

The Grapevine

July 2020

The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Yamhill County

**LOTS OF ONLINE CLASSES AVAILABLE!
SPECIFICS ON PAGE 10 THIS ISSUE OF THE GRAPEVINE.**



*Do a few
intakes on
page 9 to keep
your mind
functioning*



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*Compost -
because a
rind is
a terrible
thing to
waste.*

CONTAMINATED POTTING SOIL SOLD

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) first received a complaint regarding concerns about purchased soil and compost on May 16 of this year. Gardeners using the potting soil or compost reported that there were growth deformities in plants that came into contact with soil/compost purchased from Dean Innovations, a landscape products distributor in Portland. Over the next several days, similar calls were received from additional Dean Innovations customers. McFarlane's, a landscape distributor in the Portland metro area, was also identified as having inadvertently sold contaminated soil.

The Department of Agriculture gathered samples and lab results detected the herbicide **clopyralid** in the soil and compost. **Clopyralid** is used to control annual and perennial broadleaf weeds on rangeland, pastures, turf and lawns, rights-of-way and a few agricultural products such as sugar beets, oats, barley, mint and wheat.

This herbicide can cause symptoms in plants at very low levels and affects only certain groups of plants, including:

- **Legumes** (peas, beans, lupine)
- **Composites** (sunflowers, marigolds, lettuce)
- **Nightshades** (tomatoes, potatoes, peppers)
- **Buckwheat.**

Clopyralid does not affect grasses, corn, berries, cole crops (cauliflower, brussels sprouts, and kale), tree fruit, or the vast majority of woody and perennial ornamental plants. It is considered very low toxicity if ingested and very low toxicity via skin exposure.

Clopyralid in compost has been an issue in the past—in 2003, ODA issued rules prohibiting clopyralid use outside of a few specific types of sites. On sites where clopyralid use is still allowed, grass clippings or other material from a treated site are prohibited for use in compost. Of course, materials going into compost are not tested for the presence of herbicides before being

used, so contamination is always a distinct possibility.

ODA gathered additional plant samples from a couple of affected gardens to confirm that clopyralid caused their plants' symptoms and ODA is now working with both Dean Innovations and McFarlane's to identify the source of the contamination. People who have already purchased soil that might be contaminated have two options.

- One option for gardeners is to avoid using the soil for several months to allow the clopyralid to break down. Then, before using the soil, test it by planting small numbers of susceptible plants and watching for ill effects.
- The other option is simply to remove (or not even begin to distribute) possibly contaminated soil. Soils that are believed to be contaminated should NOT be taken to your local compost or yard debris facility but can be safely disposed of at the location below. Please inform the facility that this soil is thought to be contaminated.

**Hillsboro Landfill, 503-640-9427
extension 0, for hours, pricing,
and additional information.**

**Questions or contaminated soil? Contact:
Andrea Cantu-Schomus
acantuschomus@oda.state.or.us**



Plant Profiles

A popular landscape plant raised by Master Gardeners

ALLIUM

(A'·lee·uhm)

"Ornamental onion"

DESCRIPTION

Allium is Latin for "garlic", and is the genus that includes onions, garlic, leeks, shallots, scallions & chives. Originally categorized in the *Liliaceae* family, they are now included in the *Amaryllidaceae*. All *allium*

are poisonous to both cats & dogs, but are also well-known to be deer, rodent and rabbit resistant. Butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds

are strongly attracted to the flowers, and the plants provide abundant seeds in mid to late summer. These seeds are a good food source for various birds. There are over 700 varieties of *Allium* in a wide variety of colors: pink, white, several shades of blue, and purple. They also grow in a wide range of heights. These flowers are great for adding color in early to mid-summer, for making excellent



Allium "pink planet"

cut flowers, and working well in dried arrangements.

PROPAGATION

Allium are bulbs and are easily propagated by offsets, small "bulb-ish" units.

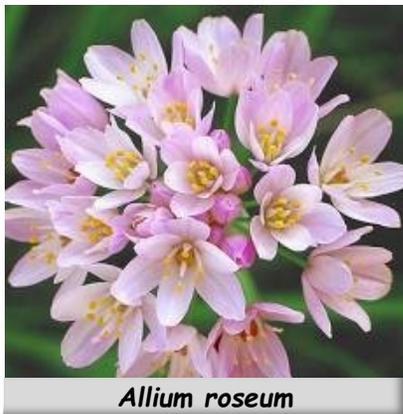
Allium can also be propagated by seed, but it will take several years before they bloom. Sow seeds as soon as the seeds mature (summer to early fall), water regularly and check them the following spring to see if they are big enough to pot up. (Be sure to label them).



Allium giganteum

CULTURE

These are sun-loving plants, needing well-draining soil but only moderate water. They are generally disease resistant. Plant them in early fall, at a depth of about 4x the bulb diameter. Depending on the variety, blooming will occur from May through August, and they are hardy in zones 3 through 9.



Allium roseum



Allium stipitatum



Allium moly



Allium cernuum

Ruth Estrada

Plan Bee: Using Mason Bees

A synopsis of the article "Plan Bee" in the agricultural weekly *Capital Press*

Suddenly (in a comparative sense) people are realizing that mason bees are actually as important as honey bees for commercial agricultural pollination. Though honey bees do produce honey (and solitary bees do not), honey is considered just a byproduct; nearly all income from bees is generated by hive rentals for large-scale agricultural pollination.

Mason bees differ from social honey bees in a number of ways. The mason bee prefers to be left alone. It is gentle, doesn't have a fancy hive and looks a bit like the common fly. Other differences give it some advantages over the honey bee. Mason (or solitary) bees:

- Have no queen to protect, because every female is fertile, eliminating the need for a hive to build and protect.
- Because of their solitary nature, they are less likely to pass illness along to other bees.
- They work in the rain and in colder weather than do honey bees.
- They nest in a cavity and lie dormant all winter, tucked inside a tiny, hard cocoon.
- In many crops, mason bees significantly outperform other pollinators.
- Being natives, they are well-adapted to local climates and resistant to local disease and some predation.



Solitary bees also carry pollen in a different manner from honeybees. Honey bees wet pollen to make it sticky and carry it in

baskets on their legs, but mason bees belly-flop onto flowers, then carry dry pollen on their abdomens. As they travel flower to flower, flecks fall off, doing the work of pollination.



This makes them highly effective pollinators, especially for fruit trees (such as apples and plums). Studies have also confirmed their effectiveness in pollinating almonds,

early raspberry varieties, cherries and pears. Using mason bees to pollinate strawberries makes berries "substantially larger."

Mason bees are also "generalists". Whereas honey bees are specialists that work systematically, mason bees pop here and there, appearing "distracted," which makes them great cross-pollinators. (Who would have guessed that Attention Deficit Disorder would be a positive thing in an insect?)

Now solitary bees are going into wide commercial use, not as a replacement for the honey bee but to complement them in pollination. A hive of honey bees is healthier, less stressed and twice as efficient when working alongside other pollinators.

Before using mason bees, an orchardist rented honey bees at \$200 per hive, two hives per acre. Each hive contained up to 30,000 honey bees. But because mason bees are more efficient pollinators, fewer are needed per acre. The landowner said when he puts 1,000 mason bees on an acre, he needs to rent only one honey bee hive instead of two, cutting costs significantly.

Some farms are also excited about marketing their food as "pollinator friendly" or "pollinated with native bees" to meet growing consumer

demands.

Of course, there are some detrimental aspects to commercial use of solitary bees.

- Solitary bees fly in only a 300- to 400-foot radius from their nest, so farmers need to disperse nesting materials throughout the farmers' acreage.
- A football-sized glob of mud or clay needs to be provided for each acre, for the bees to seal their tubes.
- It is helpful to have native shrubs and flowers around fields to encourage the bees to stick around.
- Pesticides can kill adult bees if sprayed incorrectly (as is true for any insect).
- In a discovery by University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers in 2019, it was found that in their larval state mason bees are omnivores, feeding on tiny microbes in pollen. Farmers who spray insecticides thus may inadvertently kill larvae, which need those microbes in their diet.
- In 2016, mason bees cost upwards of \$1 per bee. Now, they cost about 30 to 40 cents per bee. In the next few decades, experts predict



Nesting tubes for solitary bees.

the price per bee will fall to 5 cents.

There are now several commercial suppliers of solitary bees, one of which is Watts Solitary Bees in Washington state. This company has two divisions: a commercial side that sells mason and leafcutter bees to large-scale producers, and a rental side, called Rent Mason Bees, that rents bees to small farms, backyard gardeners and urbanites.

The rental program teaches people where their food comes from, pollinates backyard gardens and repopulates areas with native bees because some of the bees fly away. It also helps build understanding of agriculture and agricultural processes, particularly among city dwellers.

During the COVID 19 shutdown, hundreds of families stuck at home have turned to Rent Mason Bees as a backyard science project. With kids home from school the bees have become a valuable educational project about science, food and farming. Apparently many families who rented bees for educational purposes this spring intend to rent them every year from now on.

For the complete article:

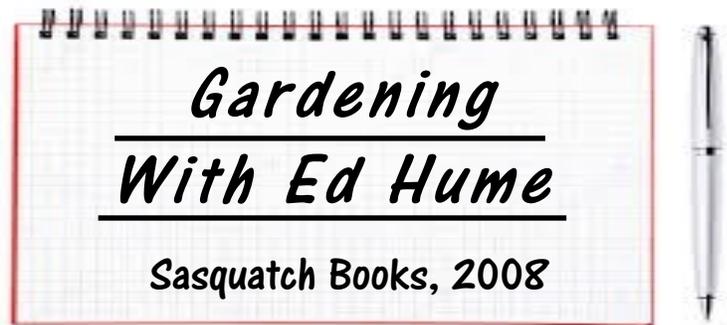
https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/orchards_nuts_vines/plan-bee-how-farmers-are-using-native-mason-



Jim and Pam Watts (father and daughter) package mason bees for "Rent Mason Bees."



Donn Callaham



With the shutdown, I decided to pick a book from my own library that I know we also have in our Master Gardener library. I picked this Ed Hume book, knowing it is full of great information, and is often overlooked in the library. I didn't really remember when or where I bought my copy, but I turned it over and there was the little Goodwill sticker! As I was thumbing through the book, a slip of paper fell out and I did not recognize the handwriting. It turns out it was notes written on the back of a home-printed admission ticket to the Yard, Garden and Patio Show at the Convention Center, dated February 12-14, 2010. Prominently, the title of the book is noted on the front side of the ticket, and the back side is full of random information. My detective skills tell me these are probably notes from an Ed Hume lecture!

So I'm going to do a quick rundown of what the book offers, and then share some of the notes I found.

I always check out the table of contents and index in a book, an easy way to tell how organized the book is. This book is organized, but it has no table of contents. Instead, Hume uses colored and shaded tabs to separate the sections. It's not really user-friendly, but it does encourage thumbing through the book.

There're 18 sections, including a 16-page index. 18 sections means 18 topics! Just about everything you need to know about gardening in the Pacific Northwest (Hume's habitat) is within these 18 topics. A few of the categories are: shrubs, trees, veggies, berries, bulbs, perennials, and lawns.

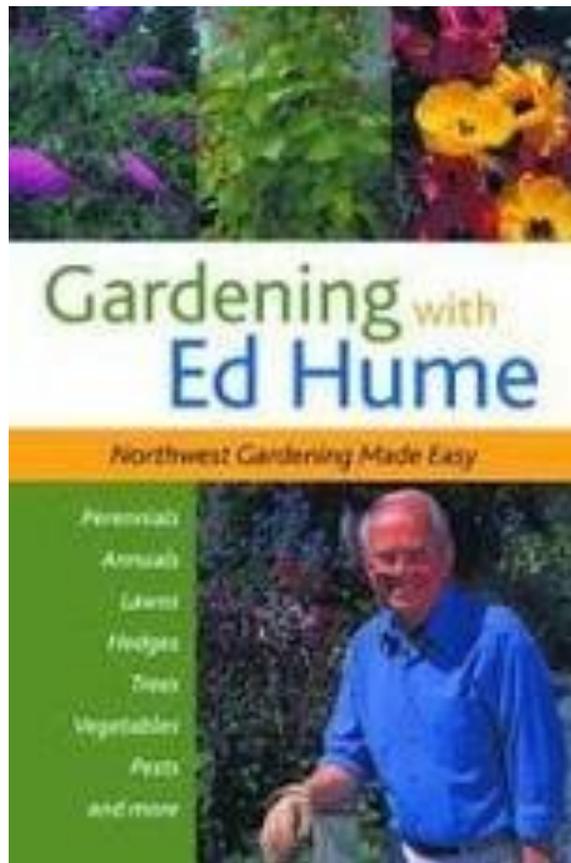
Before he went into business for himself, Ed

Hume worked at a Seattle nursery. There he was tasked with inventorying the entire nursery – approximately one million plants; botanical names and all! He also worked at several other nurseries before he started writing and becoming a popular broadcast personality. He founded "Ed Hume Seeds" in 1977. Now you can find carousels of his seed packets at most garden centers, and many videos of his on YouTube.

If you are looking for one definitive resource with regional emphasis, this book is it. For a personal reference, I prefer it over [The Sunset Western Garden Book](#). However, neither provide that much information on pests and diseases. The photos are coffee-table book material, but I would have liked more charts and diagrams to break up the text. This 419-page book truly is a textbook.

There is a pretty nice section on lawns. These 12 pages manage to cover a wide variety of lawn problems and

viable answers. Just by taking a 6" to 8" inch plug from your turf can tell you all kinds of things



about your lawn. (Refer to pages 177-183 for more ideas for successful lawns). If you ever wondered about thatch, and your thatch is under ¼ inch thick, you *don't* have to worry about it. Thatch in greater depths does prevent water and fertilizer absorption, but a thin layer is quite harmless.

Another great section (12 pages) in Gardening with Ed Hume is on roses. This thumbnail version of growing roses of all kinds includes specific recommendations for various species and cultivars. Suggestions for roses to look for fall under the following categories: groundcover roses; miniature roses; floribunda roses; polyanthus roses; shrub/landscape roses; hybrid tea roses; grandiflora roses; and climbing roses. Each category lists 6-8 varieties that grow well in the Pacific Northwest.

And now I will share a few of the notes I found (copied verbatim). Also I will refrain from commenting....I'll leave that up to you!

Watermelon -- Crimson King/Sweet -- put up on tin can when developing.

mildew -- spray foliage w/1:1 skim milk to h₂o

tomato – don't pick leaves off -- leave fruit

hidden -- bottom rot caused by lack of calcium in soil

cilantro/flowering tobacco -- plant around tomatoes -- smell draws beneficial insects –ups production of tomatoes

cut lettuce 2 inches from ground so it regrows

onion – snap off seed packs on stalk so more nutrients go to onion

intercropping – icicle radishes & beets

do not use Blue Lake Pole bean – it is yellow "gone south." Kentucky Blue instead -- Bush Blue Lake OK

Scarlet Runner – young: bean –old: shell bean

Ants? Masking tape around bottom of stalk w/ Vaseline smeared on tape

Gardening with Ed Hume is one book to have around for a reference. It is shelved in the "General Gardening" section of the Master Gardener Library, which hopefully we will be able to use again soon!



Beth Durr

"CRIMES AGAINST



NATURE"



Extreme Topiary

Heather's Highlights

Heather Stoven

Heather Stoven
OSU Yamhill County Extension
Faculty, Community Agriculture



Hello All,

I hope you are doing well. I have enjoyed seeing many of you recently on Zoom meetings for various committees. It is exciting to see groups connecting virtually; it is a good way to continue moving forward on various projects.

We are also starting to see some things related to our MG program open in a limited way. Our demonstration and community gardens are beginning to open to limited numbers of committee members. Our office is also starting to open two days a week to the public.

HOWEVER, we are still waiting to hear further guidance from the university related to in-person volunteer activities, including volunteering at the office. When I hear more about the protocol for volunteer activities starting, I will reach out via our MG listserve. Keep in mind that when this

happens we will have limitations for numbers of individuals in the extension office and meetings should continue to be held virtually.

In the future we plan to host some "virtual gatherings" for Master Gardeners, so stay tuned for information about these. I hope these events will be an opportunity for everyone to be involved and share garden issues, or things you have been involved with in your gardens.

In the meantime, keep gardening and enjoy the nice summer weather!



YCMGA Greenhouse Future now Murky

Last month we enthusiastically reported on all the planned improvements to our greenhouse at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds.

This month, we have to take almost all of it back. During a special board meeting held specifically to allocate funds for the greenhouse improvements, the board decided to cancel the proposed funding for all improvements except for a soil bin. That means no new floor, overhead watering system, or new tables/benches for this year.

The reasons for this decision were that:

- 1) We do not know annual operating costs for YCMGA, so do not know how much of our savings can be used without creating a shortfall.
- 2) There is no way to know how long the COVID 19 restrictions may last. It is possible that even the 2021 sale could be cancelled or modified so much that it would not provide much or possibly even any income for that year, making it a two-year loss for YCMGA.



Donn Callahan

Some Intakes to test your Deductive Skills!



(*Liriodendron tulipifera* leaf loss)

This specimen was planted about 3 years ago, and to date had been growing vigorously and steadily.

This near-complete leaf loss was noticed suddenly, over a period of about 2 days. Growing in a desirable site, plenty of water, no herbicides nearby.

Owner needs to quickly stem leaf loss to give tree opportunity to develop enough leaves to thrive this year.

(*Cotoneaster* sp. shrub)

Photo "B" shows the plant at this same time of year, but in 2019.

This year, when leaves appeared, the shrub looks as seen in photo "A." The smaller twigs all appear dead, though only in this past year. Progressing towards the remaining healthy part of the plant, the branches appear more recently deceased. Even the remaining section of this plant is not as full and well-leaved as it was one year ago.

There is no apparent physical nor insect/rodent damage to the plant, and larger-leaved cotoneasters near it are thriving.



FIND THE ANSWERS ON PAGE 11



(Two *Euphorbia* sp. plants, one stunted).

Both these plants are the same cultivar, bought at the same time at the Master Gardener Plant Sale in 2018, and both planted at the same time about 4 feet apart. The difference in size is not perspective: rather, one of the bushes is about one-fourth the size of the other, and struggled to grow at all for about one year.

Planting and environmental conditions are identical re: soil, water, sunlight, etc. The larger plant is in the middle of a landscaped area, while the stunted one is on the edge of the same area, near the lawn.

PESKY PROFILES

By Heather Stoven

Hollyhock Affliction

For anyone who grows hollyhocks in this area, seeing small holes or spots in the foliage at this time of year is not uncommon. The holes and spots on the foliage are caused by a rust fungus, *Puccinia malvacearum*.



Initial orange-yellow spots on the underside of leaves change to brown and then will often fall out of the leaf, causing holes and a lacy appearance. Severe disease pressure will cause the leaves to dry up and hang down from the plant. This pathogen is favored

by warm, wet weather and can be transferred by splashing water or by windborne spores.

The disease often overwinters on basal leaves or

on plant debris. Spores can also remain viable for at least 4 months in soil.

In order to manage this pathogen it is important to practice good sanitation. Remove all plant debris at the end of the season and dispose of it properly. During the season remove infected leaves and also remove nearby weedy hosts such as "cheeseweed".

For more information and for fungicide recommendations see the link below:

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/hollyhock-alcea-rosea-rust>



Little mallow (cheeseweed)
Malva parviflora

CHECK OUT THIS ONLINE CLASS

You've toiled over, and are carefully tending your vegetable plants. Now you see problems are arising. Pests, or diseases? OH MY! Join the metro area OSU Extension Master Gardener Program garden webinar series as Master Gardener, Sally Campbell, will describe some common insect, disease, and abiotic problems you might encounter in your vegetable garden this summer. She will also share proven solutions for preventing or managing each of these problems.

Sally Campbell has been an OSU Master Gardener for 9 years; she is a member of the Multnomah Chapter and has been involved in various Master Gardener activities including coordinating the MG helpline clinic, chairing the Multnomah Chapter's speakers committee, volunteering at the Multnomah Chapter's demonstration garden, various workshops, and is an instructor for the metro area Master Gardener training. She has gardened all her adult life.

Sally has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Pitzer College (CA) and a Master's in Plant Pathology from Oregon State University. She worked for the US Forest Service for 30 years as a biologist and forest pathologist.

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/events/common-vegetable-garden-problems>



Q:

*Chip Bubl, OSU Extension
Horticulturist*

How can I make the snails in my yard *useful*? I know it's a long shot, but I figured the MG team would think of something, if anyone could. I'm sick of killing them. Can I move them to my compost pile? We do a shallow compost pit that has attracted all sorts of worms. Our red worms were there first, now there are all sorts of worms.

A:

I assume you have the European Garden snail since most of our native snails are generally few in number and relatively well-behaved in gardens.

The European Garden snail (aka Brown snail) was brought in by people who wanted to "ranch" snails for escargot dinners in fancy restaurants. But they couldn't keep them down on the farm after they left Paris. They wandered away and have become a serious pest anywhere they have gotten established.

But, back to your question, you can eat them and if you like them a lot, grow more garlic to season them and eat even more of them (invite your friends, too!). I suppose you could put them in a compost bin with lots of vegetable scraps but I don't know if feeding them would only add to your problems long-term and they will escape the bin. It isn't something I would do.

Other than that, they are managed like slugs. Here are a few things to read:

[California Snails and Slugs:
Brown garden snail](#)
[Pacific Northwest Nursery IPM:
Brown garden snail](#)



THE INTAKE ANSWERS (from page 9)

LIRIODENDRON TULIPFERA: The suddenness and completeness of the leaf loss indicated a familiar culprit: deer. The owner covered the tree with netting, and the leaves are slowly returning.

COTONEASTER: A problem with certain cultivars of cotoneaster (particularly small-leaved varieties) is *armarilla* root rot. Unfortunately the most expedient way to minimize infection is removal and destruction of all infected plants. Then hope for the best...

EUPHORBIA: With some questioning it was discovered that a few broadleaf weeds near the edge of the lawn (about 1.5' from the Euphorbia) had been treated with herbicide. Apparently there was some vapor drift, which stunted (then eventually killed) the closest *Euphorbia*.

Please note that the names of these gardeners have been kept confidential in order to protect the guilty.



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