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THE DIRT SHEET

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASCO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION





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President's Corner

Greetings to all and a big THANK YOU to Hilary and Kendal for covering me last month. They did a great job.

At some point most of us must leave behind a garden we have made, tended and loved. I've started in a new garden in a new place several times. How it feels depends on a personal temperament and the circumstances of the moves. I will try to offer a few suggestions for coping, both practical and philosophical:

For instance, how much of the former garden do you want to take? Moving plants is a lot of work and caring for them until planting can be tedious. It's easiest to only take the ones that are irreplaceable - from special people or places.

I have a simple philosophy that makes leaving gardens less painful. Gardens are about gardening, not having. Whoever gardens, that's whose garden it is. It ceases to be yours the moment you leave it and it will transform to reflect the new gardener. Garden experiences are "moments in time" not meant to be held on to or preserved. Everything learned from the plants and creatures and soil and weather at the old garden will become part of your new garden.

It can be a bit sad to see changes being made in the past garden, but it's not up to me anymore! I have another garden to plant. I then remember "garden's are about gardening, not having". Enjoy your garden and have a wonderful July!

Ronnie

WCMG BOARD MEETING June 20, 2023

Meeting called to order by Ronnie Smith at 5:10 P.M.
Members in attendance:

Kendal Johnson	Ronnie Smith	Bill Marick	Alan Root
Hilary Jensen	Tammie Oakes	Candy Armstrong	
Jean Zylka	Robin Ross	Paulanne Knight	

Minutes of the May 16th meeting were reviewed. Candy moved that the minutes be accepted. Hilary Jensen seconded the motion. All approved..

Treasurer's Report: Jean Zylka

There was one returned check from the plant sale. Ronnie will contact the person who wrote the check and have them reimburse us the amount of the check and the accompanying fee.

NORCOR has not yet deposited the check written to them. Robin moved that the report be accepted. Candy seconded the motion. All approved.

Extension Report: Kendal Johnson

Plant clinics:

The Dalles Farmers' Market is on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. Alan reported that the clinic has had a healthy number of questions.

Tygh Valley plant clinic will be the 4th Saturday in July.

Sherman County will be the second Saturday in July. Liz Cranston will have the needed equipment and materials for this clinic.

WASCO Master gardeners are getting calls and questions forwarded from other areas which are inundated with requests.

Discussion ensued regarding how to better promote the plant clinics.

Committees will be formed for the following projects: Plant Sale, Greenhouse, Rose Garden and The DIG. All members will be invited to participate in some capacity. There will be several and varied opportunities.

Kendal will schedule the meetings beginning in August.

Assistance is needed at The Dalles Middle School for the garden that was planted and tended by a teacher and students. 1-4 people, 1-2 times each week. The garden is irrigated, but needs weeding, tending and oversight.

New Greenhouse

Kendal stated that the intent is to apply for a grant of \$150,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation. The grant would cover the construction of a greenhouse, a community garden, and additional garden beds in neighboring areas. It would also incorporate people from other areas, including Native American groups.

Wasco County Fair Booth

The fair runs the third week in August, from Thursday, August 17th through Sunday, August 20th. Master Gardeners will have a booth at the fair. The booth will not be manned all day every day, but perhaps on Thursday and Saturday of that week, utilizing 2 shifts of 2 hours each. At the July meeting, we will review preparations and assign tasks for the booth.

Kendal would like master gardeners to have t-shirts with our logo and the OSU logo. A discussion was had about the color of the shirts, but no decision was made. Jean made a motion to have Kendal research the possibilities, including price and color and report back. Hilary seconded the motion. All approved.

A discussion ensued regarding aprons to be worn at the plant sale next year. No action was taken.

WCMG BOARD MEETING June 20, 2023, Cont.

New Business

There is a time conflict with the talks at The DIG and the Dalles Farmers' Market. Hilary suggested that the talks begin at 10 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m. It was also suggested that the talks be held at the Farmers' Market to encompass more potential participants. No changes would be made until next year. In the interim, we will place more signage at The DIG to capture the attention of people who frequent the river walk, especially a sign that faces the trail.

Candy suggested that the DIG might be able to coordinate their activities with events on the riverwalk. It is agreed that we need more advertising for The DIG talks on Saturday mornings.

Recruiting New Members

It was suggested that we hold an Open House to acquaint people with master gardeners and their activities. It could be held at the Farmers' Market, at CGCC or at The Dig. More discussion to be had at next meeting.

Scholarship

The discussion was centered on creating criteria for those applying for and receiving a scholarship. A possibility of restricting scholarships to new members only or granting a partial scholarship to new or returning members was mentioned. It was suggested that existing members might contribute extra money in their dues to support another member/applicant in need. It was thought that a scholarship should not be granted to the same person(s) in consecutive years.

The topic was tabled until the next meeting. Members are to bring their ideas and suggestions to the July meeting, at which time, we will vote.

Rose Garden

Work sessions at the Rose Garden have been changed to the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

The DIG

Work times at The DIG are the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Social Events

It was suggested that the next social gathering be in July at The DIG and in August at the rose Garden. Jean will strategize days and times in accordance with work sessions at each location. More to follow.

Open Forum

Alan brought to the table an idea for a project at The Discovery Center. He has been asked by Barbara Robinson to prune the roses. Alan thinks it might be an opportunity to work in the area that grows the native plants at the Center. There were questions about how this would be educational. Would it be sufficient if we labelled the plants? It was thought by some that this might end up being good advertising for master gardeners simply because of the flow of visitors and residents. The topic was tabled for further discussion at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Ronnie at 6:25 p.m.

Upcoming Webinars from OSU Extension

July 11, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PDT Online

[Getting Wild: Using Native Plants to Restore Biodiversity](#)





Grilled Garden Veggie Pizza

Glaze:

- 1 medium red onion, cut crosswise into 1/2-inch slices**
- 1 large sweet red pepper, halved, stemmed and seeded**
- 1 small zucchini, cut lengthwise into 1/2-inch-thick slices**
- 1 yellow summer squash, cut lengthwise into 1/2-inch-thick slices**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil**
- 1/2 teaspoon salt**
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper**
- 1 prebaked 12-inch thin whole wheat pizza crust**
- 3 tablespoons jarred roasted minced garlic**
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese**
- 1/3 cup torn fresh basil**

1. Brush vegetables with oil; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Grill, covered, over medium heat until tender, 4-5 minutes per side for onion and pepper, 3-4 minutes per side for zucchini and squash.
2. Separate onion into rings; cut pepper into strips. Spread pizza crust with garlic; sprinkle with 1 cup cheese. Top with grilled vegetables, then remaining cheese.
3. Grill pizza, covered, over medium heat until bottom is golden brown and cheese is melted, 5-7 minutes. Top with basil.



<div> <div>July</div> <div>2023</div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<div>1</div> <div>Plant Clinic</div> <div>9am-1pm</div> <div>TD Farmers Market</div>
2	3	4	<div>5</div> <div>The Dig Work Party</div> <div>7-9pm</div>	6	7	<div>8</div> <div>Mornings at The Dig! 9am</div> <div>----</div> <div>Plant clinic</div> <div>10am-1pm</div> <div>Sherman Co. Farmers Market</div>
9	10	<div>11</div> <div>Plant Clinic</div> <div>2-4pm</div> <div>----</div> <div>Rose Garden Work Party</div> <div>6:30-8:00pm</div>	<div>12</div> <div>The Dig Work Party</div> <div>7-9pm</div>	13	14	<div>15</div> <div>Mornings at The Dig! 9am</div> <div>----</div> <div>Plant Clinic</div> <div>9am-1pm</div> <div>TD Farmers Market</div>
16	17	<div>18</div> <div>Plant Clinic</div> <div>2-4pm</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Dinner at The DIG 6pm</div> <div>----</div> <div>The Dig Work Party</div> <div>7-9pm</div>	20	21	<div>22</div> <div>Mornings at The Dig! 9am</div> <div>----</div> <div>Plant Clinic</div> <div>9am-1pm</div> <div>Tygh Valley Farmers Market</div>
23	24	<div>25</div> <div>Plant Clinic</div> <div>2-4pm</div> <div>----</div> <div>Rose Garden Work Party</div> <div>6:30-8pm</div>	<div>26</div> <div>The Dig Work Party</div> <div>7-9pm</div> <div>----</div> <div>Rose Garden Work Party</div> <div>9-10am</div>	27	28	<div>29</div> <div>Mornings at The Dig! 9am</div>
30	31					

July 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.

Maintenance and cleanup

- If you want a green lawn, water frequently during periods of heat and drought stress. Irrigate a quarter inch 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.
- Mound soil up around the base of your potato plants. Gather and eat a few “new” potatoes from each hill when plants begin to flower.
- To reduce evaporation, water vegetable and flower gardens in the early morning. Water the soil rather than leaves to reduce disease. Water deeply and infrequently to encourage root growth.
- Pay careful attention to watering and feeding hanging baskets of flowers or vegetable plantings during extended periods of hot weather.
- Weed and fertilize rhubarb and asparagus beds. A mulch of compost or rotted cow manure works well as fertilizer. Water deeply to develop crowns for next year.
- Mulch with paper, plastic, sawdust, etc. to conserve soil moisture.
- Stake tall-growing flowering plants such as delphinium, hollyhocks, and lupine. Stake tomatoes as necessary.
- Make compost of lawn clippings and garden plants that are ready to be recycled. Do not use clippings if lawn has been treated with herbicide, including “weed-and-feed” products. Do not compost diseased plants unless you are using the “hot compost” method (120 degrees to 150 degrees F).

Planting/propagation

- Beets, bush beans, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, kale and peas planted in midsummer provide fall and winter crops. Get more tips on what to plant now in Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening in the Pacific Northwest.
- Dig spring bulbs when tops have died down; divide and store or replant.

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).

- Control hollyhock rust by sanitation, picking affected leaves, or spraying with a registered fungicide. Read and follow label directions.

- Watch for cutworm damage in garden. In July, climbing cutworms become a problem and large portions of foliage will begin to disappear on established plants. Use barriers, remove by hand, use beneficial nematodes when soil temperature is above 55 degrees F, or spray with Bt-k according to label directions.
- Late July: Begin to monitor for early and late blight on tomatoes. Correct by pruning for air circulation, picking off affected leaves, and/or treat with approved fungicide. See this article for more information on common tomato problems.
- Place traps to catch adult apple maggot flies. You can use pheromone traps to monitor presence of pests.
- July 10: Spray filbert trees for filbertworm, as necessary.
- July 10-15: Spray peach and prune trees for peach tree borer and peach twig borer, as necessary.
- July 17-23: Third spray for codling moth in apple and pear trees, as necessary.
- Cover blueberry bushes with netting to keep birds from eating the entire crop.
- Monitor camellias, holly and maple trees for scale insects. Treat if necessary.
- Monitor rhododendrons for adult root weevils. Look for fresh evidence of feeding (notching). Try sticky trap products on plant trunks to trap adult weevils. Manage root weevils with beneficial nematodes (if soil temperature is above 55 degrees F). If root weevils are a consistent problem, consider removing plants and choosing resistant varieties.
- Spider mites can become a problem on ornamental plants, vegetables and fruit plants during hot, dry weather. Watch for dusty-looking foliage, loss of color and the presence of tiny mites. Wash infested areas with water or spray with appropriate pesticides. For more information visit the PNW Insect Management Handbook Landscape Pests - Spider Mites.
- East of the Cascades: If necessary, spray for corn earworm as silking begins. Protect bees from spray.
- Continue monitoring raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, cherry and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for spotted wing drosophila. If the flies are present, use an integrated and least-toxic approach to manage the pests. Learn how to monitor for drosophila flies and larval infestations in fruit.
- Check leafy vegetables for caterpillars. Remove caterpillars as they appear. Use Bt-k, if necessary.
- 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.

The Dirt Sheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE WASCO COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION

Kelsey Alsheimer, Editor

kelsey.alsheimer@gmail.com

Carolyn Wright, Editor

carolynewright@gmail.com

Officers

President – Ronnie Smith

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OSU Extension Staff

Kendal Johnson, Master Gardener and Community Horticulture Educator

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