

# The Grapevine

June 2020

The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners



Oregon State University  
Extension Service  
Yamhill County



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## Moths as Pollinators:

### New Research!

**M**oths have long been seen as the annoying creatures that leave holes in your clothes. But new research suggests that those pesky insects have been badly misjudged.

A new study, published this week in the journal [Biology Letters](#), found that moths play a vital but overlooked role in pollinating flowers and plants overnight -- visiting more plant species than even bees. Read more in this CNN article!



# A MESSAGE ABOUT MINI-COLLEGE

## OMGA board makes official decisions...

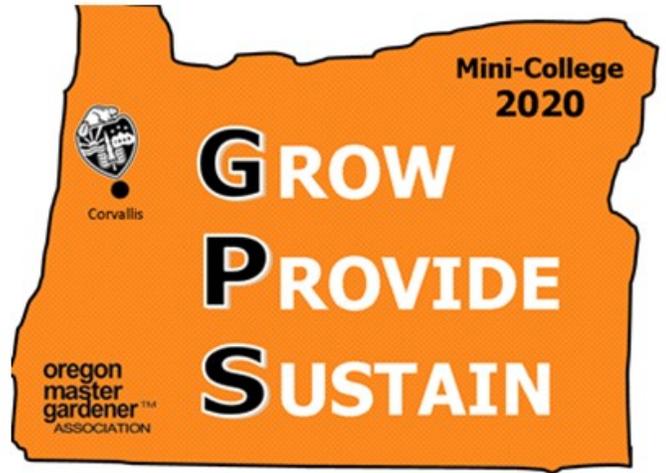
After consideration of the current restrictions imposed by Oregon Governor Brown and leadership at Oregon State University it was decided not to proceed with Mini-College as scheduled for July 23rd and 24th.

Plans for Mini-College 2020 were well advanced and included a full program of speakers, workshops and tours. In addition reservations and commitments had been made for the location, lodging, meals and social activities. These all were considered in the deliberations. Another factor which weighed heavily is the “unknowns” surrounding the current pandemic.

Ultimately the decision revolved around two major factors.

The first being the health risk and the rules surrounding the virus. No one argued that the restrictions are likely to be eased sufficiently to permit a gathering as large as Mini-College and the consensus was that even if this happens, given the demographics of our membership, a large majority of those who would normally attend Mini-College would not feel secure enough to do so.

The second factor was truly a fortunate turn of events. All those with whom reservations and deposits had been made



were willing to, based on the current issues, release OMGA from our commitments and/or roll over deposits into 2021. This virtually eliminates the financial risk which we were facing. Immediately after the decision to reschedule Mini-College to 2021 plans got underway to secure the dates of July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. As this is being drafted the positive response from a majority of the speakers and volunteers indicates that those who had committed to 2020 are excited to participate in 2021.

Thank you for your interest in Mini-College. This beloved event is truly an institution of the Oregon Master Gardener Program and we will be working hard to insure that it will be an outstanding educational event next year. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer to assist with some aspect of this program please reach out and let us know.



### UPCOMING INSECT COMMITTEE (AKA "BUG GROUP") MEETING DATES

SEPTEMBER	3RD AND 16TH (WEDNESDAY)
OCTOBER	1ST AND 15TH
NOVEMBER	5TH AND 19TH

(THESE ARE ALL DEPENDENT ON COVID VIRUS DECISIONS)

# PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

## Lesser trefoil in Lawns

One of the common weeds we often see in lawns is lesser trefoil (aka little hop clover), *Trifolium dubium*. It looks very similar to black medic and is a clover which is typically prostrate-growing, with small yellow flowers. We had this question come into our desk clinic this week, and I also unfortunately have it in my yard where it tends to grow aggressively through the summer months.

It is an annual weed. However, due to its prolific seeding, it can seem like a perennial.

To help minimize any lawn weed, keeping a healthy stand of well-managed grass is a good tactic to choke out the weeds. Water, mow and fertilize properly (see the book Practical Lawn Care for Western Oregon).

Often clover infestations such as this are a sign that your lawn is deficient in nitrogen or has an over-abundance of phosphorus. Performing a soil test may be necessary to know your soil nutrient balance. If you have small infestations, it can be easily hand-pulled: keep in mind that it goes to seed readily, so you will need to keep on top of it.

If lesser trefoil is located in a landscape bed, mulches can be applied to help manage it. Lawn herbicides can be used, both pre-emergent and post-emergent. For more details on products for weed control among various turf grasses read below:



*Trifolium dubium* (lesser trefoil)



*Medicago lupulina* (black medic)

Thank you to Susan B. for providing an excellent answer to this client question through our virtual desk clinic.



<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7490.html>

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1521>

# How Much Light is Right?

In the ongoing planning for the renovation of the Yamhill County Master Gardener greenhouse at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds, one question that kept popping up was the effect of shading when using tiered or vertical shelving. In my discussion with Alan Wenner on this topic he indicated that from his experience, in general, shading in the greenhouse environment had little effect on plant health/vitality. That seems consistent with the online research I could find. Though somewhat plant-specific, some amount of shading in the greenhouse can even have a beneficial effect.

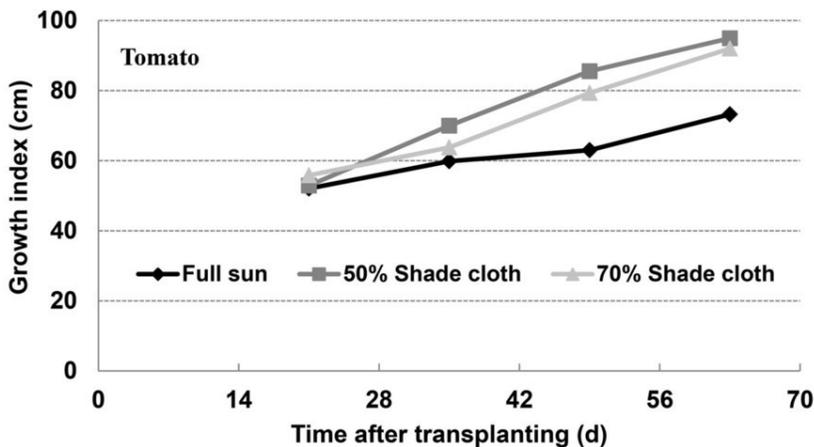
Here are quotes from some of the results I found when following actual research on greenhouse illumination and its effects. I included the links so curious gardeners can easily get the details.

**"Compared with the unshaded control, tomato grown in 50% shade had similar yield and shoot growth, fresh and dry weight, and less photochemical stress."**

from "Shade Effect on Growth and Productivity of Tomato and Chili Pepper" from [American Society for Horticultural Science](#) - June 2016

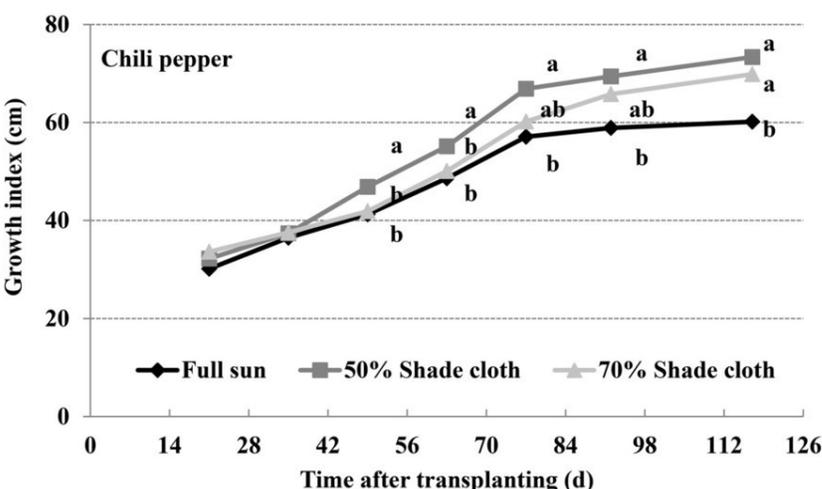
**"Where radiation levels are relatively high, shading does not have to have an adverse effect on plant growth during sunny weather."**

from [Greenhouse Management Magazine](#) - 4/2020



**"Moderate shade (50% daylight) had, on average, a net facilitative effect on plant mass. Plant growth in the 25% daylight treatment was not significantly different from that in full daylight, and it was only when 90% of natural light was made unavailable that shaded plants attained a significantly lower dry mass than plants in full daylight."**

from [Journal of Ecology](#) - 12/2011



**"The use of shading decreased the unmarketable yield, increasing yield."** (on sweet peppers)

from [Acta Horticultrae](#) - June 2012



# Plant Profiles

*A popular landscape plant  
raised by Master Gardeners*

## **LEWISIA COTYLEDON**

(loo-ISS-ee-ah kot-ih-LEE-don)  
"Bitterroot, Siskiyou lewisia"

### **DESCRIPTION**

There are a number of species of *Lewisia* with *L. cotyledon* being the most commonly hybridized species. Colors of *L. cotyledon* range from plain white through peach, pink, and light lavender. Small plants with fleshy leaves, they have been bred to have flowers in a variety of colors. (We sold these at our last YCMGA plant sale, and hope to have them for the next one in 2021).

### **GROWING CONDITIONS**

These are an evergreen perennial, native to highly specific conditions in certain parts of Southern Oregon and Northern California. They occur naturally in rocky areas and cliff faces, where their long tap root will anchor them in cracks in the rock. They prefer full sun, cannot tolerate heavy or clay soils, and must have protection from excessive rain during the winter, as the tap root is highly susceptible to rot. They begin blooming in May, and with some moisture during the summer will bloom 3 or 4 times through summer and fall.



### **PROPAGATION**

*Lewisia cotyledon* can be easily propagated by division, which should be done in the spring, with divisions replanted in the ground or in pots of well-draining media. Division may set the plant back for a season but is an easy way to get larger plants. It is also easily propagated by seed, which is collected in the fall and immediately sown. In fact, this is how Patti Gregory has always propagated these perennials for the YCMGA plant sales. Pick the starts out in the spring and pot them up. Plants produced by seed may take 3 -5 years to produce a significant stand of flowers.

### **POSSIBLE AFFLICTIONS**

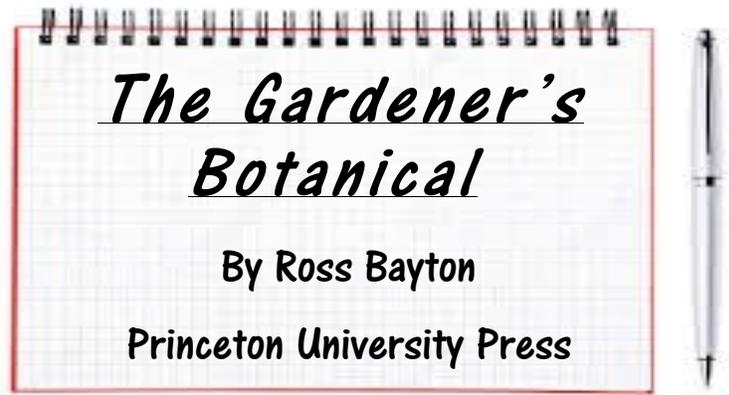
*Lewisia* are susceptible to damage from improper planting location. They must have rocky/gravelly "soil" with extremely rapid and thorough drainage. They can be afflicted with rust, stem rot, slugs, snails, aphids and mealy bugs, but I've been growing *Lewisia* for more than 8 years and have not seen these problems. Give them the proper environment and they are very hardy.



A sample of flower colors

*Ruth Estrada et. al.*





"The Gardener's Botanical: An Encyclopedia of Latin Plant Names with More than 5,000 Entries" by Ross Bayton (\$29.95, Princeton University Press): This 352-page hardcover book is a botanist's dream resource.

In the introduction, the horticultural author explains that Latin names are important to gardeners around the world because they provide a common language. They facilitate accuracy. They reveal practical and helpful information about each genus and species. Perhaps most fun, they help to tell fascinating stories.

Bayton includes a how-to guide to using scientific, Latin plant names as well as specific instructions for making the most of this useful guide. His short history and explanation as to how and why Latin came to be used for plant names is fascinating. An example is "sanguineus" meaning the "color of blood". Thus the *Nepenthes sanguinea* is a large and vigorous pitcher plant species that has blood-red pitchers. Many other plants have "sanguineum" in their name (such as *Ribes sanguineum*) indicating the presence of red coloring in some part of the plant.

The author's prose is also accompanied by 350 color illustrations.

Botanical art is also a key element. In the case of this book the art is beautifully detailed and critical to the understanding of the text. Plus, it is absolutely exquisite. Bayton explains that the printing press helped facilitate a huge transition in how this art was shared.

Another change is much more recent: the study of DNA. Understanding DNA has helped improve

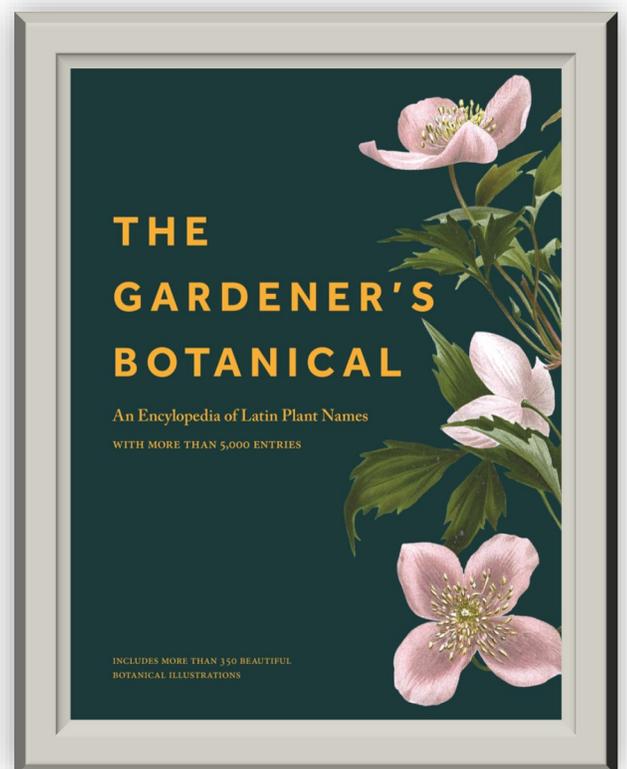
the way we see the relationships between plants, despite the challenges of frequent updates of classification.

After the initial chapters, the Latin encyclopedia begins. In true A-Z format, more than 5,000 plant terms are defined and a pronunciation is offered for each. Throughout the encyclopedia are Genus Spotlights, which provide additional detail and the stories behind plants.

An index of common names of more than 200 plants familiar to gardeners is neatly cross-referenced to the Latin names, making this book truly "a definitive guide to botanical Latin."



By Sally Peterson for *The Oregonian*





**Q:** Is there a solution I can spray on dandelions instead of pulling them up? Not Roundup.... do vinegar, dish soap, or Epson salts work? Or is there a better solution?

**A:** Dandelion plants are difficult to kill because of the long (6-18 inches long) tap root, small pieces of which can grow again. Dandelions are perennial weeds, living several years. They lose their leaves in the fall, then begin growing again in the spring.

The best time to control them is in the fall when dandelions are transferring sugars from the leaves down into the roots for winter storage. At this time herbicides will also get taken down into the roots to help kill the dandelion. **Triclopyr** (brush killer) is effective against dandelions, and does not kill grasses. Be sure and carefully read the instructions on the herbicide container for proper dilution, safety and application rates.

Household vinegar is not strong enough to kill dandelions. Household vinegar is only 5% acetic acid. Horticultural vinegar which is used to kill weeds is 20% acetic acid. That's a very strong acid and can cause significant injury to you. Using horticultural vinegar requires gloves, long

## Destroying Dandelions...

sleeves and pants and a mask so you don't get it in your eyes. The other problem with vinegar is that it kills the leaves, but the tap root remains, so the dandelion comes back anyhow.

"Dawn" detergent won't affect the dandelion, and Epsom salts are magnesium sulfate. If your soil is deficient in magnesium Epsom salts can provide it, acting like a fertilizer!

If you want to control dandelions without herbicides the best way would be to **pull the dandelion** when the soil is soft and moist and



much of the tap root can be removed. You can also cut off the dandelion 4-5 inches below the surface. Next, spread wood chips or shredded bark as a mulch at least 3 inches deep over

the area to prevent light from reaching the leaves. Leaves need light to function, so blocking light will eventually starve out the weed.

Finally, cut off dandelion flowers to prevent them going to seed and spreading the weeds further.



**Anne Schmidt,**  
**OSU Master Gardener**

*All the flowers of tomorrow  
are in the seeds of today.*

# Heather's Highlights

## Heather Stoven

Heather Stoven  
OSU Yamhill County Extension  
Faculty, Community Agriculture



*Hello Everyone,*

I hope you are all doing well and are enjoying our nice weather. I wish I could be providing reopening updates for the extension office, but as you likely are aware Oregon State University is not able to open as of yet, even though Governor Kate Brown has allowed Yamhill county businesses to open.

We fall under the state's guidance for educational institutions which requires distance learning until at least June 13<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately that does not mean that we will be open for business on June 14<sup>th</sup>, since there will be some additional steps that need to take place before all employees, the public and volunteers are able to come to the office.

In the meantime Master Gardener coordinators and staff have been meeting via Zoom regularly to discuss how to start up some volunteer activities safely. We are hoping we will be able to open up some lower-risk activities that can incorporate social distancing such as work in Master Gardener gardens; however, we need to wait for approval from the university.

As soon as I know more information about volunteer activities or the office opening I will send it out to all of you. I very much appreciate your patience with us as I know this has been a long process.

Carla and I both miss seeing all of you and we hope we will be provided some further guidance soon. In the meantime, take care of yourselves and continue working in your gardens!



## YCMGA Greenhouse Renovation Update

Our greenhouse renovation is slowly progressing. We plan to install a new smooth, level floor; upgrade water and power; build (or buy?) new benches; and build new soil storage outside the greenhouse. Our accomplishments so far have been in voluminous research, great ceaseless volumes of discussion, and a little satisfying destruction.

Donn researched 6 different flooring options for efficacy and cost (plain gravel topped with landscape cloth; slag topped with landscape cloth; asphalt; concrete; rock base with paver blocks). Though the best floor would also have been the cheapest, we didn't have that option because we cannot round up enough labor to accomplish it. (We needed a crew of minimum 8 strong, young, energetic people for one long day ~ not your typical MG crew). So we are going with concrete, which will be an excellent floor and more reasonable in cost than we had expected.

Jeff is designing an overhead watering system, and Tom, Jeff, and Donn are hoping to build all new tables to maximize space. Finally, Donn will design and build a soil storage facility outside the greenhouse, again to save space. The goal is to have it all complete in September 2020.

*Donn Callaham*



## Some Intakes to test your Deductive Skills!

**NOTE: THESE ARE FROM THE MAY GRAPEVINE. NO ONE TOOK GUESSES RE: WHAT WAS HAPPENING, SO FIND OUT WHAT REALLY DID HAPPEN, NOW ON PAGE 11.**

### *(Variegated English ivy on a brick wall)*



**T**his ivy was lush all year, fully-leaved right down to the pea gravel at the bottom of the plant. During the winter the bottom 24" of leaves slowly disappeared over a period of weeks, with no dead leaves visible on the plant, or on the gravel beneath it. (Defoliation began at ground level).

Notice that the highly-variegated leaves on the far left were not affected. Once the plant resumed growing this spring, the bare area filled in completely in a matter of a few weeks.

The location is on a home in a very rural area. No sprays or chemicals of any kind have ever been used in this area of the property.

### *(Small-leaved English ivy on a Pterodactyl)*

**T**his problem suddenly developed after clipping of the entire sculpture. All the leaves on the *underside* of the structure have died over a period of several days, while all the rest are healthy and growing.

Since all the clippings fall onto the pea gravel and cannot be raked, the clever owner tried other methods of refuse removal. As with the above example, no chemicals have ever been used in the acres surrounding this plant. Until this incident, the plant was always healthy and vigorous over the past 20 years.



### *(New Barberry cultivar and starts)*

**P**urchased and planted 3 years ago, this one gallon plant is in an ideal spot. Full soil, deep fertile loam, watered weekly during summers, mulched, and no chemicals of any kind in the vicinity. Six starts are now in pots, and behave precisely as does the original.

After planting, the bush took a year to recover, but always had 30% to 70% dead branches. By early spring each year all these plants die back to a very few live branches, slowly recovering over summer, but never recovering completely or growing significantly. No pests nor diseases have appeared on any of the plants, and all other barberry cultivars in the area have been consistently and highly successful.



## A WASP MYSTERY

By Michael O'Loughlin

While collecting native bees for the Oregon Bee Atlas I captured a wasp with strange yellow eggs/sacs on its ovipositor. I thought perhaps it had been parasitized by another wasp (which is called "hyperparasitism").

Entomologists at the Oregon Department of Agriculture and OSU were stumped so I called in the "big guns". Mike Gates at the Smithsonian Museum, Donald Quicke, author of The Braconid and Ichneumonid Parasitoid Wasps, and Lars Krogmann at Stuttgart's Natural History Museum provided me with an identification of the wasp and an explanation as to what I was looking at.

Those sacs are mature eggs being retained on the ovipositor with only their anchors inside the egg canal. The wasp is a *Polyblastus* sp. (*Tryphoninae*) which parasitizes sawflies. And since sawflies are not flies but rather wasps, this would indeed be a case of hyperparasitism: however, instead of being the victim, this wasp would be the "perpetrator". Sawflies are often considered pests and are hosts to many parasitoids, most of which are *Hymenoptera*, the rest being *Diptera*.



### SOME DEFINITIONS:

#### Ovipositor:

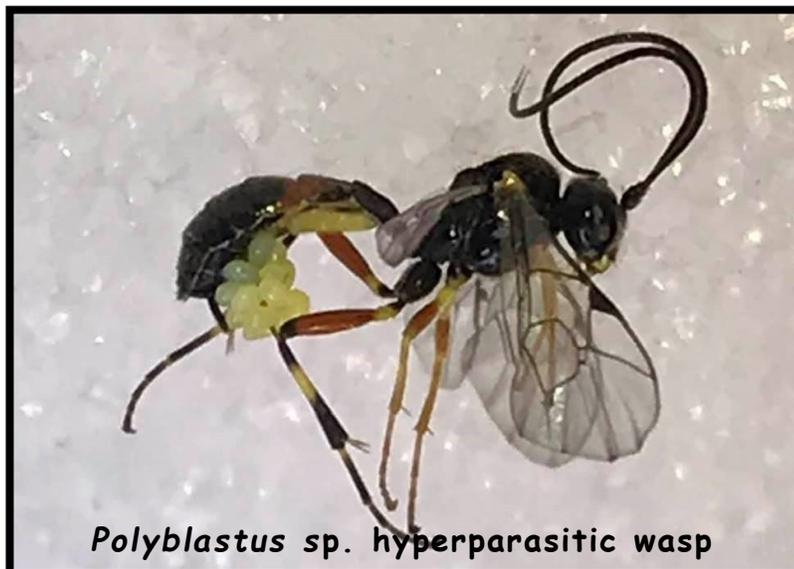
This is the tube-like organ that some insects use to lay their eggs.

#### Hyperparasitism:

This occurs when a parasite's host

is also a parasite, often specifically a parasitoid.

**Sawflies:** Wasps that have a saw-like ovipositor that slices into leaves where the female deposits eggs. The larvae are caterpillar-like and often



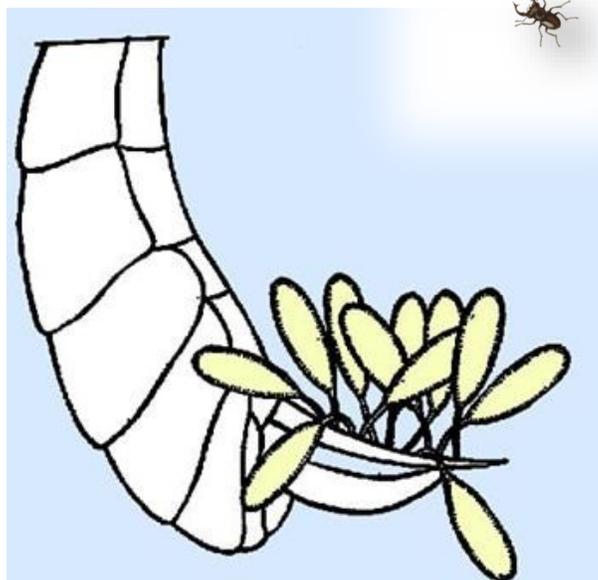
*Polyblastus* sp. hyperparasitic wasp

brought into the extension office for identification. "Sawfly" is a word which gives you a hint that it's not a fly, just as ladybugs are not true bugs, but rather beetles. (And butterflies are not flies: they are *lepidopterans*).

**Parasitoid:** This is an organism that lives on or inside a host and always kills the host while a parasite lives in or on a host but does not kill it.

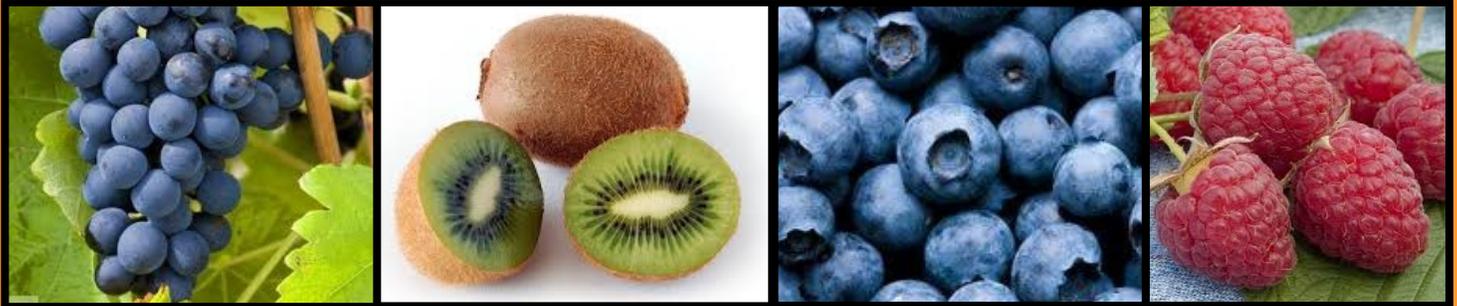
**Hymenoptera:** The order of insects that includes bees, wasps and ants.

**Diptera:** The order of insects that includes flies and mosquitos. They usually have two wings as adults.



The abdomen of a *Tryphon* female, lateral view, showing a cluster of eggs carried upon the ovipositor. This habit is common to several genera of the *Tryphoninae*.

## Pruning and Training of Berries, Kiwifruit and Grapes A series of 5 OSU Courses



A series of online pruning modules, developed by Dr. Bernadine Strik, Professor of Horticulture, is now being offered through Professional and Continuing Education at Oregon State University.

The series is designed to provide small farmers and home gardeners with the information needed to prune and train berry crops common to North America, including table grapes, kiwifruit, raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries from establishment through maturity.

The series is offered as self-paced on-demand modules available anytime online. The modules consist of narrated lectures with photos and videos. Each module consists of 4 – 8 lectures totaling 1.25 – 2.5 hours in length. Registration is available for single modules or for the series at a discounted price. For more information on topics covered and cost go to:

[workspace.oregonstate.edu/  
course/pruning-series?  
hsLang=en](https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/course/pruning-series?hsLang=en)

If you have questions, contact Work-Space | Professional and Continuing Education: Email: [work-space@oregonstate.edu](mailto:work-space@oregonstate.edu)

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### **THE INTAKE ANSWERS** (from page 9)

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**VARIEGATED ENGLISH IVY:** This is the first year this event occurred. It turned out that domestic birds suddenly noticed and took a liking to the leaves when little greenery was available.

**IVY ON A PTERDACTYL :** Since the gardener could not sweep up the leaf litter on the pea gravel and was too lazy to vacuum it, he burnt the litter with a propane weed burner. He kept the flame low and pointed down towards the ground, and considered himself rather innovative. For a couple of weeks...

**BARBERRY CULTIVAR:** This is the one event not caused by the gardener. This particular cultivar turned out to be inherently weak, with all examples dying over the course of the year, regardless of location.

**Please note that the names of these gardeners have been kept confidential**



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## *The Grapevine*

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