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# THE DIRT SHEET

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASCO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION







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## President's Corner

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Well it really must be summer, Fair time is here! “ Red-White & Blue This Fair Is For You!” is this year's theme. The dates are August 17th-20th and as usual Thursday, the 17th, is Family Free Day.

The DIG Garden is flourishing and those of us that attended on 7/19, enjoyed a nice social visit while eating our dinner/snacks. Please try to come to the Rose Garden for our next social get together on 8/22, at our Dinner & Dead Heading party. It is nice to visit and get to know each other better.

Hope to see you soon.

**Ronnie**



## Board Position Spotlight

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In the fall we will hold elections for the next term of board membership which will start on November 1, 2023 and expire on October 31, 2024. The term of office for board members is one year with the exception of Treasurer which is a two-year term. A board member may be reelected without limitation. We would love to have some newer members join our board and feel it is important for everyone to know and understand the duties of each position. This month we will highlight Secretary, Historian, and Treasurer. Board member information has been pulled from our by-laws which can be found on file in the plant clinic office.

### Secretary:

The Secretary keeps the minutes of the Wasco County Executive Meetings, assists the President in conducting necessary correspondence, and performs related duties as requested by the President. Other duties of the Secretary are to condense and publish the minutes in the monthly newsletter. Robin is our current Secretary and has been a Master Gardener since 2018, first in Wisconsin and now in Wasco County.

### Historian:

The Historian keeps the historical records of the WCMGA by maintaining an album documenting the activities of the WCMGA in accordance with the requirements of OMGA. \*Album from 2022 is in the plant clinic office on the desk near the fridge. Previous albums are on the bookshelf in the plant clinic office. Candy is our current Historian and has achieved Life-Time Master Gardener status.

### Treasurer:

The Treasurer has custody of WCMGA funds, keeping a full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements in the books belonging to WCMGA. The Treasurer is responsible for depositing all monies into our bank account as well as dispersing funds as approved and specified in the annual budget. The Treasurer is also authorized to disburse funds not specified in the annual budget when directed by action of the executive committee. The Treasurer shall provide a report of all transactions at each regular meeting or as required. Other duties include submitting an annual report to OMGA. The Treasurer is a 2 year term. Jean is our current Treasurer and she has been a Master Gardener since 2019.



# Community Thank You a Rosy Reward

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The love of plants and sharing that with others offers one of the most compelling rewards for becoming a Master Gardener.

Every time I've volunteered at Sorosis Park's rose gardens someone passing by stops to thank us for doing the work. Some thank yous stick more than others, Schön Schmidt's is one of them.

"My husband used to tell me to stop and smell the roses. Now I do," said Schmidt, the Director of Diagnostic Imaging for Adventist Health Columbia Gorge (formerly known as Mid-Columbia Medical Center or MCMC),

She appreciates how close the garden is to her work, noting; she walks by daily "except when it's over 100 degrees... It's my reward at the end of my workday." On hot weekend days, she comes by early.

Established in 1953 by The Dalles Garden Club, Sorosis Park Rose Memorial Garden and Veterans Honor Garden serves as a visitors' welcome at the park's entrance gate. On a clear day, Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams are both visible from the garden, as well as a territorial view of the Columbia River. Vogt Fountain, built in 1910 (and later relocated to the park), forms the center of the garden.

The garden's struggled with many years of neglect.

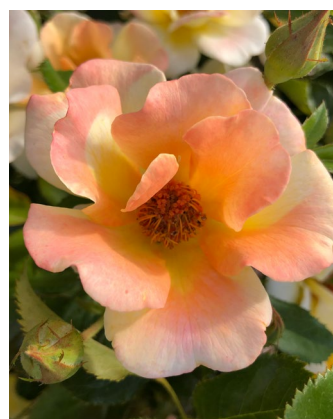
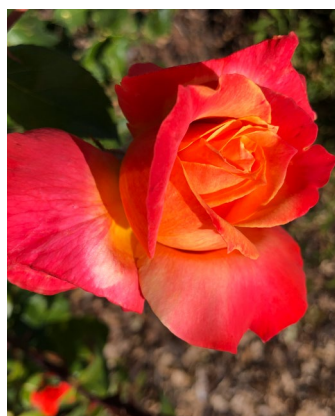
Since coming under our care in late 2022, the garden's suffered from a devastating European sawfly invasion, aphids, powdery mildew and a lack of water (recently fixed). Despite it all, the rose garden is flourishing. The parks department is thrilled to see the rose restoration. They've donated clippers, insecticide, and manpower to remove our clippings and weeds and to address the watering issues. They've also offered to spray in the future upon request.

With more volunteer help, the rose garden will return to its full former radiance.

In addition to general pruning, weeding and fertilizing upkeep, we're still removing the unsightly leaf damage from the sawfly and powdery mildew. Currently Tuesday eves at 6:30 pm and Wednesday morning at 9 am are WCMG's scheduled times for maintaining the garden together. Expertise is not needed—the roses respond well to whatever TLC they get. Bring gloves, clippers and some isopropyl alcohol spray to disinfect your clippers as you move from plant to plant.

Schmidt shares photos of her favorites from Sorosis Park rose garden. Come by and find your own favorite and bask in the rosy glow of a community that appreciates our very own rose garden with a view.

Stay safe. Be well. Embrace kindness.





## From the Plant Clinic

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This month, amid the multiple mis-identified Western Cicada Killers, blossom end rot on tomatoes and peppers has been a question asked repeatedly. As many of us deal with it in our own gardens, I thought I would cover the cause, cure, and some myths about treating it.

First off, blossom end rot occurs in all nightshade family plants (Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant) and first appears as a water-soaked spot at the bottom end of the fruit, the blossom end. The affected area will become dark brown, black, and leathery. It is most common with the first tomatoes of the season but can happen at any time. Our high heat and wind lately have put extra stress on the plants early, leading to so many calls.

Blossom end rot is caused by insufficient calcium in the plant at the time of fruit development. Calcium is not mobile within tomato plants, meaning it settles into one place once it is taken up. This means end rot can occur even if there is sufficient supply in leaves, stems, and soil. Most often, the end rot is related to inconsistent soil moisture, as the calcium can only move into the plant with water. When drought events occur, the tomatoes continue to develop, but the calcium they need is not being taken into the plant. This is especially common with the extreme moisture cycling plants in containers or pots can receive.



Curing the end rot can be as simple as waiting past the first tomatoes of the year to a point when the plant is focusing more on fruit development and less on rapid vegetative growth. Proper water management is also essential, tomatoes need at least 1" of water per week, often more with our hot dry winds. Less frequent, deep irrigation early in the season to encourage root development can help set plants up for later success. Mulching to reduce soil moisture loss, care when cultivating, and pruning (correctly) can help. A soil test in the fall can help with knowing your pH (tomatoes like 6.5-7.5), which also affects the plants' water and nutrient management. It will also tell you if you need to add calcium (lime) before next year.

There are several myths about curing end rot, from spreading eggshells to calcium sprays, however so long as you have reasonably healthy soils, there is typically sufficient calcium in the soil already. Egg shells take years to break down to a point to be bio-available, and calcium sprays are often damaging to leaves and tissue if not done correctly. No fungicides or insecticides will treat or prevent it.

So, if blossom end rot is claiming your early peppers and tomatoes, don't worry! It is likely fixable with water management this year and checking in on your soil health long term!

Sources:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/blossom\\_end\\_rot\\_tip\\_sheet](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/blossom_end_rot_tip_sheet)

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/blossom-end-rot-in-tomatoes-causes-and-prevention/>



# Morning at The DIG Saturday August 26, 2023

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Peggy and I are presenting a program at The DIG. It will be “Share the Bounty”.

A common plant clinic question is “What can I grow here?” Our goal is to show and share garden produce; vegetables, fruit, flowers, herbs and knowledge with attendees. We would like to demonstrate the incredible variety of plants that can grow in this area.

We would appreciate other master gardeners to share their bounty as well if you would be willing to do that.

**If you would like to help us with offerings, please let Peggy or I know either by email or phone what you have to share, 541 993 5103. If you know the variety of the plant all the better.**

I expect to have melons, potatoes, onions, cucumbers, zucchini, Asian pears, flowers, herbs, kohlrabi, and string beans as an example. The more folks offer the more interesting the program will be.

Garry and Peggy Peterson





# Facebook Re-Cap: Hornworms

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Hey Gardeners and attention specifically to those who have a bed that contains tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, potatoes (plants in the nightshade family) at The DIG!

Dana spotted a beautiful hummingbird moth at The DIG last night during the social/work party and took a video that I'm attaching to this post. As you may know, these lay the eggs that become the oft dreaded Tomato Hornworm.

Kendal found quite a few hornworms in his garden two days ago. They go from tiny to giant in 48 hours and will strip your tomato plants clean if given the chance. See his photo below for a visual of the size difference from fairly newly hatched to just a little bit less newly hatched.

Dana also sent me over an interesting link because *sometimes* something beautiful will happen to that hornworm and it will become host to a parasitic wasp who lays its eggs on the caterpillar. See photo below. If you see this specific event happening, feel free to leave that hornworm alone as this is nature balancing itself out. Here's a link explaining that relationship:

<https://scotland.ces.ncsu.edu/.../hummingbird-moths-a.../>



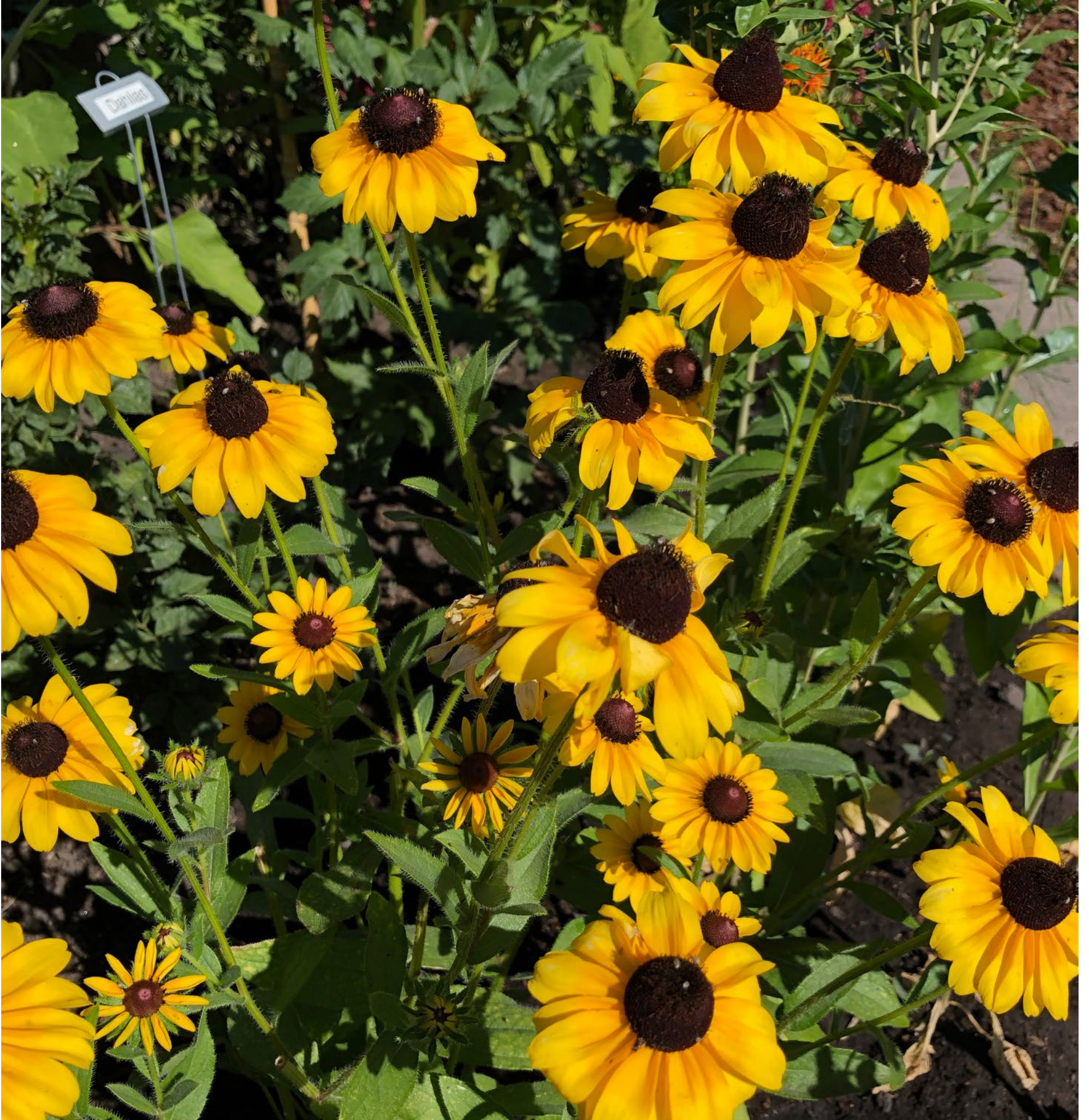


# Upcoming Webinars from OSU Extension

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August 8, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PDT Online

[Savoring Summer: Safely Preserving Your Harvest](#)







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## Classic Gazpacho

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- 2      2 pounds ripe quality tomatoes, cored and roughly chopped (about 3 large)**
- 1/2    medium cucumber, peeled and roughly chopped**
- 1/2    red bell pepper, roughly chopped**
- 1      tablespoon minced shallot**
- 1      small garlic clove, peeled**
- 1/4    cup olive oil**
- 2      tablespoons sherry vinegar (or red wine vinegar)**
- 3/4    teaspoon kosher salt**
- 1/4    teaspoon smoked paprika (pimenton)**

1. Place all ingredients in a blender, and blend until smooth. Taste and adjust salt as needed.
2. Refrigerate until cold, about 2 hours, or up to 3 days before serving.
3. Serve topped with additional chopped veggies, a drizzle of olive oil, and toasted bread.





# August

## 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>Plant Clinic</b> <b>2-4pm</b>	<b>2</b> <b>The Dig Work</b> <b>Party</b> <b>7-9pm</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Mornings at</b> <b>The Dig! 9am</b> ---- <b>Plant Clinic</b> <b>9am-1pm</b> <b>TD Farmers</b> <b>Market</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Plant Clinic</b> <b>2-4pm</b> ---- <b>Rose Garden</b> <b>Work Party</b> <b>6:30-8:00pm</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Mornings at</b> <b>The Dig! 9am</b> ---- <b>Plant clinic</b> <b>10am-1pm</b> <b>Sherman Co.</b> <b>Farmers Market</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Plant Clinic</b> <b>2-4pm</b> ---- <b>WCMGA</b> <b>Monthly</b> <b>Meeting 5:10pm</b>	<b>16</b> <b>The Dig Work</b> <b>Party</b> <b>7-9pm</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Mornings at</b> <b>The Dig! 9am</b> ---- <b>Plant Clinic</b> <b>9am-1pm</b> <b>TD Farmers</b> <b>Market/ Wasco</b> <b>County Fair</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Plant Clinic</b> <b>2-4pm</b> ---- <b>Supper at</b> <b>Sorosis! 6pm</b> ---- <b>Rose Garden</b> <b>Work Party</b> <b>6:30-8pm</b>	<b>23</b> <b>The Dig Work</b> <b>Party</b> <b>7-9pm</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Mornings at</b> <b>The Dig! 9am</b> ---- <b>Plant Clinic</b> <b>9am-1pm</b> <b>Tygh Valley</b> <b>Farmers Market</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Plant Clinic</b> <b>2-4pm</b>	<b>30</b> <b>The Dig Work</b> <b>Party</b> <b>7-9pm</b>	<b>31</b>		



# August Garden Calendar

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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

- The optimal time for establishing a new lawn is August through mid-September.

- Dampwood termites begin flying late this month. Make sure your home is free of wet wood or places where wood and soil are in contact.

## Maintenance and cleanup

- Make compost out of lawn clippings and garden plants that are ready to be recycled. Don't use clippings if the lawn has been treated with herbicide, including "weed-and-feed" products. Don't compost diseased plants unless you are using the "hot compost" method (120 degrees to 150 degrees Fahrenheit).

- Fertilize cucumbers, summer squash and broccoli to maintain production while you continue harvesting.

- Clean and fertilize strawberry beds.

- Use mulch to protect ornamentals and garden plants from hot weather damage. If needed, provide temporary shade, especially for recent plantings.

- Camellias need deep watering to develop flower buds for next spring.

- Prune raspberries, boysenberries and other caneberries after harvest. Check raspberries for holes made by crown borers, near the soil line, at the base of the plant. Remove infested wood before adults emerge (approximately mid-August).

- Monitor garden irrigation closely so crops and ornamentals don't dry out.

- If you want your lawn to stay green, you'll have to water frequently during periods of heat and drought stress. Irrigate 0.25 inches four to six times per week from June through August. Measure your water use by placing an empty tuna can where your irrigation water lands.

- Prune cherry trees before fall rains begin to allow cal-lusing in dry weather. This will minimize the spread of bacterial canker.

- High elevations, Central and Eastern Oregon: Prune away excess vegetation and new blossoms on tomatoes after mid-August. Concentrate on ripening set fruit.

## Planting/propagation

- Plant winter cover crops in vacant space in the vegetable garden

- Plant winter kale, Brussels sprouts, turnips, parsnips, parsley and Chinese cabbage.

- Columbia and Snake River Valleys, Ontario: Plant Chinese cabbage and endive.

## 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).

- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose and bacterial canker of stone fruit. Sterilize tools before each new cut.

- Check apple maggot traps; spray tree if needed.

- Control yellowjackets and wasps with traps and lures as necessary. Keep in mind they are beneficial insects and help control pest insects in the home garden.

- First week: If necessary, spray for walnut husk fly.

- First week: If necessary, second spray for peach tree borer and/or peach twig borer.

- First week: If necessary, second spray of filbert trees for filbertworm.

- Check for root weevils in ornamental shrubs and flowers; codling moth and spider mite in apple trees; scale insects in camellias, holly and maples. Treat as necessary.

- Watch for corn earworm on early corn. Treat as needed.

- For mite control on ornamentals and most vegetables, hose off foliage, spray with approved miticide if necessary.

- Check leafy vegetables for caterpillars. Pick off caterpillars as they appear. Use Bt-k, if necessary.

- Continue monitoring peaches, plums, prunes, figs, fall-bearing raspberries and strawberries, and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for Spotted Wing Drosophila. If SWD are present, use an integrated and least toxic approach to manage the pests.

- East of Cascades: Check for tomato hornworm. Remove them if found.



# The Dirt Sheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE WASCO COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION

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## **Kelsey Alsheimer, Editor**

kelsey.alsheimer@gmail.com

## **Carolyn Wright, Editor**

carolyneewright@gmail.com

## **Officers**

**President** – Ronnie Smith

**President Elect** – Hilary Jensen

**Past President** – Bill Marick

**Secretary** – Robin Ross

**Treasurer** – Jean Zylka

**Historian** – Candy Armstrong

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## **OSU Extension Staff**

Kendal Johnson, Master Gardener and Community Horticulture Educator

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