

The Grapevine



The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners

January 2018

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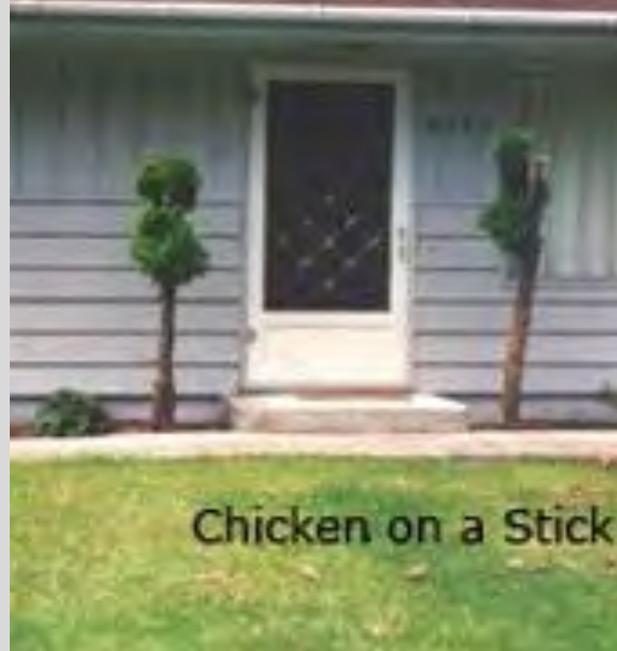
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KEEP IN MIND...

- "Welcome Trainees" for 2018: first Master Gardener class
- YCMGA Board Meeting January 10th: learn how we really function.

- YCMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:**
- Community Garden**
Linda Mason
 - Demo Garden**
Gail Price
 - Education Outreach**
Nancy Woodworth
 - Newsletter**
Donn Callahan
 - Farmers' Mkt. Mac.**
Tom Canales
 - Farmers' Mkt. Newberg**
Peter Steadman
 - Greenhouse**
Pat Fritz
 - Hospitality**
Polly Blum
 - Insect Committee**
Robert Grossman
 - Library**
Beth Durr
 - Photography**
Nancy Woodworth
 - Plant Sale**
Pat Fritz
 - Propagation**
Linda Coakley
 - Publicity**
Tom Canales
 - Scholarships**
Susan Nesbitt
 - Seed-to-Supper**
Gene Nesbitt
 - Spring into Garden**
Gene Nesbitt
 - Social Media/Website**
Tom Canales

CRIMES AGAINST "NATURE"



*Tomatoes by Alan
page 4!
Taming your runaway
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Non-Mormon "uncrickets"
page 5!*

HAPPENING ON JANUARY 4TH!

The new Master Gardener Training classes begin on Thursday, January 4th! We will be having a potluck lunch to welcome the new trainees into the program and would like to invite veteran Master Gardeners to **bring a dish** to the potluck and **join in welcoming the new class**. We typically start the lunch around noon but there is a possibility that the morning class will end earlier than that so we encourage you to enter quietly a bit before noon just in case. We should be done with the potluck around 1pm. The classes and the potluck are at the PWA.



(YCMGA officers listed on page 20)

PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

Spot this common weed in the winter

Common chickweed (*Stellaria media*) is a ubiquitous weed found in this area during the winter months; it grows in open areas, lawns, crop fields and pastures. This plant can be identified by its often prostrate growth habit, and hairless ovate to elliptical-shaped leaves. They flower in spring and have white ½" flowers with 5 deeply lobed petals.

Common chickweed reproduces mostly from seed, but can asexually reproduce from its creeping stems. A best management practice is to pull it up before it begins to flower in March. This weed can also be confused with its hairy cousin the mouseear chickweed (*Cerastium vulgatum*).



An interesting factoid regarding this plant is that it is edible and can be used in salads. However, as a responsible Master Gardener Coordinator (which I am), I must tell you to use caution when harvesting wild plants and make sure you have a positive identification before consumption.



Heather's Highlights

Happy New Year to all of you and I hope you had a jubilant holiday season. Now that 2018 is here, our Master Gardener training season is upon us. I am looking forward to meeting the new trainees and learning of their skills and interests. We have had good regis-

tration this year with 23 trainees signed up at this point. Classes start the 4th of January, so feel free to come and participate in the lunch potluck to welcome the class members the first day of class.

Keep in mind that attending training classes is a good way to

get a leg up on the continuing education classes for recertification. This year we have a few new instructors such as Amy Jo Detweiler from OSU Extension presenting about plant identification, Richard Regan, a retired OSU horticulture instructor will teach plant nutrition, and Jeff Chocate, OSU Extension, presenting about tree fruits.

Our own Michael O'Loughlin will also be teaching about pollinators. Classes will be every Thursday through March 15th. The schedule can be found on the Yamhill County Extension website below:

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/sites/default/files/mg/documents/2018_yc_class_schedule_reduced_size.pdf



Please join us on Thursdays this training season to welcome the new class and brush up on your basics!

Yamhill County Master Gardener Calendar



January 2018



- 4** **First MG training class for 2018** at Public Works Auditorium.
9 a.m. to noon: Program introduction and online module information session. (Heather Stoven).
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Botany (Heather Stoven)
- 10** **YCMGA Board meeting** at Public Works Auditorium, 10 a.m. to the vicinity of noon.
ALL MASTER GARDENERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND
- 11** **Second MG Training class** at Public Works Auditorium.
9 a.m. to noon: Insects (Bob Grossman, entomologist).
Online module only (not at Extension Office): Online module: Integrated Pest management
- 18** **Third MG Training class** at Public Works Auditorium.
9 a.m. to noon: Propagation (Norm Jacobs and Gail Price, propagation specialists)
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Winter Vegetables (Anna Ashby)
- 25** **Fourth MG Training class for 2018** at Public Works Auditorium.
9 a.m. to noon: Plant identification (Amy Jo Detweiler, OSU Department of Horticulture).
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Organic Vegetable Gardening (Weston Miller, OSU Extension, Clackamas County)

NOTES ON MG TRAINING CLASSES

- **All classes held in Public Works Auditorium at 2050 N.E. Lafayette Ave., McMinnville, Oregon** (except March 8th—details in February & March Grapevine).
- **Meet with mentors from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.**
- **Lunch break from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Bring your own lunch).**

'To the Root of It@ 9:00 am. on radio KLY" C AM 1260 with Sharon & Kyle.



The Community Garden 1 gallon tomato program.

With approximately 1000 tomato varieties available for us to choose from, how do we decide what to grow for the MG Plant Sale and for growing in the greenhouse and outdoors in raised beds for the Food Bank? We are planning on growing about 1500 tomato plants beginning this month and it is a difficult choice.

My personal favorites are Early Girl and Willamette and these will be on the list, as always. The seed has been ordered and germination will begin in late January. Our selections are based on MG input, gardeners choice, OSU publications and lots of guessing. If you don't find something that works for you, you are not alone.

Alan Wenner

Our list for 2018 is as follows:

Glacier
Super Sweet 100
Big Boy
Jet star
Stupice

Italian Roma
Yellow pear
Brandywine red
Pineapple

Oregon Spring
Beefsteak
Cherokee Purple
San Marzano

Patio
Better Boy
Early Girl
Willamette



MORMON CRICKETS ON THE MARCH

PREFACE: Actually, Mormon Crickets are neither Mormons nor crickets. They are secular (as far as we know) shield-backed katydids.

Mormon crickets, which can devastate farm fields in short order during infestations, are on the

march in parts of Idaho. Even though they are a native of Idaho, they are considered invasive because of the widespread destruction they cause.

Owyhee County vineyard owner Tom Elias said the harsh winter ruined about 85 percent of his wine grape crop in Marsing this year "and then

(a few) weeks ago I had Mormon crickets come through and they finished it off."

Elias has dealt with the pest in past years but never to this extent.

"Those suckers are huge this year; the biggest ones I've ever seen," he said. "I woke up one morning to my house,

"CRICKETS" CONTINUED

my car, my tractor, green-house, everything, covered in Mormon crickets. And they eat everything in sight."

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture, which handles Mormon cricket problems on state land and private ground when asked, has received a lot of calls in the past two weeks about the pest, said ISDA Plant Industries Administrator Lloyd Knight.

Knight said the Mormon cricket infestations this year are location-specific. The department has received a lot of calls from people in just 3 Idaho counties.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service controls Mormon cricket infestations on federal lands.

"We are seeing significantly higher Mormon cricket populations on (Bureau of Land Management) land and a small amount of Forest Service land in southwestern Idaho this year and we are receiving more complaints from neighboring land-owners as a result," Brian Marschman, who heads the APHIS plant health program in Idaho, told Capital Press in an email.

"In a few locations we have



seen populations as high as 70 per square yard," he said.

APHIS has treated about 500 acres of BLM land in Owyhee County this year but hasn't been able to treat larger tracts because of the higher than usual amount of water in

the area and the presence of sensitive species, Marschman said.

There is no clear explanation why Mormon cricket populations are much higher this year. Surveys in 2016 indicated an uptick from record low populations from 2012-2015.



At a glance

Mormon cricket (*Anabrus simplex*)

These insects are actually a shield-backed katydid. The common name is derived from this pest's destruction of the crops of Mormon settlers in the mid-1800s.

Appearance: 1.5 to 2 inches long (adult phase). Varied color from gray green, purplish, brown to black. Hind tibiae are spiny; its wings are underdeveloped and it cannot fly.

Behavior: One generation annually; outbreaks can last 5 to 10 years. Vast bands will migrate up to 50 miles, feeding on field and forage crops, fruit trees, vineyards and grains.

Range: Found throughout Western North America.

Habitat: Areas of rangeland shrubs, forbs and grasses.

Damage: Voracious eaters, Mormon crickets have powerful mandibles that can strip trees of foliage and destroy their fruit.

Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey



Source: Washington State University

Alan Kenaga/Capital Press

*Idaho Dept. of Ag.
APHIS
Capital Press, 2017*

<http://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/grasshopper-mormon-cricket-control-program/>



"To date nothing has been tried that these insects, nearly as large as grown mice, will not eat." 1934 - A. Kilburn, County Agent, Utah

WISTERIA: PRUNE VIGOROUSLY, PRUNE NOW



Wisteria delivers a beautiful spring display, but this vigorous vine needs plenty of pruning to keep it from swallowing the garden.

“Wisteria are very vigorous vines and can climb easily to 30 to 40 feet,” said Neil Bell, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. “They can be quite heavy and should be grown on a strong structure.”

When people see the jaw-dropping blooms erupt in mid-spring, they covet wisteria for their own garden. But, they should first know that in addition

to the proper support, the vine needs vigorous pruning.

“Before planting one, people should realize the effort involved in keeping them in bounds,” Bell noted. “You can tackle most flowering shrubs once a year, but wisteria is so **insanely vigorous** there’s an advantage to summer pruning as well as in winter. The most common mistake is not pruning at all.”

Most frequently grown are the Chinese species (*Wisteria sinensis*), which blooms on bare branches before foliage emerges with flowers that open all at once. They’re smaller than the

blooms of Japanese wisteria (*W. floribunda*), which open gradually from the top down and after leaves come out. Fragrant flowers range in color from blue to lavender and more rarely white. Both species put out loads of runners that can be pruned more than twice a year if the plant is threatening to take over a structure – especially your house.

Because the foliage is gone and the runners are easier to see, winter is the easiest time to prune, Bell said. Take a look at the vine and cut excess growth to the trunk and then prune the rest of the runners to two or three buds or about 6 inches

WISTERIA (CONTINUED)

long. Cut just above the chosen bud. Again in summer, you'll want to prune excess growth and clip the remainder to two to three buds.

*Wisteria: It's
"insanely
vigorous!"*

Another option is to train your wisteria into a tree, which allows it to be grown away from structures where it can cause major damage if left unpruned. It also makes it easier to get around the plant when it's time for clipping, Bell said.

To create a tree, use a robust metal post to hold the vine. Start by training a single shoot up the support, which could take one growing season, he said. The following year, cut the main stem above the top of your support where you want "branches" to grow and the basic form of the tree is complete. Each year after this, the wisteria will require hard pruning to remain manageable. The shoots can be cut back significantly and still bear flowers.

Sometimes people complain that their wisteria is not blooming. Be aware, Bell said, that flowers often don't appear for two or three years (sometimes longer) after planting unless

you bought one while it was blooming. If you've waited what seems like too long, however, there are some things you can do to nudge it along. Stressing the plant by not fertilizing and root pruning will often force it into bloom. To root prune, use a shovel to cut the roots in a circle about 1 to 2 feet from the plant's trunk.

Bell's other tips for growing wisteria include planting in full sun in well-drained soil that's kept consistently moist but not wet. Fertilize with a low-nitrogen (first number in the three-number sequence on the label) product. Less fertilizer is better than over fertilizing. Only feed once a year, every other year or not at all.

A fun fact: The world's largest known wisteria is in Sierra Madre, California, measuring more than 1 acre and weighing 250 tons. The Chinese specimen was planted in 1894.

Keep in mind that the seeds and fuzzy seed pods of wisteria are toxic.



*Kym Pokorney, Public Relations
Communication expert, Oregon
State University*



Extreme Topiary

NEW REVISED YCMGA FLYER



(PAGE 1)

Y.C.M.G.A

Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association



The Yamhill County Master Gardener™ Association is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose is to enhance and support the OSU Yamhill County Extension Master Gardener™ program.



Oregon State University
Extension Service



Our Mission

Historically, the Yamhill County Master Gardener Association in partnership with the OSU Yamhill County Extension Master Gardeners have provided university researched, science based, horticultural gardening information to Yamhill County residents.



Some of the main focuses of the YCMGA are:

- Promoting a wide dissemination of information to citizens available as a result of University study and research. Such information shall be in accordance with Oregon State University standards.
- Working with other organizations to enhance and promote sustainable gardening in the community.
- Providing scholarships for college level education.

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ERGOT: THE TOXIC FUNGUS

Family: Clavicipitaceae

Habitat: Thrives on cereal crops such as rye, wheat, and barley.

Common names: Ergot of rye, "St. Anthony's Fire"

Historians still wonder what caused the bizarre behavior that led eight young girls to be suspected of demonic possession and witchcraft during the winter of 1691 in Salem, Massachusetts. One girl after another went into convulsions, babbled incoherently, and complained of creepy skin sensations. Doctors could find nothing wrong with them, and the best explanation medical science had to offer was that a witch cast a spell over the girls.

Ergot is a parasitic fungus that attaches itself to flowering cereal grass like rye or wheat. It flourishes in damp conditions and possesses the special trick of being able to mimic the very grain it has infected. It forms a hardened mass called a sclerotium on it's host and can nurture dormant spores until the conditions are just right to

Below is a shrunken version of the back of the YCMGA tri-fold flyer, created by Jade.



History of OSU Yamhill County Master Gardeners

1986 - 12 new trainees began program

1991 - Became an OMGA Association

2016 - Community Contacts: 6,345

Volunteer Hours: 13,492

2016 - McMinnville Community Garden donated 15,282 pounds of produce to YCAP to help families in need. This was the largest donation in the state.

Community Partners

- OSU Yamhill County Extension Service
- Oregon Food Bank
- Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP)
- McMinnville Cooperative Ministries
- Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District
-And many more!

What We Do in The Community

- Partner with OSU Yamhill County Extension in providing ongoing classes and workshops to teach sustainable gardening practices.
- McMinnville Community Garden in partnership with Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP) provides families and children at nutritional risk with fresh produce.
- Engage with the public at weekly Farmers Markets in both Newberg and McMinnville.
- Hold a weekly radio program sponsored by Recology - **KLYC 1260AM**
- Collaborate with Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District and Native Plant Society to conduct educational outreach.
- Plan and maintain a demonstration garden and sustainability garden in partnership with Yamhill County Fair Board.
- Conduct free gardening courses for low income families in collaboration with Oregon Food Bank.



YCMGA Involvement with Youth Programs



- Working closely with the McMinnville and Dayton High School FFA (Future Farmers of America) program.
- Beautification in many areas of the City of Newberg in partnership with Newberg High School greenhouse students, George Fox University Students, Chehalem Parks and Recreation and the Newberg Downtown Coalition.
- Newberg High School weekly educational outreach includes:
 - Working with students in their Botany and Horticulture classes
 - Maintenance of 4 large greenhouses
 - Many demonstration gardens on campus utilizing native plants and water wise plants
 - Herb garden utilized by culinary class
 - Giving students the opportunity to receive advanced college credit by enrolling in horticulture based classes.
- Yamhill County High School students have opportunity to apply for YCMGA scholarships for higher education.

release them. Millions of ergot spores can be harvested right along with a rye or wheat crop, and the bread produced from those grains can contain enough of the fungus to infect whoever eats it.

The alkaloids in ergot constrict blood vessels, causing seizures, nausea, uterine contractions, and eventually gangrene and death. Records from the Middle Ages show instances of villagers dancing in the streets, and having convulsions. This "dancing mania" was also sometimes called St. Anthony's fire, a possible reference to the awful burning sensation victims felt, and the eventual gangrenous blisters and peeling skin. Even livestock are not safe: when cows are fed infected grain, they lose their hooves, tails and ears before they die.

In the present day, there are still no ergot-resistant strains of ryegrass, but rye farmers now rinse their crop in a salt solution which kills the fungus.



Source: *Wicked Plants* by Amy Stewart

YCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

December 13th, 2017

Pat the President called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. on above date. In attendance:

Cathy Burdett	Linda Mason	Rita Canales
Nancy Woodworth	Tonia Beebe	Polly Blum
Donn Callaham	Linda Coakley	Tom Canales
Heather Stoven	Jade Wilson	Ruth Estrada
Marilyn MacGregor	Susanne Beukema	Pat Fritz
Charlotte Earl		

Certificates: Certificates which had been issued by OMGA but were not available on awards night were presented to Sylvia and Linda C. for YCMGA "Behind the Scenes."

4H conference: Since YCMGA had financed participation in the national 4H conference for several local students, one of the students gave a report on the event. She and the other representatives enjoyed the event, and apparently gained much confidence and expertise.

November Secretary's minutes: Linda M. brought up a needed change: the pounds of produce donated to YCAP were transposed. Correct numbers are 13,819 pounds for the year, 121# for October. Tom motioned that minutes be accepted with that change, and they were.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Carol was not present, but we were asked to consider changing the scholarship donations from \$1000 per student to perhaps 1.5 to 2K per student.

The Heather Report: Class sign-ups are doing pretty well, with 14 people signed up plus 2 who will do it online. We have new chairs in the auditorium!! By chance, the uncomfortable chairs were listed as the most important aspect of change needed for MG classes. No more battles over who gets an upholstered chair... (Kelli is the person who did the research and purchased the chairs, so she is the one to appreciate). There will be an effort to make our MG classes more interactive, though that may be difficult to make happen this year. The coordinator for the Central Oregon MG associations is working on a

database to organize desk clinic solutions. It will be a collection of vetted answers to questions received at the Extension Office, categorized under type of question. A searchable collection of usable answers is planned, which will be tested this year and implemented next year. Also, Gene and Sue received the OSU Extension Association "cooperation award." (See details in January edition of the *Grapevine*). Jade has produced a new YCMGA brochure, a copy of which will also be in the January edition of the *Grapevine*.
And there is more!

All trainees this year will have a link to the trainee manual, but not a hard copy. Every mentor will have a paper copy, however. Eileen is in charge of the revision of updating that manual, but the status of that is not known. The new signup program (described in November notes) is now on trial for the desk office only (not other venues yet). A link will be sent to everyone. To prevent irresponsible people from signing up and then a few days later changing their minds, there is only a 30-minute window for changes, after which an undependable member will have to talk with Jade *personally*.

Announcements & Correspondence: A submission for the Karl Karlson award was made in the name of Seed-to-Supper. Two "thank-you" cards from 4H ambassadors were received from non-Yamhill-county 4H members. (The YCMGA donation for this project goes into a state-wide fund, which distributes the money among multiple county 4H students).

In addition to receiving *seven tons* of donated fresh food from the YCMGA Community Garden, YCAP also requested a money donation from YCMGA; members agreed that the food was enough.

Education & Outreach: No results were turned in from the survey re: events, so the committee has decided to no longer hold social/educational events for Master Gardeners. Once a year may possibly happen.

OMGA representatives: The current rep (Linda C.) did not attend the statewide meeting, but the two new reps did, and had a lot to report. Both

Nancy and Tonia attended the OMGA retreat at Hopkins Forest, focusing on OMGA improvements for 2018. They came back with the following:

The most prominent *STRENGTHS* are the ability to get speakers from OSU; the OMGA can be active in areas prohibited to OSU; it is one of the few statewide MG associations.

WEAKNESSES are that a better system is needed for new officers; it does not lobby for Master Gardeners; there is no diversity in membership; the only income is from membership dues and proceeds from the silent auctions at "mini-college." There is the *OPPORTUNITY* to have a "road show" at trainee time in each chapter.

THREATS consist of no uniformity of knowledge, expectations, or behavior among extension agents; poor lines of communication (resulting in different membership fees in different counties); dues are the primary income; chapter operation is 100% up to agents' discretion, for better or worse.

PURPOSE of the OMGA is unclear to Master Gardeners. OMGA did provide funds for PNW handbooks for all the chapters, and paid for our insect collection.

OBLIGATIONS of the OMGA website are to bring horticultural information to the public; supplement the OSU master gardener program; supply forms for avoiding paying taxes (does not apply to individuals); supply general funds; revise office handbooks; plan tours; plan and execute Mini-College (for which OMGA would like 2 volunteers from our chapter).

OMGA needs to analyze sources of income and what services it provides to chapters and a vision statement is needed. Nancy and Tonia mentioned that with Sue as president of OMGA it will become more focused and active. Nancy promised to work arduously to determine and share the *raison d'être* of OMGA.

Publicity: Tom told us that publicity is being completed for "Spring into Gardening."

Seed-to-Supper is essentially in "Park" for the season.

Spring into Gardening: All speakers have been procured. A raffle coordinator (who will make up baskets, take donations, and sell raffle tickets) is needed. Tonia volunteered to take on this job.

Plant Sale Committee: Plants are in the process of being grown. Boxes will be stored at the fairgrounds in a new location, which will be for free again. Box collection still needs a few more volunteers to ease the load on Jeff and Tom.

Policy & Procedures Committee: Tara has now completed 8 of the committee responsibility summaries. Pat will become more aggressive with committee heads who have not turned in the needed information.

Other Business: At the November meeting the president was told by a member that the president was not allowed to vote, so Pat abstained at the time. Since that sounded nonsensical, Pat did some reading and found that the information was totally incorrect. There is only one condition that prohibits the president from voting, and that is if she is paid a salary. Pat did offer to give up her right to vote in exchange for money, but was ignored.

Resource Manual is now close to finished. It needs to be checked by Heather and then President Pat. It'll be online and on paper.

Tom moved to end the meeting, Nancy seconded the motion, and the meeting ended at 11.32 a.m.



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GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE YAMHILL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS™ ASSOCIATION ARE ANNOUNCED IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

CONTRIBUTORS VARY BY MONTHLY EDITION.

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<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/>

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OMGA Alt.Rep: Tonia Beebe

Members at Large: Tom Canales
 Susanne Beukema

Heather Stoven, Yamhill County Extension Faculty for Community Horticulture

