

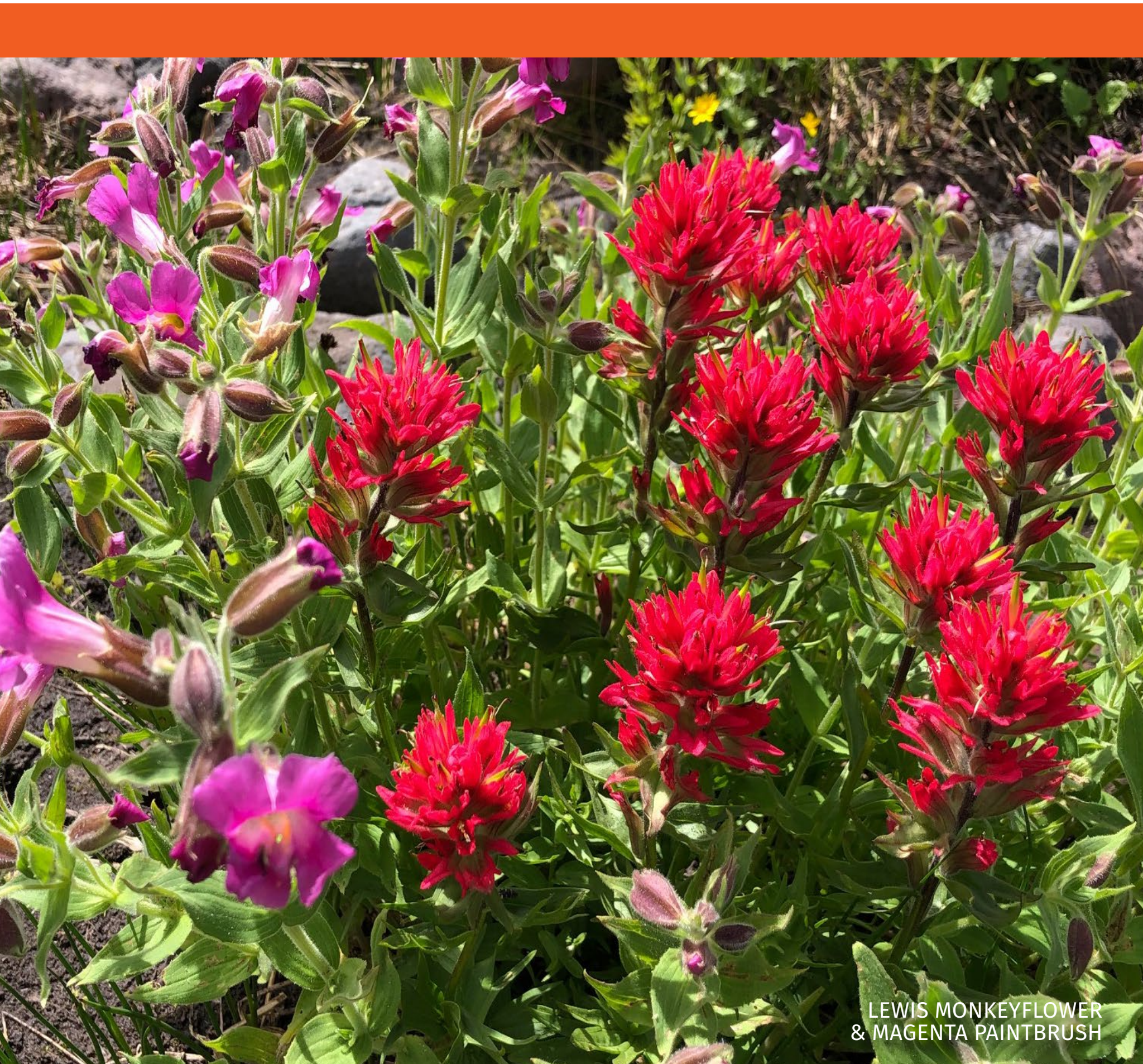


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THE DIRT SHEET

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASCO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION



LEWIS MONKEYFLOWER
& MAGENTA PAINTBRUSH

The background of the page is a close-up photograph of purple asters with yellow centers. A monarch butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on one of the flowers on the right side of the page.

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President's Corner

This has been the kind of Summer I used to really enjoy. It meant that I would be in some sort of water almost every day. Growing up out Mill Creek, we would put in our swimming hole by damming up the creek in late May or early June and then be able to jump in and cool off after being out picking fruit, hauling hay, or whatever other chores that had to be done outside.

So far this Summer I have not gotten into water yet. It may be hot enough but no good opportunities. I am set to go rafting next month but by then, will it have already cooled off?

We are beginning to see the end of Summer drawing near. The Mornings At The Dig are ending, the Farmers Market doesn't have many more weeks, some of our crops are done or soon will be. We need to start thinking about Fall and Winter activities in our gardens.

Plant clinics will still be going on for a couple more months. If you haven't been

able to get your hours in, there still is time. Please remember to come when you have signed up or get a sub if you have a conflict.

Hopefully it will be cool enough on September 6 for us to have our end of Summer picnic that we had to postpone. Kendal Johnson hopefully will also be able to join us. Thanks again to Garry and Peggy Peterson for hosting it and I hope to see everyone there.

Happy Gardening,
Bill Marick

PS

Mark your calendars for October 25th for the 2022 Master Gardener Graduation, St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

More details will be coming your way closer to the event. But be sure to get your hours entered in the [Online Volunteer Reporting System \(VRS\)](#).

End of Season Picnic/Potluck

Please join us for an end of season picnic/potluck at Garry and Peggy Peterson's home. The potluck will be at 6pm. Brats and buns will be provided, please bring a dish to share. Additionally, please bring a chair if you have one.

Date: Tuesday, September 6th

Time: 6:00 pm

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

Please RSVP by September 3rd by email or phone at 505-293-9657.

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.

Tomato Tasting

On the cool breezy morning of August 27th, Wasco County Master Gardeners held a tomato tasting open to the public at The Dalles Imagination Garden. Master Gardeners donated twenty one varieties of tomatoes which we categorized into three groups: cherry, roma, and slicing.

We did a blind taste test where the participants voted on their favorites.

In the cherry group of five the Orange Paruche brought by Annie Kappus-Lively took first place. She also had gorgeous varieties in the other categories.

First place in the roma group of five was Roma VFN grown by Bill Marick.

Jean Zilka took first place in the slicers with her entry of Cherokee Purple which topped that group of eleven. Very tasty!

We had fifteen guests which was pretty good given the weather that morning and competition from the Wall Dogs and all the events going on downtown.

Thanks to all those that donated tomatoes and helped with the tasks of getting the program put together.



Sorosis Rose Garden Workshop #2

At our first rose garden workshop, we learned HOW to deadhead. We also pruned out dead wood and some shoots that were termed as “coming from the rootstock.”

Today, I want to discuss WHY we need to dead head our roses. And I want to discuss what the rootstock is and why we are concerned about those shoots.

Why do roses need to be deadheaded? Removing the old blooms stops the plant from putting energy into making seeds and therefore increases blooms. It also improves the appearance of the plant and your garden. However, we do need to know what type of rose we are working with.



Hybrid Tea roses-find the top set of five leaflets, then cut the stem below that, at the second set of five leaflets. But you won't hurt the rose if you cut it back higher or lower than that. In late summer to early fall, you can also just cut off the bloom itself. This will result in more stem and leaf growth, which is important for roses heading into a dormant winter period.

Floribunda and Spray Roses- these roses produce clusters of blooms, not the single flower per stem. Deadheading these roses allow you to make the cuts anywhere below the entire cluster along the stem from which it grew.

Shrub Roses- many shrub roses are designed to shed spent blooms on their own. You may never need to dead-head these roses, but you still may want to clean them up for appearance. Also, since they only produce flowers from new growth the trimming will produce more branching and fresh growths and the potential quality of blooms. For these roses, just remove the flower and its short stem.

What is “rootstock” and why do we care? At the last clinic, this term was mentioned, but I did not really know what it meant. Rootstock simply means the roots to which a grafted rose variety is attached. Turns out there are only a few varieties of rose rootstock used to make hundreds of grafted roses. You can see examples of this when the rose is supposed to be yellow, but there are also a lot of red roses on the same plant. The yellow rose was grafted to the rootstock of the red rose. The red shoots are coming from low on the original rootstock. That rootstock was selected because it was strong. If left untended, the red rootstock rose will out compete and eliminate the grafted yellow rose. The shoots coming from the ground/rootstock should be removed to protect the integrity of the grafted rose.

As a reminder, we have had a change in time and will now be meeting from 6-7 pm on the 2nd and 4th Sunday nights.



Rhubarb Crisp

You have probably heard of strawberry rhubarb pie. You may have even tasted it. But make a strawberry rhubarb pie homemade? Maybe not so much. If you feel intimidated by this notion, this recipe from Marilyn is the perfect for you.

**6 tablespoons of cold butter,
cut into small pieces, plus
more for greasing pan**
**6 cups of rhubarb, trimmed,
tough strings removed, and
cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces**
1/2 cup white sugar
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon lemon zest
3/4 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup rolled oats
1/2 cup pecans
pinch of salt

1. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Grease an 8- or 9-inch square baking dish with a little butter. Toss rhubarb with white sugar, lemon juice and zest, and spread in baking dish.

2. Put the butter in a food processor along with brown sugar, flour, cinnamon and salt, and pulse for about 20 or 30 seconds, until it looks like small peas and just begins to clump together. Add oats and pecans and pulse just a few times to combine.

3. Crumble the topping over rhubarb and bake until golden and beginning to brown, 45 to 50 minutes.

4. Serve warm or cold with ice cream or whipped cream

Makes 6 servings.



Marilyn serving rhubarb goodies

September

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Plant Clinic 1-4pm	2	3 Farmer's Market 8:30am-1:30pm
4	5	6 End of Year Potluck 6pm The DIG work party 9am	7	8 Plant Clinic 1-4pm	9	10 Farmer's Market 8:30am-1:30pm
11 Sorosis Rose Garden Work Party 6pm	12	13 The DIG work party 9am	14	15 Plant Clinic 1-4pm	16	17 Farmer's Market 8:30am-1:30pm
18	19	20 The DIG work party 9am	21	22 Plant Clinic 1-4pm	23	24 Farmer's Market 8:30am-1:30pm
25 Sorosis Rose Garden Work Party 7pm	26	27 The DIG work party 9am	28	29 Plant Clinic 1-4pm	30	

October 25th -SAVE THE DATE

2022 Master Gardener Graduation

The Dirt Sheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE WASCO COUNTY
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