

The Grapevine

March 2021
The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Yamhill County

FREE RESOURCES FOR A PANDEMIC WORLD...

<https://mail.google.elevated-skills-training>

<https://extension.growing-oregon-gardeners>

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MARCH MASTER GARDENER ONLINE CLASSES:

Community Science and the Master Gardener Program

Opens March 5th

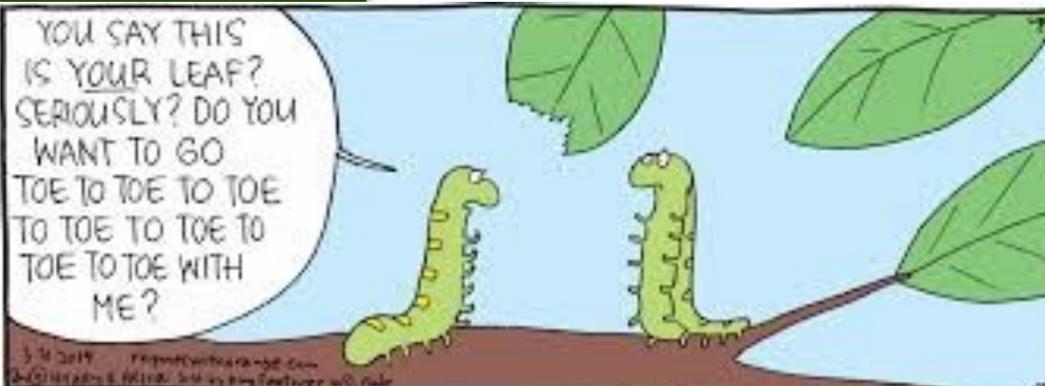
Dirt Gone Bad: when your soil amendment has been contaminated:

Opens March 9th

Showcase Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Efforts in Other States

Opens March 12th

Remember:
Apply for your
OMGA Grants!



Yamhill County Master Gardeners Plant Sale



Online Shopping Only

Open April 5 - May 15. Vegetables, Annuals, and Perennials all at great prices!
Visit ycmgaplantsale.com starting April 5.

Scheduled Plant Pick-Up

Schedule a pick up at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds. Pick up dates: May 6-8 & May 13-15.

Thanks for your support

Proceeds support YCMGA educational horticultural programs in Yamhill County.
For details visit ycmga.org or call 503-434-7517.

ycmgaplantsale.com

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Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener



2021 YCMGA Plant Sale Goes On-line



Planning is underway for the first ever online YCMGA Plant Sale. Here are the basics:

- Beginning on April 5, shoppers can go to ycmgaplantsale.com to purchase from a large variety of vegetables, annuals, and perennials.
- At the time of their online purchase, customers will schedule the day and time they want to pick up their plants.
- Drive-through pick-up dates are May 6 – 8 and May 13 –15. Plant pick-up will be held at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds, by Wiser Pavilion.

Due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns, our usual format for the annual Plant Sale - face to face, hundreds of plant-crazy shoppers in one building – is not possible for 2021. Oregon State University has been careful and articulate in its guidance for Master Gardeners, and that includes no “regular” plant sales this Spring. In fact, because of the ever-changing risk levels of the pandemic, OSU will not officially approve any plant sale (even those determined to be online) until just a few weeks before they occur. So, we continue with our plans as if the annual Plant Sale will happen, but there is a small possibility that COVID-19 risks will escalate and any and all plant sales will be cancelled by OSU at the last minute.

This will be an online sale, but **we still need plenty of volunteers**. Areas where help is needed include distributing publicity, caring for plants before the sale, preparing orders, managing plant pick-ups, and directing traffic flow. This year, in order to volunteer you will need to complete OSU’s COVID-19 safety training. If you haven’t done this already, contact Carla Stables (Carla.Stables@oregonstate.edu) and she can get you set up to take the training. It takes about 30 minutes to complete.

Please join us in this new Plant Sale adventure – as a customer and as a volunteer. Think of us all as garden-trekkies, boldly going where no other Master Gardener has gone before.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact any of the YCMGA Plant Sale Co-chairs:

Pat Fritz (fffpat2@gmail.com)

Gin Galt (vs.galt@gmail.com)

Marilyn MacGregor (marimacgreg4@gmail.com)



The Invasives

Lesser Celandine

Ranunculus ficaria

Ranunculus ficaria (also known as fig buttercup, pilewort, figroot buttercup, figwort, bulbous buttercup, small crowfoot) is just beginning to become a problem in the Willamette Valley. However, it is an unusually tenacious plant and of course has no natural enemies here.

Characteristics

It can **grow in any light condition** from full sun to full shade and is particularly troublesome in wooded areas. Some of the most important native plants in woods are known as "spring ephemerals"- - plants that can maximize their

sunlight if they start growing very early, right after spring thaw but before the trees above them have started to grow their leaves. They will grow, bloom, reproduce, and then go dormant again in a very short window of time before the leaves on the trees are full-grown. *But lesser celandine emerges so*

early that it has already established itself by the time native spring ephemerals are just starting to emerge.

Though it prefers moist soils, ***Ranunculus ficaria* can also grow up steep hills where water and nutrients are scarce.** It forms a dense mat up to 11" thick, forming a monoculture which precludes other plants from sprouting where it has taken hold.

A Look-alike

The native **yellow marsh marigold**, *Caltha palustris* is in the same family and may be confused with



Distinctive leaf shape, and typical flowers

lesser celandine. Yellow marsh marigold does not have tuberous roots like lesser celandine and does not produce bulbils (bulblets). Lesser celandine flowers have distinct sepals and petals while marsh marigold only has petal-like sepals.

Control

There are no cultural controls available in the United States, leaving only manual removal and herbicides as options.

Small infestations can be controlled by hand digging, making sure to remove all plant parts. Any remaining roots or bulbils can sprout into

new plants. Bag and dispose of plant parts: do not put in home compost. Mowing just spreads and invigorates this plant.

Herbicide should be applied in late winter to early spring, before most native herbaceous plants



Mounding habit of individual plants

Right now, before it blooms, is the only time to fight Lesser Celandine

The Invasives

have started to grow and before lesser celandine flowers. Glyphosate appears to be the most promising in stopping this plant, though it is a non-selective herbicide. For more choices, refer to the Pacific Northwest Handbooks. Spring treatments have not been as effective as hoped; mid-winter treatments, while tricky, may give better results.

Donn Callaham



Ranunculus monoculture dominating a woodland

BEEvent Pollinator
Conference
available online!



March 6, 2021

9:00am to 4:00pm

Master Gardener Volunteers!



Join our 2021

Grow This! Oregon Garden Challenge

The second year of the Grow This! Oregon Garden Challenge, is much bigger than last year's Challenge! This year we are looking to sign up 8,000 gardeners to grow vegetable and flowers and need your help! Learn more about the challenge here: <https://www.foodhero.org/growthis>.

We need your help to grow along and share your expert advice with these gardeners. Please consider signing up to participate

PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

Ice Storm Damage...

Hopefully there aren't too many of you who, like me, had some tree and shrub damage from our recent ice storm. Of course, when branches are broken on trees it can be fairly obvious that these need to be removed.

However, how do you assess if a tree or shrub needs to be removed completely? Broadleaf

keeping a damaged tree: often the tree will live, but a choice will need to be made in terms of its aesthetic value if many branches need to be removed.

For those branches broken at places which cannot be reached, or where a ladder is needed, it is best to call a certified arborist. A list can be found here: <https://pnwisa.org/>.

Here are some additional resources which can help you decide how to treat damaged woody plants:

[helping-trees-and-shrubs-recover-from-snow-and-ice/](https://pnwisa.org/)

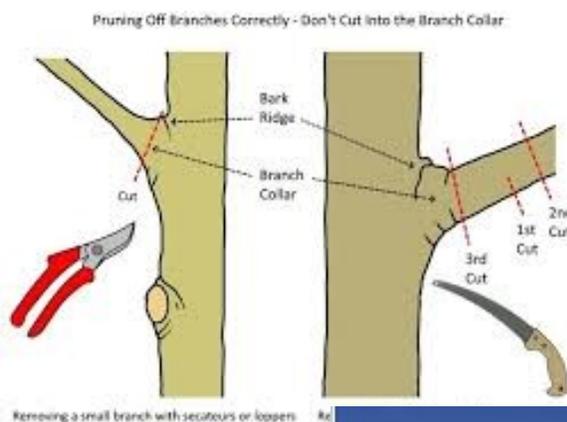
<https://texashelp.tamu.edu/browse/by-type/naturally-occurring/severe-weather/trees/>



Badly damaged evergreen shrub

evergreen shrubs that are broken or bent can likely be cut back and they will regrow over time, but conifers may not be salvageable because most do not have latent buds and cannot regrow from old wood.

A tree that has a major split or on which the leader has been lost is best removed. When pruning a tree especially, prune back properly to the point where the broken branch joins a larger branch or the trunk – do not top the trees' branches. It can be a difficult choice regarding



Removing a small branch with secateurs or loppers. **Proper restorative pruning cuts**



Wildly improper pruning cuts

Margaret Peterson, Master Gardener, 1946-2021

Not only was Margaret a Master Gardener, she was also a journalist, photographer, and community relations expert. After receiving her journalism degree from South Dakota State University, she worked for United Press International and small-town newspapers in North Carolina, California, and Oregon. Later she moved on to community relations in three different Oregon school districts, then to the Oregon School Boards Association, retiring in 2005.

Bored with retirement, Margaret then spent several years with her husband Jeff as a Peace Corps volunteer in Chiapas, Mexico, after which they moved to Washington, D.C. where she was a volunteer at the Smithsonian.

Re-retiring in 2012, she and Jeff moved to McMinnville. Here she became involved in land-

scaping and gardening, and became an avid birder.

Margaret was known by her colleagues and friends as direct, determined, and a delight to work with.

She was known for her indomitable work ethic and great sense of humor: we all enjoyed working with her.



Survivor Trees...





**CONNECT
COLLABORATE
CULTIVATE**

Save the Date

OMGA PRESENTS

Mini-College 2021

CONNECT - COLLABORATE - CULTIVATE

July 16 and 17, 2021

Experience and participate in a dynamic program
of
interactive educational classes and workshops

Keynote presentations by:

Robert Michael Pyle and **Gail Langellotto**

Watch for the exciting details when our website *“goes live”* at:

mastergardenerminicollege.org

Registration will open in March 2021

Plans for 2021 OMGA Virtual Mini-College

➔ Mini-College for 2021 will be **July 16 (Friday)** and **July 17 (Saturday)**

➔ Registration will open **March 1, 2021**

➔ Cost will be **\$49** for entire conference

FRIDAY SESSIONS WILL BE:

1. Integrated Pest Management with crops
2. Oregon Bee Atlas
3. Native Plant Considerations for Pollinators
4. Soil Health, Human Health
5. Mason Bees

SATURDAY SESSIONS WILL BE:

1. The Japanese Beetle
2. Year-round Pollinator Plants
3. Urban Soil
4. Biochar Research
5. Organic Gardening

WORKSHOPS

(Limited to 20 participants)

1. Heather Stoven –

How to use the OSU Landscape Plant ID website

2. Signe Danler –

Designing a pollinator garden using native plants

3. Richard Bertram –

How to build a hydroponics system, growing and harvesting leafy greens

4. Gail Langellotto –

Using “iNaturalist” to identify insects, weeds and trees

An educational video will be sent to each of the workshop participants prior to the start of Mini-College. Each participant will be asked to complete either a homework assignment or an activity prior to Mini-College. The course time will be an interactive session based on the homework or activity. The designs would then be discussed during the Mini-College session.

One cherry blossom blooming is not just one blossom

It is all of spring

One leaf falling is not just one leaf

It is all of autumn

ONE

Poem by Shirley Kishiyama
YCMGA Master Gardener



Tales from the Chef's Garden

This month is turning into a vent about garden pests! The Chef's Garden is a lovely home for mice, voles, rats, and squirrels. There's abundant food, lots of places to shelter, and water. What more could any rising young rodent family want? At first I ignored them, then I half-heartedly set traps, then as damage mounted, I got serious.

What damage you might ask? You can see the celeriac. They also ate tomatoes, melons, peas, beans, winter squash, cauliflower heads, cauliflower stems, broccoli stems, broccoli roots, carrots, and even lettuce ! We trapped them with a vengeance.

Mice and vole populations run in cycles and last year happened to be a bountiful year for them. Plus, the Chef's Garden is surrounded by grass fields so there are plenty more to come into the luxury of the garden. In an effort to reduce the resident rodent population to manageable levels, we adopted 2 feral barn cats. Yes, I know that we have inherited other problems by having cats, but I think the trade off of fewer rodents will more than pay for the bother of cats. They, the rodents, were doing too much damage and we were spending too much time trying to stop the damage.

Besides rodent pests, March is time to start slug baiting. If you don't they'll decimate new seedlings. They love, of all things, the marigolds

which I like to interplant with the vegetables. It's part of garden beatification. If last spring was any indication, there will be a big run this year.

Check your slug bait supply and consider restocking if the supply is low. In a garden the size of the Chef's Garden, we can't possibly hand pick all the slugs and snails, and no, we don't need ducks or chickens. I really would turn into a white haired gnome keeping them focused on slugs and not greens!

Floating row covers are magic. (See the title picture of a floating row cover supported with wire hoops). Did you have troubles last year with leaf miners on chard or beets? How about cabbage root maggots? If so, then have floating row insect barrier fabric on hand and deploy it.

We are dealing with fungus gnats in the greenhouse, so we have everything covered with insect barrier fabric. It's super annoying, but even more annoying is the plants that never thrive because they have tiny gnat-gnawed roots. I have even used floating row covers to keep the birds from eating lettuce and bean seedlings. Like I said floating row covers are magic and definitely worth having as part of one's pest control arsenal.

My rant about garden pests is over (for the

***Mice, Voles,
Slugs,
Maggots &
Gnats.***

***Some of our
Solutions***



Garden Security Patrol Cats

moment).

In March I expect to continue harvesting purple sprouting broccoli. If all the celeriac isn't harvested in February, we will finish harvesting in March. We still have some winter squash which has wintered in the greenhouse. There are also leeks, mustard greens and some kales. All of these are planted outside and are not covered.

Spring arrives in the greenhouse in February. In March the biggest challenge in the greenhouse is managing sun exposure. Seeds can and have cooked on a sunny day. We now cover all seed-starting trays with a double layer of shade cloth just to eliminate that particular challenge. March is the time we haul out the shade cloth and cover the entire greenhouse.

You can practically watch the lettuce grow each day in the March greenhouse. We also plant a few summer squash in order to have early squash blossoms on hand for the restaurant. Radishes are turning over every 3 weeks. It's a hectic but fun time.

So go enjoy March. Revel in more sunlight, keep weeds pulled and rodents at bay.

Go and plant seeds!



Vole Damage on Celeriac

Anna Ashby, Master Gardener

Master Beekeeper



Heather's Highlights

Heather Stoven

Heather Stoven

OSU Yamhill County Extension
Faculty, Community Agriculture



Hello Master Gardeners, I hope that you are recovering from our recent ice and snow storm. I know a number of you lost power and had some tree damage, and I am wishing you all well. Recently our risk level in Yamhill County decreased to High from Extreme Risk. This level change should allow for some additional outdoor volunteer activities in our demonstration and community gardens: please stay tuned for more information about this. In the meantime, the online Master Gardener training series, Elevated Skills Training, has been popular. There have been 200-300 enrolled in each of the early classes, with more to open in the near future. In addition, the Level Up horticulture webinars have filled with 1000 registrants and are also now

being livestreamed on Facebook for those of you who have been unable to register. The series is also recorded for those who would prefer to watch after the event. We will also have our Yamhill County online Spring into Gardening classes each Saturday morning in April. Watch for emails about registration for the weekly webinars; registration will be opening soon. The classes will also be recorded and available to watch after the webinars since registration space is limited.

Happy early spring to you all!

[**elevated-skills-training-master-gardener-growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series**](#)



Time to Plant Onions

Plant your sets early in the spring. [Onions](#) do best if the temperature is cool when they start to grow, and warm as they mature. Frost just won't harm sets. As soon as the ground can be worked in the spring, put the sets in.

Why Onions Form Bulbs

Onion sets you plant in early spring will put on a lot of green top growth before they make bulbs. You may ask, "Why don't the bulbs start forming right away?" The answer is that before the plants can make bulbs, they first have to store energy in the top green leaves. Then they must wait for nature's signal to put this energy into bulb making.

The plants usually get the message when the day length and the temperature are right. The onions don't care how old they are or when they were



put in the ground; when conditions are right, they simply stop making new leaves and start using the energy they've stored to make bulbs. The size of the onion bulb is deter-

mined by how much energy there is in the top green leaves before the light conditions signal to start diverting energy to the bulbs. The more green growth before this time, the more energy there is and the bigger the bulb will be.

Early planting is important because it gives your onions plenty of time to grow tops and to store a lot of energy for the bulbs. If you put your sets in late, they won't have the time for a lot of top growth; as a result, there won't be much energy available when nature whispers to the onion plant, "Make a bulb."

The Wide-Row Method

Plant sets three to four inches away from each other in wide rows. Wide rows are useful for

onions and many other vegetables because you can grow much more using less space. That's especially important if you have only a small plot.

Wide rows allow far more plants per square foot of garden. A wide row is easier to water, weed, fertilize and harvest, too.

In the Ground

There's no need to make trenches or special holes for the sets. Just grasp them at the top (the pointed end) with the root end down and push them into well-prepared soil the full depth of the bulb. The soil should just barely cover the top of the onion sets. If you have some tiny sets, plant them at least an inch in the ground, so they get good contact with the soil. The sets will get a better start. After you've got your sets in the ground, firm the soil around them with a hoe.

Remember, if a set is planted too shallowly, it takes a long time to get started. It's important to push the bulb all the way into the soil. It gets the onion off to a good start for producing a lot of top growth. If the onion sets are a little too deep, it won't hurt. You may not want to plant all your sets at once. Try keeping back a few handfuls in the refrigerator. When you start harvesting some small onions to eat raw or use in salads and other dishes, replace them with sets from the refrigerator. Just remember that onion sets planted later in the spring won't develop into large onions.



National Gardening Association newsletter

February 13, 2021



From the January 2021 Insect Committee Newsletter



Science: **A Glowing Review!**

A recently found 99-million-year-old beetle is helping researchers understand what makes bioluminescent insects glow.

The beetle, known by its Latin name *Cretophengodes*, was found fossilized in a piece of amber in northern Myanmar. To see a likeness of this handsome guy, and to read about the research work, click [here](#). The story reported by CNN also includes a link to the published research study.

Be on the Lookout:

More on Spotted Lanternfly

In our last issue, we linked to the **Oregon Department of Agriculture Pest Alert** that [explained](#) why there is great concern about the Spotted Lanternfly.

Last October, *Smithsonian* magazine published an in-depth article about how the Spotted Lanternfly has impacted a nursery in Pennsylvania, Eaton Farms, along with many other nurseries and vineyards. It also details some of the work entomologists and other researchers are doing to fight back at this "ruinous and beautiful" pest.

In the last issue of the *Grapevine* there was also an in-depth article discussing the spotted lanternfly and its history.

Click [here](#) to read the article.



Submit an Article

Many of you on the Insect Committee have had interesting experiences while working with clients on the Desk, or you've made a particularly challenging insect identification. Share your stories with the group by submitting an article for a future Insect Committee eMeeting! Send your article along with links to any attachments to [Gin](#) or [Terry](#). We're looking forward to hearing from you!



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