

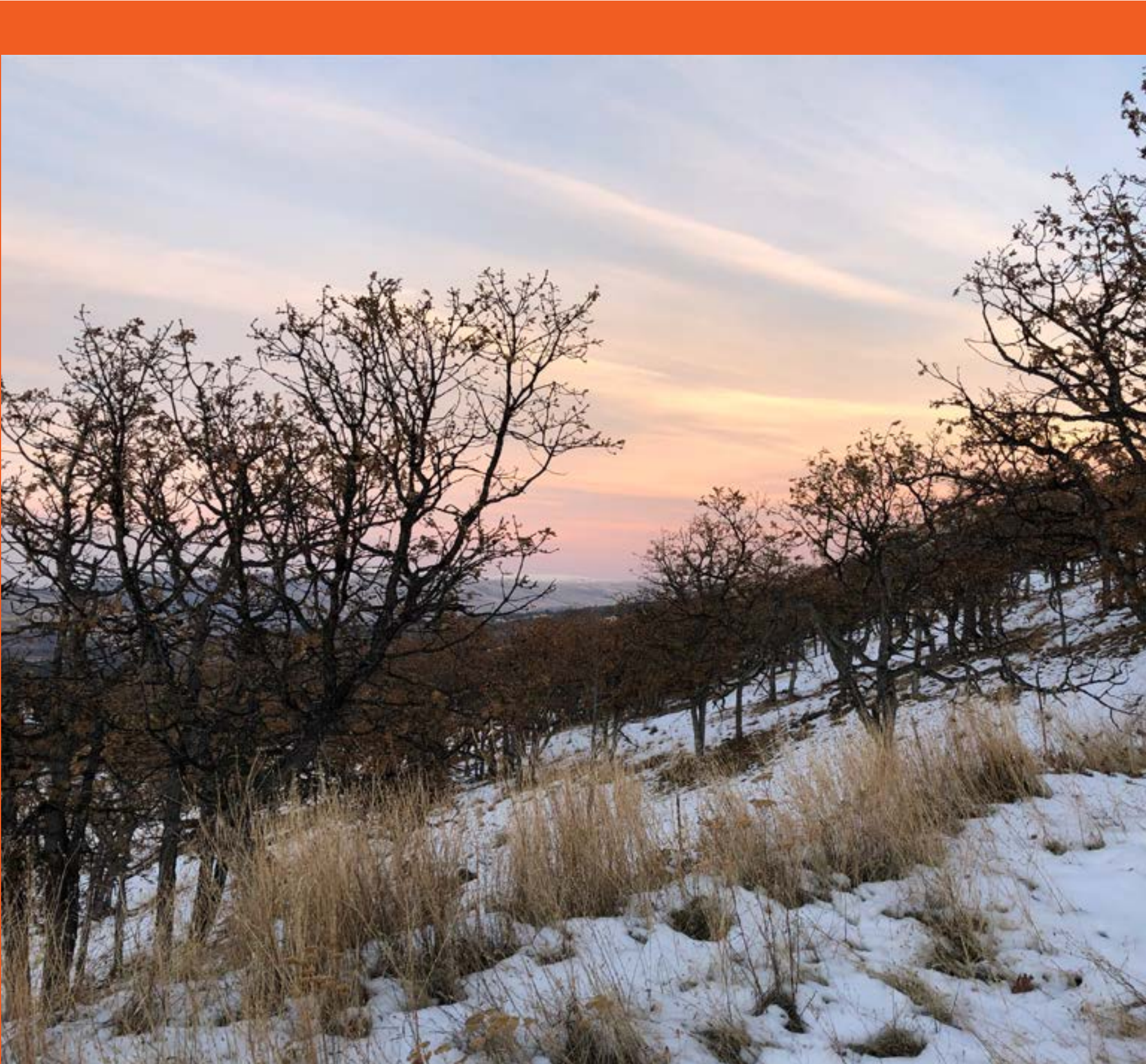


JANUARY 2024

VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 1

THE DIRT SHEET

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASCO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2

President's Corner

3

End of Year Party Photos

4

Become a Master Gardener/ Renewal

5

2024 Class Schedule

6

Upcoming Webinars from OSU Extension

7

Recipe of the Month

8

January WCMGA Calendar

9

OSU Extension Garden Calendar

President's Corner

Happy New Year, Master Gardeners!

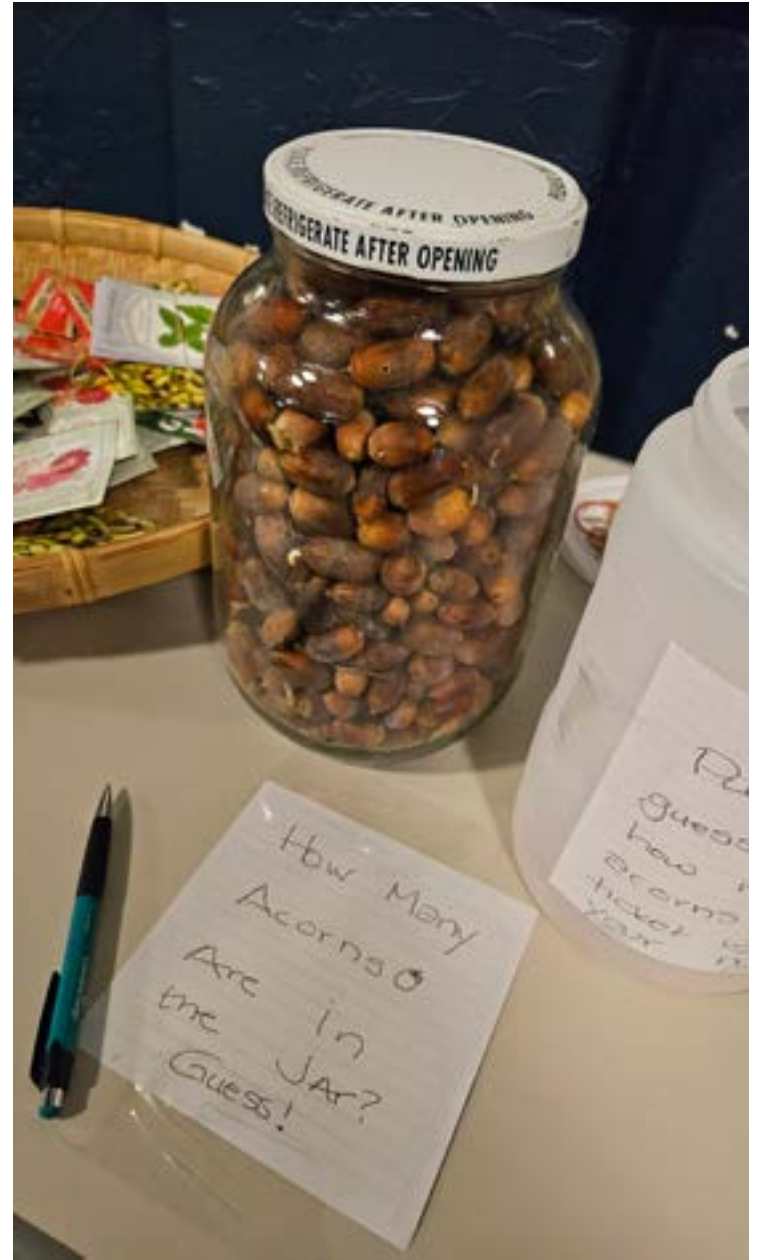
I hope 2024 finds you all in good spirits and ready to get your gardening on. My mailbox is already starting to pile up with seed catalogs; it's so fun to dream up new garden ideas! I personally always try to grow one plant each year that we've never tried before which often results in a permanent place in our garden plans for the future. My son enjoys thumbing through the catalogues and offering his opinion on what we should grow which is a great way to interest him in gardening and trying new foods.

While I've thoroughly enjoyed my downtime from the garden, I'm starting to feel the familiar itch to get out there and start working the soil. It's hard to believe that we are only one month away from the start of our 2024 classes! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and catching up on what's been going on in your lives over the last few months.

Cheers to 2024! May your gardens be lush with plants and pollinators and free from any pesky weeds. See you all soon!

Hilary

End of Year Party - Welcome new board and members!





Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener volunteers are neighbors, friends and family who you can go to for garden advice that is grounded in science and locally relevant.

We are garden educators and on-the-ground community scientists.

Master Gardeners receive extensive training and complete a university-taught course in topics including botany, pest identification, soil management and diagnosing plant problems, to name a few.

Let's
talk
plants!



Apply now
for 2024
training!

In person and Online based classes begin in February, with the hybrid model allowing for people with full time jobs and families to participate. In person classes are taught by OSU experts and experienced Master Gardener Volunteers.

Volunteer hours are a key learning experience in becoming an OSU Master Gardener. In 2024 we are requiring 40 hours of volunteer service for new gardener's. All volunteer experiences are carefully selected to help you learn and engage with the community, including farmers market plant clinics, community garden classes, seed exchanges, and more.

Cost: \$70

Interested?

541-298-3577

wascomginterest@lists.oregonstate.edu



OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by 12/10/23 to Kendal Johnson 541-298-3577. This publication will be made available in an accessible alternative format upon request. Please contact



**Oregon State
University**

2024 Wasco County Master Gardener's

Class Schedule

Tuesday 2/6 5:30-6:30pm	New Member Meet and Greet!!	CGCC
Tuesday 2/13 5:30-8:00pm	Introduction to OSU Master Gardener Program	CGCC
Tuesday 2/20 5:30-8:00pm	Botany and Native Plants- Christina and Brad Mead	CGCC
Tuesday 2/27 5:30-8:00pm	Soils- Alec Kowaleski	CGCC
Tuesday 3/5 5:30-8:00pm	Fire Safe Landscaping- Jacob Powell	CGCC
Tuesday 3/12 5:30-8:00pm	Pesticide Safety- Kendal Johnson	CGCC
Saturday 3/16 9-11:30am	Tree Pruning- Ashley Thompson	TBD
Tuesday 3/19 5:30-8:00pm	Plant Problem Diagnosis- Megan Wickersham	CGCC
Saturday 3/23 10-12:30am	Rose Pruning- Katherine Johnson	Sorosis Park
Tuesday 3/26 5:30-8:00pm	Pollinators- Andony Melathopoulos	CGCC
Saturday 3/30 9-11:30am	Vegetable Gardening- Jessica Green	CGCC?
Tuesday 4/2 5:30-8:00pm	Insects of the Gorge- Billy O'Keefe	CGCC
Saturday 4/6 9-11:30am	The DIG and Raised Bed Management	The DIG
Tuesday 4/9 5:30-8:00pm	Course Review	CGCC

Upcoming Webinars from OSU Extension

January 10, 2024 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PDT Online

Make your garden more climate resilient

About: Climate change affects all of us and requires gardeners to reassess how we garden and what we grow. This session will focus on proven ideas to improve soil, capture water, choose the right plants, and diversify the garden ecosystem. Join us and get an early start for improving your garden's climate resilience.

January 17, 2024 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PDT Online

Fruit tree pruning

About: Do your fruit trees have a good form and produce a consistent crop every year? Can you reach them safely to prune and harvest? If not, this class can help. Learn proven practices that will boost your confidence.

January 18, 2024 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PDT Online

Pruning ornamental trees

About: Do your trees have a strong framework and pleasing form? Are you confident with pruning? If not, this class can help. Learn how to build a strong tree that can better withstand wind, snow, ice and heat. We will discuss components of a strong framework -- branch placement and distribution, crotch angle, aspect ratio, taper, root architecture – all contributing to greater resiliency in this changing climate.

January 24, 2024 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PDT Online

Growing fruit trees in the Pacific Northwest

About: Fruit trees can produce for many years, even decades. To reach a tree's full fruiting potential requires the gardener to select a variety that matches local climate, choose a good specimen and plant it with care, and nurture it with proper watering, disease and pest management, and pruning.



January 31, 2024 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PDT Online

Growing blueberries

About: Everyone knows blueberries are delicious parcels of anti-oxidants, but how many are aware blueberry plants can live for decades if proper pruning keeps up the production of young fruiting wood?

We will share best practices worked out through years of research by Oregon State University scientists. This class begins with how to choose among different varieties. Then we discuss soil preparations and planting techniques, followed by cultural practices including fertilizing, watering, and pruning. Finally, we review pest and disease problems and how to manage them.



Minestra Maritata (Italian Wedding Soup)

- 3** **tablespoons olive oil**
- 1 1/3** **cups chopped yellow onion**
- 2/3** **cup chopped carrot**
- 2/3** **cup chopped celery**
- 2** **tablespoon chopped fresh thyme**
- 2** **tablespoons minced garlic**
- 6** **cups unsalted chicken broth**
- 6** **ounces orzo**
- 1 1/2** **tablespoons chopped fresh oregano**
- 1/2** **teaspoon kosher salt**
- 24** **cooked chicken meatballs**
- 4** **cups baby spinach**
- 1/4** **cup grated Parmesan cheese**

- 1. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add onion, carrot, celery and garlic; cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion is translucent, 4 to 5 minutes.
- 2. Add broth, cover and bring to a boil. Add orzo, oregano and salt; cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until the orzo is just tender, about 9 minutes.
- 3. Stir in meatballs and spinach; cook until the meatballs are heated through and the spinach is wilted, 2 to 4 minutes.
- 4. Serve sprinkled with cheese and drizzled with the remaining 3 tablespoons oil.

January

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 WCMGA Radio 10am	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 WCMGA Monthly Meeting 5:10pm	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 WCMGA Applications Due! *	27
28	29	30	31			

*** Please note the WCMGA Application due date on January 26th is mandatory as it has already been extended. Please call Kendal at (541-298-3577) with issues.**



January 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

- If Plan to replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with resistant cultivars in February.
- Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs and trees for propagation.
- Order a soil test to determine your garden's nutrient needs. Contact your local Extension office for a list of laboratories or view Analytical Laboratories Serving Oregon.
- Begin planning this year's vegetable garden in western Oregon and central Oregon. Check with local retail garden or nursery stores for seeds and seed catalogs.
- Keep a garden journal. Consult your journal in the winter, so you can better plan for the growing season.

Maintenance and cleanup

- Central/Eastern Oregon: To prevent winter damage from drying, water plants deeply every six to eight weeks, when the temperatures are above freezing.
- Place windbreaks to protect sensitive landscape evergreens against cold, drying winds.
- Reapply or redistribute mulch that has blown or washed away during winter.
- Clean pruners and other small garden tools with rubbing alcohol.
- Western Oregon: Water landscape plants underneath wide eaves and in other sites shielded from rain.
- Western Oregon: Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.

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).

- Scout cherry trees for signs and symptoms of bacterial canker. Remove infected branches with a clean pruner or saw. Sterilize tools before each new cut. Burn or send the branches to a landfill before bloom. See Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards.
- Watch for field mice damage on lower trunks of trees and shrubs. Eliminate hiding places by removing weeds. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.

- Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on roses for general disease control, or plan to replace susceptible varieties with resistant cultivars in February.

- Mid-January: Spray peach trees with approved fungicides to combat peach leaf curl and shothole. Or plant curl-resistant cultivars such as 'Frost', 'Q1-8' or 'Creswell'.

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.

Indoor gardening

- Monitor houseplants for correct water and fertilizer; guard against insect infestations; clean dust from leaves.
- Protect sensitive plants such as weeping figs from cold drafts in the house.
- Propagate split-leaf philodendrons and other leggy indoor plants by air-layering or vegetative cuttings.
- Plant dwarf annual flowers such as coleus, impatiens and seedling geraniums inside as houseplants.
- Western Oregon: Gather branches of quince, forsythia and flowering cherries and bring them indoors to force an early bloom.



The Dirt Sheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE WASCO COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION

Kelsey Alsheimer, Editor

kelsey.alsheimer@gmail.com

Carolyn Wright, Editor

carolyneewright@gmail.com

Officers

Association President – Hilary Jensen

Vice President – Vacant

Past President – Ronnie Smith

Secretary – Robin Ross

Treasurer – Jean Zylka

Historian – Candy Armstrong

OMGA Rep – Dana Greyson

Alt. OMGA Rep – Paulann Knight

OSU Extension Staff

Kendal Johnson, Master Gardener and Community Horticulture Educator

Find Us Online

<https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/wcmga/dirt-sheet/>

Facebook users can view our page at:



<https://www.facebook.com/WascoMG/>



If you are on Instagram follow us at:

<http://www.instagram.com/wascocounty-mastergardeners/>



In collaboration with
and support of



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™