posts by what I see being discussed in local and regional gardening groups. This month we've had posts on when to harvest onions, what it means to see a lack of blooms or fruits on your plants, how to keep your garden alive in the hot weather, why zucchini fruits are growing weird (lack of pollination), and our biggest post of the month, "Where are the Pollinators and What Can You do to Bring Them to Your Yard". I encourage everyone to take a minute to read through these past posts as they've all been really well received by our community and beyond. I'd like to thank Jean and Nancy for continuing to support the Facebook page by sharing just about every post I make!

Not only have our posts been well received by our community but we are beginning to have a following beyond our county, beyond our state, and even beyond our country. A Master Gardener from Portland says "I follow your account because you guys are great".

The post on I made on pollination was shared 41 times by individuals and groups/pages including PNW Gardening, Curry County MG Association, Beaverton Gardeners, Happy Valley Garden Club, Penn State Extension Master Gardeners, Albuquerque growing food and foraging, East Mountain Gardeners, Milwaukie Community Center, and S. Wasco Gardeners. This post alone was seen by over 16,500 people and it is still growing in numbers (see picture to the right).

Mornings at The DIG reminders are also shared towards the end of every week and hopefully that is helping attendance!

Wasco County is making a name for itself in the Facebook world! This is exciting stuff. To watch a post gain traction and get shared 41 times and be seen by that many people is an incredible feeling. All posts can be viewed through the link below whether you have Facebook or not. Just click and scroll!

Thanks for the support,
Hilary Jensen



30

14 comments 41 shares

Like

Comment

Share

16,528 people reached >

Boost





Fresh Cherry Salsa

Another great recipe for your left over cherries.

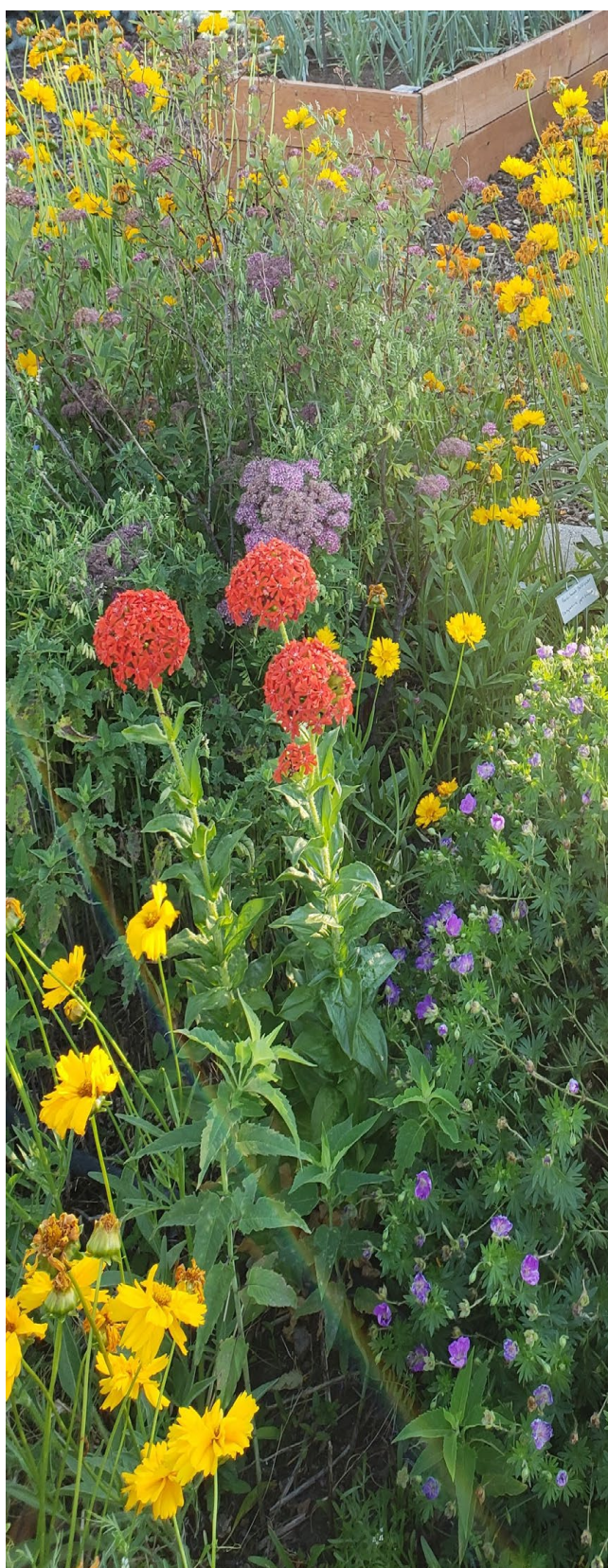
- 4 cups of cherries, stemmed, pitted, & chopped**
- 8 green onions, white parts only, chopped**
- 1 cup fresh cilantro leaves, chopped**
- 1/4 cup of lemon juice**
- 1 jalapeno pepper, to taste, veins & seeds removed, minced**
- 1 clove garlic, minced**
- * Salt and pepper, to taste**

1. Mix all ingredients in a medium mixing bowl until well combined. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve.

Makes 6 servings.

MORNINGS AT THE DIG

2022 Summer Gardening Series



Saturdays at 9am

Klindt Dr. & Steelhead Way
in the Port District of The Dalles
Free Event

- Jun 4** Irrigation Techniques for the Garden
- Jun 11** Mason Jar Succulents for Kids
- Jun 18** The Worm Lady
- Jun 25** Sweet Cherry Tasting
- Jul 2** *No Program*
- Jul 9** Oregon Bee Project
- Jul 16** Explore the Herb Garden
- Jul 23** Bugs: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly
- Jul 30** Seed Saving
- Aug 6** Natural Dyes from Flowers
- Aug 13** Rhubarb
- Aug 20** Painting in the Garden with Kids
- Aug 27** Tomato Tasting

Find out more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/WascoMG>

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/home-garden-landscape>



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener

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If you need accommodations please contact our office 2 weeks prior to the event at [541-296-5494](tel:541-296-5494).



Tomato Tasting at The DIG

Bring your best tomatoes

Tomato tasting will be held at The Dalles Imagination Garden (The DIG) on August 27th. I am asking for tomatoes of various varieties for our tasting. I need to know the variety so we can correctly label them.

If you have some tomatoes of known variety I would really appreciate your sharing them for our tasting. You can bring them to our house at 2544 Old Dufur Rd on Thursday or Friday or bring them to the DIG on Saturday. If you bring them to the DIG they need to be washed and you need to get them there no later than 8:30 a.m. I am available to pick them up from your location too. You can call me at 541 993 5103.

We are planning a blind taste test this year so it should be very interesting and fun.
Garry and Peggy Peterson



August 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 The DIG - Natural Dyes from Flowers
7	8	9 Level-Up Series Should You Leave Your Leaves?	10	11	12	13 The DIG - Rhubarb
14 Sorosis Rose Garden Work Part 7pm	15	16 Monthly Board Meeting and Potluck	17	18	19	20 The DIG - Painting in the Garden with Kids
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 The DIG - Tomato Tasting
28 Sorosis Rose Garden Work Part 7pm	29	30	31			

The Dirt Sheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE WASCO COUNTY
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