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THE DIRT SHEET

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASCO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION



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President's Corner

As we know, holidays and birthdays are on an annual cycle that helps shape our traditions and celebrations. Our gardens work in a similar way. If we look at the cycle of a garden and the seasons that drive that cycle, there are more ways to celebrate and themes to use than we could likely fit into our lives.

Some ideas for Spring are:

SALAD PARTY-pot luck ingredients to make a salad as an activity sow lettuce seeds in paper pots

LITTLE SPROUTS SOIREE- seed sowing party-make root view cups for planting-serve sprouted greens/nuts/other seedy snacks

WILD GREENS PARTY-harvest wild greens like miner's lettuce for salad/dandelion leaves for tea

We are all anxious for spring's wonderful "work in the garden weather". When it gets here, I hope you all enjoy!

See you soon around the soil,

Ronnie Smith

HILARY JENSEN

Seed Exchange

The Wasco County Master Gardeners hosted the seed exchange at the Maupin Civic Center. The Maupin Dig and Hoe Garden Club led kid's craft activities at the event in partnership. The event was well attended.

Photos below. Credit - Hilary Jensen.



GARRY PETERSON

2023 Garden Tour

Our garden tour will be on Saturday, May 20, 2023. We will meet at The Dalles Marina parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and travel to the Oregon Garden in Silverton, OR. We will tour the garden and have lunch there. Lunch can be a sack lunch in the garden or a meal in the Garden View Restaurant at the garden resort. Lunch there is \$12 to \$15. Admission to the garden is \$12 adult, \$10 senior, and \$9 student.

Following lunch, we will get together and travel to Adelman's Peony farm and tour there. They have a gorgeous display garden. No admission charge.



For those with the time and interest, there is another very beautiful garden nearby, Seabright hosta garden. They have a very nice specimen garden of plants of all types very beautifully landscaped. I recommend it if you can. No admission charges.

While we are traveling together on the way down we will stop at Cascade Locks and the rest area just south of Portland.

I do not need to have you respond if you want to go. Just be at the marina by 8:00 a.m. I will work on car-pooling so some of us can ride together.

"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece"

Claude Monet

Join The DIG Garden Team!

One of Wasco County Master Gardener's ongoing achievements is The Dalles Imagination Garden, fondly referred to as "The DIG". Located on the Riverfront Trail at Klindt Dr and Steelhead Way, The DIG is an ever-evolving learning garden for both children and adults.

In 2007 Google loaned this land to the Master Gardener program to create an outdoor, hands-on learning classroom for all things "garden". There are about 20 garden beds, some are dedicated to themes such as medicinal plants, pollinators, and native plants. Opportunities abound for Master Gardeners.

Each spring The DIG patiently waits for Wasco County Master Gardener's annual "spruce up." Many tasks need to be accomplished during the next month:

- Trim landscape plants that surround the garden
- Spread bark mulch between raised beds
- Add soil to raised beds
- Check irrigation system, and repair leaks
- Organize garden shed and tools
- Treat wood picnic tables
- And everyone's favorite – pull weeds!



A workday is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 9 – 1 pm.
Bring your work gloves - a few wheelbarrows are also needed.

Upcoming activities at The DIG -

Adopt a Garden Bed

There are several garden beds of various sizes up for adoption. When you adopt a bed you decide and plan what you want to grow – some plants or seeds may be available through the MG greenhouse program. Then you will amend the soil as needed and plant/seed your bed. There is a water spigot at each bed; someone will help with the proper irrigation for your plantings if you need assistance. Throughout the summer you'll maintain your bed – adjust the irrigation depending on the weather, deadhead flowers, weed, re-plant, etc. There is no set schedule, log all the hours you work at The DIG.

Saturdays at The DIG

Beginning in June, each Saturday at 9 am Master Gardeners present a short educational/informative class open to the public. If you have expertise in a garden

subject like growing dahlias, compost or container gardening, just to name a few, Pamela Manning would like to schedule you for a Saturday presentation. Saturday presenters need help with set-up – another way to earn volunteer hours. Sign-up sheets will be available soon.

Tuesday Work Parties

Once the garden is growing, Tuesday evening work parties will begin. This is an informal way to keep the garden maintained and looking beautiful throughout the summer and connect with your fellow MGs. Tasks include deadheading flowers, weeding, checking irrigation, and eventually harvesting produce. Work parties aren't mandatory, this is general garden maintenance. You can maintain your own garden bed whenever it fits your schedule.

If you are interested in adopting a garden bed or just want more information, contact one of The DIG's team leaders:

Cindy Russell 541-296-5506 cinders54@gmail.com

Nancy Lingo 505-293-9657 nancyclingo@gmail.com



JEAN ZYLKA

Sugar Snap Peas

Sugar snap peas are a non-starchy vegetable and provide a great deal of nutrition. Per the USDA, one cup of whole raw peas is only 27 calories, almost 2 grams of protein, 4.8 grams of carbs and only 0.1 gram of fat. They provide vitamin C, iron and potassium. The vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and fiber are great to promote good health. Benefits can include regularity, blood sugar control, heart health and supports weight loss.

While these sugar snap peas do not need to be cooked, there are many ways to prepare them as well. The easiest is to simply steam or stir fry them. But not too long! Since asparagus is another favorite, here is a recipe from Bon Appetit for Steak, Snap Pea and Asparagus Stir-Fry.

One of the earliest vegetables and one of my personal favorites!
<https://www.bonappetit.com/recipe/steak-snap-pea-and-asparagus-stir-fry>

Steak, Snap Pea and Asparagus Stir-Fry

1	lb. sirloin steak	1.	Place 1 lb. sirloin steak on a cutting board and pat dry with paper towels. Slice meat crosswise as thinly as possible.
1	Tbsp. cornstarch	2.	Transfer steak to a medium bowl and add 1 Tbsp. cornstarch, 1 Tbsp. soy sauce, and 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil. Toss with tongs until meat is evenly coated.
2	Tbsp. soy sauce, divided	3.	Prep the rest of your ingredients: Trim ends of 8 oz. snap peas and remove any strings; transfer to another medium bowl. Snap woody ends off of 1 bunch asparagus and discard. Cut asparagus crosswise into 1" pieces; transfer to bowl with snap peas. Trim both ends of 6 scallions and set aside 2 scallions for serving. Cut 4 remaining scallions crosswise into 1" pieces and add to bowl with asparagus and snap peas. Scrub 2" piece ginger under running water, then slice crosswise as thinly as possible; add to bowl with the other veg.
4	Tbsp. vegetable oil, divided	4.	Combine 3 Tbsp. mirin, ¼ cup oyster sauce, 2 Tbsp. rice vinegar, and remaining 1 Tbsp. soy sauce in a glass measuring cup and stir with a spoon to incorporate.
8	oz. sugar snap peas	5.	Heat 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil in a large skillet, preferably stainless steel, over medium-high. When oil shimmers across surface of skillet, add vegetable mixture. Cook, shaking skillet often, just until asparagus are tender but still retain a hint of crunch, about 3 minutes. Return vegetables to original bowl.
1	bunch asparagus	6.	Heat remaining 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil in skillet over medium-high. Add steak, arranging slices in a single layer. Cook, undisturbed, until juices start to pool on surface of meat and underside is browned, about 3 minutes. Using a thin metal spatula, scrape bottom of skillet and loosen meat.
6	scallions	7.	Immediately add cooked vegetables and sauce to skillet and cook, tossing constantly, until meat is fully cooked and sauce is thick and bubbling, 1–2 minutes more.
1	2" piece ginger	8.	Remove from heat and let cool for a minute or two. Season stir-fry lightly with salt. Divide 2 cups cooked rice among plates. Spoon stir-fry over. Thinly slice reserved 2 scallions and scatter over.
3	Tbsp. mirin (Japanese rice wine)		
1/4	cup oyster sauce		
2	Tbsp. unseasoned rice vinegar		
2	cups cooked white rice		
	Kosher salt		



April 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Maupin Seed Exchange 11-1pm ---- The DIG Spring Clean up 9am-1pm
2	3 NORCOR Greenhouse 10-12pm	4 Last MG class! Pesticides and exam review 5:30-8pm ---- NORCOR Greenhouse 2:30-4:30pm	5 NORCOR Greenhouse 10-12pm ---- MG Exams Due	6 NORCOR Greenhouse 2:30-4:30pm	7	8 The Dalles Seed Exchange 11-2pm
9	10 NORCOR Greenhouse 10-12pm	11 NORCOR Greenhouse 2:30-4:30pm	12 NORCOR Greenhouse 10-12pm	13 NORCOR Greenhouse 2:30-4:30pm	14	15 Heritage Heights Garden Build 9am-1pm ---- The DIG work party 9am-1pm
16	17 NORCOR Greenhouse 10-12pm	18 NORCOR Greenhouse 2:30-4:30pm	19 NORCOR Greenhouse 10-12pm	20 Home Depot Plant Clinic ---- NORCOR Greenhouse 2:30-4:30pm	21	22 Earth Day Event at The Dalles City Park 10am-1pm
23	24 NORCOR Greenhouse 10-12pm	25 NORCOR Greenhouse 2:30-4:30pm	26 NORCOR Greenhouse 10-12pm	27 NORCOR Greenhouse 2:30-4:30pm	28	29
30						

April 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

- Write in your garden journal throughout the growing season.
- Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate generous amounts of organic materials and other amendments, using the results of a soil analysis as a guide.
- Prepare raised beds in areas where cold soils and poor drainage are a continuing problem. Incorporate generous amounts (at least 2 inches) of organic materials.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. When the soil is consistently above 60 degrees Fahrenheit, some warm season vegetables (beans, sweet corn) can be planted.

Maintenance and cleanup

- Allow foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to brown and die down before removing.
- Apply commercial fertilizers, manure or compost to cane, bush (gooseberries, currants, and blueberries), and trailing berries.
- Place compost or decomposed manure around perennial vegetables, such as asparagus and rhubarb.
- Cut back ornamental grasses to a few inches above the ground.
- Cover transplants to protect against late spring frosts.
- This is an optimum time to fertilize lawns. Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn. Reduce risks of runoff into local waterways by not fertilizing just prior to rain, and not overirrigating so that water runs off the lawn and onto the sidewalk or street.

Planting/propagation

- Plant gladioli, hardy transplants of alyssum, phlox and marigolds, if weather and soil conditions permit.
- It's a great time to start a vegetable garden.

Among the vegetables you can plant, consider:

- Central Oregon and higher elevations of eastern Oregon (late April): Peas, radishes, lettuce, spinach and turnips.
- Columbia and Snake River valleys, Ontario: Snap and lima beans, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, sweet corn, slicing and pickling cucumbers, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, onion sets, parsnips, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, summer and winter squash, and turnips.

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).

- Clean up hiding places for slugs, sowbugs and millipedes. Least toxic management options for slugs include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; use caution around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits or any other chemical control.
- Monitor strawberries for spittlebugs and aphids; if present, wash off with water or use insecticidal soap as a contact spray. Follow label directions.
- If necessary, spray apples and pears when buds appear for scab. See Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards.
- Cut and remove weeds near the garden to remove potential sources of plant disease.
- Use floating row covers to keep insects such as beet leaf miners, cabbage maggot adult flies, and carrot rust flies away from susceptible crops.
- Help prevent damping off of seedlings by providing adequate ventilation.

The Dirt Sheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE WASCO COUNTY
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