



MAY 2023

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 5

# THE DIRT SHEET

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASCO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION





A close-up photograph of several vibrant purple flowers, likely irises, with long green leaves and brown mulch in the background. The image is slightly blurred, creating a soft, natural feel.

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HILARY JENSEN

## New Facebook Group!

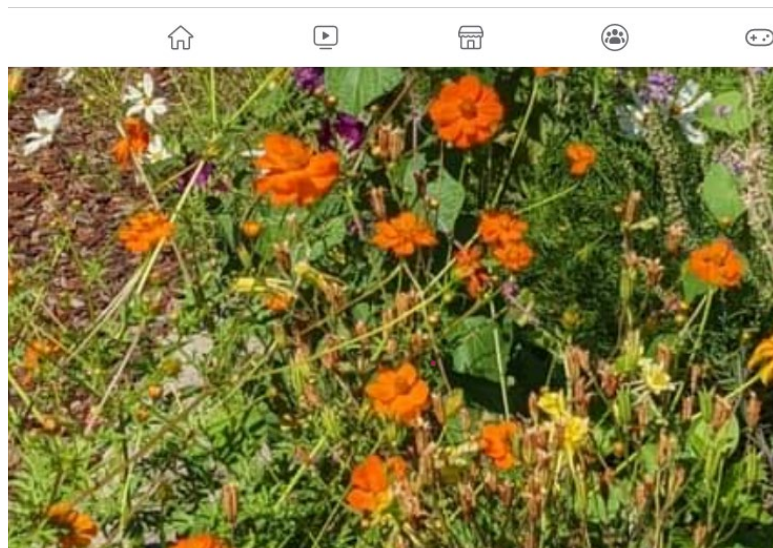
Thanks to a great suggestion by Ann, we've made a Facebook group for current Master Gardeners to join.

Within this group you can post research-based information, share extra plants, bulbs, and seeds you may have from your garden, and keep up-to-date on current Master Gardener happenings.

This will be an interactive group where you can make posts and learn about upcoming events for our program.

If you'd like to join, please click here: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/988676245842503/?ref=share\\_group\\_link](https://www.facebook.com/groups/988676245842503/?ref=share_group_link).

If you are not on Facebook or don't want to join our group, don't worry. All information will still be shared via email and newsletter per usual.



### Wasco County Master Gardener Association

Your membership is pending  
You'll be notified if your request to join is approved.

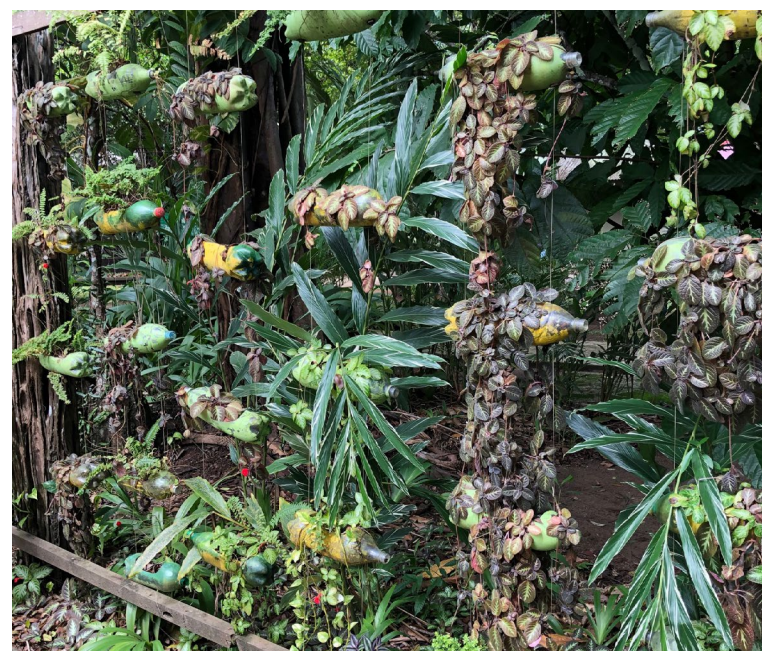
[About](#) [Discussion](#)

CAROLYN WRIGHT

## Garden Screen Project

I saw this hanging plant screen in a garden in Novo Airao, Brazil and was struck by how simple and inexpensive it would be to make. The one pictured is free-standing but it could also be placed by a wall or fence as a vertical garden.

Plastic 2 liter soda bottles were transformed into small planters by cutting out a side of each bottle. If, like me, you don't have soda bottles try substituting 1/2 gallon plastic milk or juice containers. The bottles used here had been painted.



Create a strong frame and be sure it is securely set up. Attach sturdy strings to the top of the frame and run them through both ends of each bottle, cut side up, and spaced one above another. Be sure to place knots beneath each bottle so they stay put! Fill the bottles with potting soil and plant. A combination of trailing plants with upright plants would create a more private screen.

*"Life begins the day you start a garden"*

Chinese proverb



# Upcoming Webinars from OSU Extension

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May 9, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PDT Online

[Forest Foe: How You Can Help Slow the Emerald Ash Borer Invasion](#)

May 9, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm PDT Online

[Container and Vertical Gardening](#)

May 10, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PDT Online

[Creating Year-round Color in the Garden](#)

May 17, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PDT Online

[Growing Vegetables Year-Round](#)

May 24, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PDT Online

[Garden Wilding: Restore Ecological Function for Wildlife and People](#)







## Spring Garden Art Focaccia

<b>4</b>	<b>cups flour</b>	1. Make focaccia dough: In large bowl, whisk together flour, yeast, salt, and sugar. Stir in lukewarm water until dough forms; scrape down bowl so no dough clings to sides. Cover bowl tightly with plastic wrap. Refrigerate until dough doubles in volume, 12 to 24 hours.
<b>2</b>	<b>tsp. instant yeast</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>tsp. kosher salt</b>	2. About 1½ hours to 3 hours before baking, coat bottom and sides of 12-inch cast-iron skillet with ¼ cup olive oil. Using stiff rubber spatula or bowl scraper, pull in edges of dough to meet in center (this will deflate dough and prepare it for second rise). Invert dough onto oiled skillet.
<b>1</b>	<b>tsp. sugar</b>	
<b>2 1/4</b>	<b>cup lukewarm water</b>	3. Using fingertips, gently push dough as much as possible into sides of skillet. Cover tightly with plastic wrap and let rise until almost doubled in volume, 1½ hours to 2 hours. (it will continue to rise as you decorate top).
<b>1/4</b>	<b>cup olive oil</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>tsp. flaky salt</b>	
<b>For Toppings</b>		
<b>3</b>	<b>small red onions halved through cores and peeled</b>	4. Meanwhile, prepare toppings: Using mandoline and starting cut sides down, slice onions at least 1/6 inch thick. Select prettiest slices for larger flowers (these will come from first few slices) and reserve smaller slices for smaller flowers. Cut tips off of more bulbous ends of these slices. For larger tulips, use paring knife to cut through tip (first 2 or 3 layers) in exact center of each slice and splay cut “petals” out slightly. Mix lemon juice with 1 tablespoon water and brush generously onto onion slices.
<b>1</b>	<b>tbsp. lemon juice</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>yellow bell peppers stemmed</b>	5. Cut mini peppers into varying lengths (1½ inches to 2¼ inches); cut each in half lengthwise. Save 1 half for center “petal” of each tulip, trimming off bottom corners to create rounded petal shape. Cut remaining peppers in half lengthwise (these are outer petals). Repeat trimming to create rounded petal shape.
<b>3-4</b>	<b>pencil asparagus cut into varying lengths for flower stems</b>	6. Cut bell peppers into strips, tapering both ends of each.
<b>5</b>	<b>chives cut into varying lengths</b>	7. Bake focaccia: Heat oven to 425°F with rack in lowest position.
		8. Uncover dough and coat fingertips in oil. Working quickly, “dimple” dough by inserting splayed fingertips straight to bottom of pan and pulling back up. Drizzle top of dough with remaining 2 table- spoons oil and sprinkle with flaky salt.
		9. Top dough as follows and press gently to make it adhere: Start with grass (asparagus) at base, then create large purple flowers (red onions) and stems (chives). Add tulip stems (asparagus) and tulips (mini peppers). Repeat with bell pepper strips, arranging in concentric circles for flowers, and asparagus for stems. Next add smaller purple flowers and their stems (chives). Finish with more grass (asparagus and chives) to fill out.
		10. Bake on bottom rack 15 minutes, then remove from oven. Using small pieces of foil, cover just flower and grass area to prevent charring, exposing as much of focaccia background as possible. Bake until exposed dough is golden brown, about 15 minutes. Remove foil and let cool 5 minutes. Using off- set spatulas, transfer focaccia to wire rack. Let cool at least 5 minutes before serving.





<div> <div>May</div> <div>2023</div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Plant Clinic 2-4pm	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Plant Clinic 2-4pm ---- Rose Garden Work Party 5-6:30pm	10	11	12	13 Spring Fair and Plant Sale 9am-2pm
14	15	16 Plant Clinic 2-4pm	17	18	19	20 Home Depot Plant Clinic 10am-1pm ---- Garden Tour 8am-4pm
21	22	23 Plant Clinic 2-4pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Plant Clinic 2-4pm	31			

# May 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

- Prepare and prime irrigation system for summer.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. Wait until the soil is consistently above 70 degrees to plant tomatoes, squash, melons, peppers and eggplant.
- Place pheromone traps in apple trees to detect presence of codling moth. Plan a control program of sprays, baits or predators when moths are found.

## Maintenance and cleanup

- If needed, fertilize rhododendrons and azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal. Remove spent blossoms.
- When selecting new roses, choose plants labeled for resistance to diseases. Fertilize roses and control rose diseases such as mildew with a registered fungicide, either organic or synthetic.

## Planting/propagation

- Plant dahlias, gladioli and tuberous begonias mid-May.
- Plant chrysanthemums for fall color.
- Plant these vegetables (dates vary locally; check with local Master Gardeners):
  - Lower elevations, eastern Oregon (dates vary widely): Snap and lima beans, beets, celery, sweet corn, slicing and pickling cucumbers, dill, kale, kohlrabi, onions, parsley, parsnips, peppers, white potatoes, pumpkins, summer and winter squash, and tomatoes.
  - Central Oregon and higher elevations of eastern Oregon: Direct seed carrots, corn (late May), chard, kohlrabi, and potatoes. Transplant Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cucumbers (late May), leeks or peppers.
  - Columbia and Snake River valleys, Ontario: Cantaloupes, dill, eggplant, kale, okra, peppers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and watermelon.

## 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).

- If an unknown plant problem occurs, contact your local Master Gardener hotline or plant clinic for identification and future management options.

- Manage weeds while they are small and actively growing with light cultivation or herbicides. Once the weed has gone to bud, herbicides are less effective.
- Trap moles and gophers as new mounds appear.
- Leafrolling worms may affect apples and blueberries. Prune off and destroy affected leaves.
- Monitor aphids on strawberries and ornamentals. If present, control options include washing off with water, hand removal, or using registered insecticides labeled for the problem plant. Read and follow all label directions prior to using insecticides. Promoting natural enemies (predators and parasitoids that eat or kill insects) is a longer-term solution for insect control in gardens.
- Spittle bugs may appear on ornamental plants as foam on stems. In most cases, they don't require management. If desired, wash off with water or use insecticidal soap as a contact spray. Read and follow label directions when using insecticides, including insecticidal soap.
- Control cabbage worms in cabbage and cauliflower, 12-spotted cucumber beetles in beans and lettuce, and maggots in radishes. Control can involve hand removal, placing barrier screen over newly planted rows, or spraying or dusting with registered pesticides, labeled for use on the problem plant. Read and follow label directions when using insecticides.
- Tiny holes in foliage and shiny, black beetles on tomato, beets, radishes and potato indicate flea beetle attack. Treat with Neem, Bt or use nematodes for larvae. Read and follow label directions when using insecticides.
- Prevent root maggots when planting cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, collards and kale) by covering with row covers or screens, or by applying appropriate insecticides.
- Monitor rhododendrons, azaleas, primroses and other broadleaf ornamentals for adult root weevils. Look for fresh evidence of feeding (notching at leaf edges). Try sticky trap products on plant trunks to trap adult weevils. Protect against damaging the bark by applying the sticky material on a 4-inch wide band of poly sheeting or burlap wrapped around the trunk. Mark plants now and manage with beneficial nematodes when soil temperatures are above 55 degrees. If root weevils are a consistent problem, consider removing plants and choosing resistant varieties.
- Control slugs with bait or traps and by removing or mowing vegetation near garden plots.
- Monitor blueberry, raspberry, strawberry and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for spotted wing drosophila (SWD). Learn how to monitor for SWD flies and larval infestations in fruit.



# The Dirt Sheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE WASCO COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION

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