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THE DIRT SHEET

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASCO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION



A photograph of a field of red-stemmed plants, likely a coastal scrub or dune area, with a clear blue sky in the background. The plants are dense and have thin, reddish-brown stems with some dry, yellowish leaves.

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President's Corner

It looks like winter isn't through with us yet as temperatures are predicted to drop below zero this week. A big **THANK YOU** to those that showed up to sanitize and prep the green house for planting. Mentors please contact and welcome your mentees. They will be getting their books on Tuesday evening. I look forward to classes starting and hope to see all of you at our first class on February 7th.

Till then stay warm!

Ronnie Smith

WCMGA 2023 Class Schedule

Class Schedule

Date/Time	Class and Instructor	In-person Location
Tues. 1/31 5:30-6:30	New Member Orientation, Mentor Introductions	CGCC
Tues. 2/7 5:30-8:00 PM	Intro to Master Gardener Program, Online Program Training <i>-Kendal Johnson</i>	CGCC
Tues. 2/21 5:30-8:00 PM	Soils- <i>James Cassidy</i>	CGCC
Tues. 2/28 5:30-8:00 PM	Basic Botany of the Gorge- <i>Christina and Brad Mead</i>	CGCC
Sat. 3/4 1-4 PM	Fruit Tree Pruning- <i>Ashley Thompson</i>	Orchard
Tues. 3/7 5:30-8:00 PM	Firesafe Landscaping- <i>Jacob Powell</i>	CGCC
Sat. 3/11 1-4 PM	Rose Pruning- <i>Katherine Johnson</i>	Sorosis Park
Tues. 3/14 5:30-8:00 PM	Entomology- <i>Andony Melathopoulos</i>	CGCC
Sat. 3/18 1-4pm	Native Plants and Nursery- <i>Humble Roots</i>	HR Nursery
Sat. 3/25 1-4 PM	Plant Problem Diagnosis- <i>Neil Bell</i>	The DIG
Tues. 3/28 5:30-8:00 PM	Berries, Grapes and Kiwis- <i>Bernadine Strick</i>	CGCC
Sat. 4/1 1-4 PM	Vegetable and Container Gardening- <i>Chip Bubl</i>	The Dig
Tues. 4/4 5:30-8:00 PM	WCMGA Meeting, Final Exam	CGCC

Locations:

CGCC- Columbia Gorge Community College

400 E. Scenic Dr. Building 2, Third Floor lecture hall, The Dalles, OR 97058

Sorosis Park

300 E Scenic Dr, The Dalles, OR 97058

The DIG

Klindt Drive and Steelhead Way, The Dalles, OR 97058

Addresses to other class locations will be provided later.

Upcoming Webinars from OSU Extension

Restoring Oregon's Dry Side Forests

Dec 7, 2022 - Apr 5, 2023

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. December 7, 2022 through April 5, 2023

Cost: Free

Register [Here](#)

This series will explore the complexities and realities of “restoring” forests and other ecosystems to conditions more in keeping with historic conditions. We’ll consider ecological limitations and desired conditions; implications of long term fire suppression, invasive species, and changing climate conditions; and how our objectives and perceptions influence potential management actions. This series is not about telling you what’s best, but rather to get us all thinking about how we can promote resiliency in the landscapes we collectively steward.

Each session includes approximately 60 minutes of web-based presentation, with additional time for group interaction. We’ll make use of Zoom Q&A and Chat features, and experiment with some open mic opportunities.

Register once to attend any or all of the webinars. Once registered you’ll receive the Zoom link and connection instructions.

Visit our course website to see the full list of webinar topics, instructor bios, accommodation instructions, recordings (if you missed a webinar) and supplemental materials.



Hot peppers! From seed to salsa **

Feb 7, 2023 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm PST

Cost: Free, but pre-registration is required

Register [Here](#)

Join the Washington County Master Gardener Association’s Speaker Series as Ezequiel Lopez-Reyes, OSU Extension Open Campus & Juntos Coordinator for Washington County, presents: “Hot Peppers! From seed to salsa.”



Ezequiel will provide information about the planting and growing process of peppers, and how it relates to Latin culture. He will focus on tips to effectively grow peppers, including the pinching process, when to plant your peppers outdoors, and how to use peppers in the kitchen.

Ezequiel Lopez-Reyes immigrated to the United States as a child alongside his parents from Michoacan, Mexico. He grew up in Cornelius, Oregon, which he still calls home. Ezequiel currently works with Latino families and students in Washington County to help prepare them for life after high school.

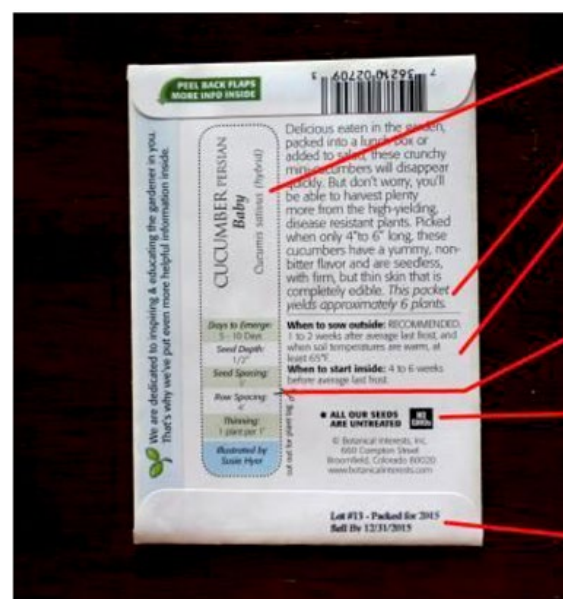
His love for gardening was passed down to him by his parents. His father was a farmer in Mexico, while his mother worked for 30 years in a plant nursery. Ezequiel says he has grown almost everything you can think of including peppers, limes, tomatoes, cherries, figs, and peaches.

**** Qualifies for 1-hour MG continuing garden education credit.**

Tip Tuesday: How to read a seed packet

It's getting to be that time of year where we get excited to get those seeds started! Did you know that the back of your seed packet is FULL of useful information? While seeds packets can differ in appearance, you should always be able to find this basic key information:

- The common and Latin name of the plant
- The number of seeds per packet or the weight of the seeds contained in each packet. If you've ordered from a catalogue, info about how many seeds per gram, for example, should be listed inside the catalogue.
- When to sow outside or inside. This is pretty important because some seeds really don't do well being started indoors first while others don't do well being sown directly into the ground. Definitely always look for this information on each packet before starting seeds.
- Planting depth, spacing, days until emergence, and thinning recommendations. Some seeds need to go an inch or more under ground while others just need the slightest bit of soil covering them. Germination success really depends on following these guidelines. Knowing when you should start seeing growth is also helpful because sometimes seeds fail to germinate and sometimes the birds and squirrels have gotten to them first. Knowing when to expect emergence will help you know if you need to re-seed.
- GMO, organic, or heirloom labeling. If this is important to you, be sure to check. Info may be labeled on the front or the back of the packet.
- You may also find growing tips, fertilization needs, disease prevention info, as well as germination information listed on your seed packet.
- Seed packets may be small, but the information contained on them can be quite large. Read those packets and have fun sowing and growing with success.



Common name and latin name of plant

Number of plants per seed packet

When to sow outside or inside

Planting depth, seed and row spacing, days until plants emerge and thinning recommendations.

Genetically Modified Organism labeling

Sell by date

Photo Credit: NC State Extension



JEAN ZYLKA

Butternut Squash

Last summer I grew Butternut Squash for the first time with wonderful success! My typical way of cooking it was simply baking and eating with some butter and salt. However recently I stumbled across the recipe below which is simple to make and delicious to eat!

In researching the health benefits of the butternut squash I found that it is low in calories, has more than 100% of the recommended daily requirement of vitamin A as well as a good amount of vitamin C. Reports indicate it is good for immunity, your eyes, may help blood pressure and it is a good source of fiber!

I have really enjoyed this recipe and hope you give it a try!

Oven Roasted Butternut Squash with Maple and Cranberries

PREP TIME 15 MINUTES
COOK TIME 40 MINUTES
TOTAL TIME 55 MINUTES

FROM "THE SPECKLED PALATE"S

- 2 lb. diced butternut squash
- 4 tablespoons avocado oil (or another high smoke point oil)
- 3 tablespoons pure maple syrup
- 1 cup cranberries (fresh or frozen—not dried)
- 2 fresh rosemary sprigs, roughly chopped
- * Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Preheat the oven to 450°F.
2. Prep the butternut squash. Peel the exterior with a vegetable peeler. Make sure all the white/light orange parts have been removed. Then slice down the middle, and use a spoon to scoop out the seeds. Chop into bite-sized pieces.
3. Place the cubed butternut squash in a large bowl. Drizzle on the oil, maple, and season with salt and pepper. Toss until all the pieces are coated, then pour onto a baking sheet in a single layer.
4. Roast the squash in the preheated oven for 20 minutes.
5. Remove the squash from the oven and flip the pieces with a spatula so that the other side caramelizes.
6. Sprinkle the cranberries and rosemary evenly over the squash on the baking sheet.
7. Roast the squash for another 20 minutes, or until caramelized and fork tender. Keep an eye on them, as we don't want them to burn and every oven is a little different.
8. Serve immediately, and enjoy!



February 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Restoring Oregon's Dry Side Forests 6pm	2	3	4
5	6	7 Intro to MG Program 5:30-8pm ----- Hot Peppers 7-8pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Restoring Oregon's Dry Side Forests 6pm	16	17	18
19	20	21 Soils 5:30-8pm	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Basic Botany of the Gorge 5:30-8pm				

February Garden Calendar

Produced by OSU Extension, each month provides reminders of key garden chores, such as fertilizing, pest control, planting and maintenance.

The Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Preventive pest management is emphasized over reactive pest control. Identify and monitor problems before acting and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem. The conservation of biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) should be favored over chemical controls.

Planning

- Tune-up lawn mower and garden equipment before the busy season begins.
- Have soil tested to determine its nutrient needs. For more information, contact your local Extension office for a list of testing laboratories or view Laboratories Serving Oregon: Soil, Water, Plant Tissue, and Feed Analysis (EM 8677).
- Select and store healthy scion wood for grafting fruit and nut trees. Wrap in a damp cloth and place in a plastic bag. Store in a cool place.
- Plan an herb bed for cooking and creating an interesting landscape. For example, choose parsley, sage, chives and lavender. Choose a sunny spot and plant seeds or transplants once the danger of frost has passed (late-April or early-May in the Willamette Valley and central coast; June or July in eastern and central Oregon).
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers to your flowering landscape this spring. Try some drought-tolerant perennials to save money.

Maintenance and cleanup

- Repair winter damage to trees and shrubs.
- Make a cold frame or hotbed to start early vegetables or flowers.
- Fertilize rhubarb with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Incorporate cover crops or other organic matter into soil.
- Prune and train grapes; make cuttings.
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries.
- Eastern Oregon: Prune and train summer-bearing and fall-bearing raspberries.

Planting/propagation

- Plant windowsill container garden of herbs like chives, cilantro and parsley.
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers this spring: astilbe, candytuft, peony and anemone.
- Good time to plant fruit trees and deciduous shrubs. Replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with resistant cultivars.
- Plant asparagus if the ground is warm enough.
- Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and Brussels sprouts), indoors or in a greenhouse.

Pest monitoring and management

- Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. First consider cultural, then physical and biological controls. Choose the least-toxic options (insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides — when used judiciously).
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified
- Use delayed-dormant sprays of lime sulfur for fruit and deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose, bacterial canker of stone fruit and Eastern filbert blight. Sterilize tools before each new cut.
- Control moles and gophers with traps.

Houseplants and indoor gardening

Make your own potting soil for starting seedlings in pots or flats, or use clean sterile commercial mixes.

Central Oregon: Gather branches of quince, forsythia and flowering cherries; bring indoors to force early bloom.

The Dirt Sheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE WASCO COUNTY
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