

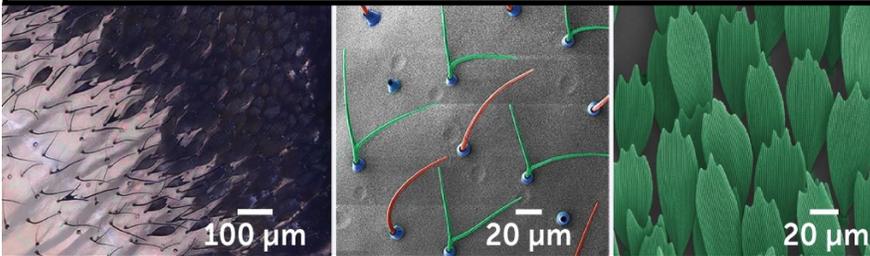
The Grapevine



The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners

January 2022

FREE SLUG POSTER AVAILABLE IN LIVING COLOR! SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS!

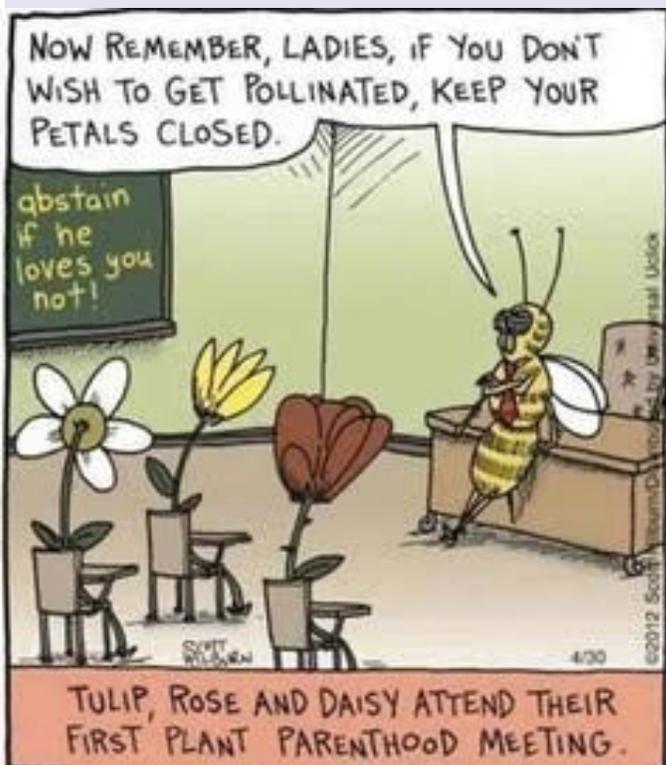


What do these photomicrographs have to do with invisibility and butterflies? See page 9 for the explanation.

"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." – Warren Buffett

Melittologist: an entomologist specializing in the study of bees.

See lavish praise for our award-winning melittologist, Michael O'Loughlin, from Professor Andony Melathopoulos of Oregon State University on **Page 8**.



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YCMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Awards/Memorials
Nancy Woodworth
Polly Blum

Community Garden
Linda Mason
Susan Burdell

Demonstration Gardens (2)
Sue Nesbitt
Donn Callaham

Education Outreach
Rita Canales

Newsletter
Donn Callaham

Farmers' Mkt. Mac.
Tom Canales

Farmers' Market Newberg
Peter Steadman

Garden-to-Table
Gene Nesbitt
Tonia Beebe
Gloria Lutz

Greenhouse
Linda Coakley

Hospitality
Gail Stoltz

Insect Committee
Gin Galt
Terry Hart

Library
Beth Durr

Plant Sale
Pat Fritz
Marilyn MacGregor

Propagation
Pat Fritz
Marilyn MacGregor

Publicity
Tom Canales

Scholarships
Susan Nesbitt

Social Media/Website
Tom Canales

Spring into Garden
Carol Parks

Sunshine Committee
Polly Blum

YCMGA PRESIDENT SUE SPEAKS...



Hello and Happy New Year!

I'm delighted to be serving as the 2022 Yamhill County Master Gardener Association (YCMGA) President. I will be writing a monthly update about the Association activities.

First, I want to give a huge thank you to both the Yamhill County Master Gardeners and the 2021 Board of Directors. Everyone worked through many tough problems to figure out how to complete projects and maintain a sense of community among the Master Gardeners. In addition, an amazing 70 YCMGA Master Gardeners either certified or recertified this year.

The other day I was asked about the purpose of YCMGA. Some information about the organization and its purpose is a good way to begin the New Year. YCMGA is a 501 (3) (c) corporation which sometimes makes the distinction between YCMGA and OSU very confusing. The simplest explanation is that OSU provides the research-based education we all enjoy and YCMGA provides the organizational structure for many of the activities used to deliver the education. YCMGA is one of 22 members of the Oregon Master Gardener Association

The YCMGA by-laws list five purposes for the organization. *They are:*

1. **PROMOTE, ASSIST, AND SUPPLEMENT** THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM THROUGH CONTINUING EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN YAMHILL COUNTY.
2. **ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY** FOR PERFORMING SPECIAL TASKS RELATED TO THE PROGRAM. THESE MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, HOME GARDENING CLINICS, ASSISTING AT STATE OR LOCAL FAIRS, AND ANSWERING GARDENING QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY.
3. **PROMOTE AND DISSEMINATE** GARDENING INFORMATION TO THE YAMHILL COUNTY COMMUNITY.
4. **ENGAGE** IN GARDENING ACTIVITIES THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM.
5. **USE DESIGNATED** FUNDS TO AWARD COLLEGE LEVEL SCHOLARSHIPS TO SELECTED STUDENTS.

I would add a 6th purpose which is not something that would be in a legal document, but is something very important.

"CREATE A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO ENJOY BOTH GARDENING AND HELPING OTHERS RESOLVE THEIR GARDENING PROBLEMS."

All Yamhill County Master Gardeners who have completed the Oregon State University Master Gardener training program and paid their dues are considered members of YCMGA. You do not have to be certified.

YCMGA is governed by a Board of Directors which consists of a President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Members at Large, an OMGA Representative and Alternate Representative and the Newsletter Editor. The Board meets the second Wednesday of each month except August. All Yamhill County Master Gardeners are welcome to attend the meetings. Due to Covid-19 we are presently meeting via Zoom. If you have not received a meeting notice and would like to attend, please contact Carla Stables- Carla.Stables@oregonstate.edu. Hopefully, as the pandemic subsides, we will be able to meet in person as we work to achieve the purposes of YCMGA. I look forward to a productive, interesting and fun 2022.

*Best,
Sue*



EARN THOSE COVETED HOURS—RESOURCES FOR YOUR (FREE!) ENLIGHTENMENT

FREE ON-DEMAND MASTER GARDENER CLASSES

This series of short courses is excerpted from OSU's Master Gardener online course, allowing you to study specific fundamentals of gardening.

[FREE-INTRO-TO-OREGON-MASTER-GARDENER-PROGRAM](#)

FREE SPRING-INTO-GARDENING WEBINARS

Four webinars from the YCMGA event last April

[SPRING INTO GARDENING WEBINARS](#)

FREE OSU EXTENSION TREE SCHOOL ONLINE

You can participate in the live classes hosted on Tree School Online or watch past webinars.

[KNOWYOURFOREST.ORG/TREECHOOLONLINE](#)

OREGON BEE PROJECT POLLINATION PODCAST

For people making bold strides to improve the health of pollinators.

[BLOGS.OREGONSTATE.EDU/POLLINATIONPODCAST/](#)

FREE LANDSCAPING WEBINARS

Eleven classes from the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation District.
All highly relevant to horticulture in the Willamette Valley as well.

[LANDSCAPING WEBINARS^{NATURE}](#)

FREE XERCES SOCIETY WEBINARS

The Xerces Society hosts webinars and participates in events organized by other organizations and provides technical expertise to support invertebrate conservation.

[HTTPS://XERCES.ORG/EVENTS/WEBINARS](#)

FLORA OF OREGON ONLINE RESOURCES

Check out the [video tutorials](#), search by plant common or scientific names; use the tools for plant identification, mapping, and exploring plant diversity.

[HTTPS://OREGONFLORA.ORG](#)

SUSTAINABILITY AT HOME

University of California series of webinars applicable to sustainable gardening in Oregon.

[WEBINAR SERIES](#)



N.B. IF YOU ARE WATCHING THE VIDEOS SOLELY TO EARN OSU CE HOURS, DON'T WATCH THEM UNTIL YOU'VE CONTACTED CARLA OR HEATHER, TO VERIFY POTENTIAL HOURS.

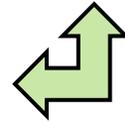
Tales from the Chef's Garden



Day One of slug feast



Day five of slug feast



This month, January, I'm going to talk about a subject near and dear to all of our hearts – slugs and snails! Yes. Terrestrial mollusks. So sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but there are 124 species of them in Oregon!! No wonder our seedlings get mowed down in spring.

We had a long, hot, dry summer with nary a slug in sight. I have such a short memory that I had kind of forgotten about them until the fall rains started. Now in dead winter, I'm starting to see some on the sidewalks; not a lot but enough to let me know that they didn't magically die off! Unless we have a few solid freezes they'll be back to plague us with a vengeance as soon as we transplant a seedling.

Here are before and after photos of how much slugs/snails can eat in winter when its cold and they are sluggish. Just imagine what

they can do in spring. Seems like they eat at warp speed.

So why bring this up now? Can't we simply deal with slugs/snails in spring when we start planting? Yes, but there will be fewer to deal with when we do transplant tender seedlings. Besides, what else are we going to do in January if not dealing out death and destruction to the mollusks who munch in the garden.

Winter time control option #1 is slug bait. How you go about that and what product you use is up to each individual gardener. Slug bait does work this time of year. I sprinkle it in the shrubs along the walkway leading to the greenhouse once per week. That's about as long as it lasts during the rainy season. Consistency is the key to minimizing the damage in spring. Can one completely rid one's garden of slugs/snails? No. And you don't want to since they do have a purpose as you saw by the before and after photos. They don't know that they are supposed to

Tales from the Chef's Garden...

stay around the compost pile and eat only on things that are not still growing.

Winter time control option #2 is crushing them. But that means you have to see them first. We step on any that decide to play chicken by crossing the walkway. We've talked



Control option #2 (not Anna's foot)

about designing a computer game where the goal is to see how many slugs/snails you can crush with a wheelbarrow...(We have too much time to think during January!)

Those are our options for slug control in the Chef's Garden in January. A home garden could host chickens or ducks, but we don't because of food safety rules.

Actually, there is another method of slug/snail control, but it isn't very practical!



Another slug on the fennel

Oregon" from the Oregon Department of Ag.

Because I don't want to know the names of the particular slugs that grace the Chef's Garden, I have refrained from closely examining them. If this is a subject that thrills your soul, by all means look at the publication, "Slugs and Snails in

It's a mere 42 pages long. You could also get a **great slug poster** from them. Remember that for next Christmas! (For gardeners, though, that would be similar to getting a lump of coal in one's stocking, I think.)

Happy January gardening. When you need some movement after reading seed catalogs all day, get out and bait for slugs/snails. The marigold seedlings thank you in advance!



Slug eggs found on pruners



Impractical method of control, but rather palpable

*Anna Ashby,
Master Gardener
Master Beekeeper*

A Meeting of Master Gardener Minds...

Meeting Notes for OMGA

OMGA™

**OMGA BOARD
MEETING
12/3/2021**

This was a meeting to discuss the goals of the Oregon Master Gardener Association for 2021 and to create goals for 2022.

Mini-college via Zoom was a success with great participation. Continuing education was also successful due to Gail Langellotto and her team's creation of the "Level Up" classes and the advanced skills training.

The OMGA's website needs to be updated and will be for 2022. The Executive Board has positions that need to be filled for 2022.

Brainstorming new goals for 2022 produced many great suggestions. For example, forming a class for new county state representatives and their alternates. Another idea was to have a

"sharing session" in which chapters discuss problems they need help solving as well as resources they use which other chapters might not know about.

Regarding new county representatives to OMGA, a suggestion was to have a mentor from another chapter help the new representative understand the position and help this new representative with any questions they may have.

Also it was mentioned that the Executive Board needs to update the job descriptions on the OMGA website.

The memorandum of understanding between OMGA and OSU needs to be discussed and then signed for 2022. This will occur at the next monthly meeting of OMGA in January.

Nancy Woodworth, 2022 OMGA Rep.

Can Seeds in a Dead Person's Stomach Really Sprout into Trees?

When you consider the nutritious habitat a dead person presents, it makes complete sense that seed can grow in a dead person. As the person decays, light is eventually introduced into the corpse, making the body an even better habitat. However, a seed doesn't have to come from a dead person's stomach; it could also grow out of any part of a dead person's digestive tract, such as the small or large intestine, both of which are excellent germination spots.

Of course, embalming would completely negate the value of the body for any living thing, so the body must be in a natural state. Even a seed in a dead person's pocket or a seed in the general burial area could gather nutrients from a decaying body.

As evidence of this, researchers found the remains of a medieval skeleton tangled up in the roots of an old beech tree that had toppled over in Ireland in 2015, [Live Science reported](#). So the answer is "yes", according to Jay Noller, a professor of soil science at OSU.



HEAT DAMAGE TO CONIFERS

A strong ridge of high pressure began building over the Pacific Northwest during the last week in June. The ridge forced air in the atmosphere down, compressing it and warming it in a phenomenon known as subsidence. That warm air was then trapped in place by the high pressure, forming a "heat dome".

The [heat dome](#) coincided with a slight offshore flow with winds coming from the east, pulling dry air from the high desert of southeastern Oregon, which heated more easily than air with higher moisture content. That air, too, was forced downward as it blew over the west-facing slopes of the Cascades, further heating as it was compressed.

Oregon and much of the western U.S. were also coming out of an exceptionally dry spring, leaving plants and soil bereft of the moisture that usually evaporates into the atmosphere and provides a modest cooling effect.

All of this was taking place right around the summer solstice, so the Pacific Northwest was absorbing more of the sun's energy than it did at any other time of year.

All plants have an optimal growing temperature, and when the temperature is exceeded, photosynthesis slows and they stop respirating. The high temperatures of the heat dome, coupled with the ongoing drought in the Pacific North-



west, pushed some trees to the brink.

Researchers saw the damage for themselves after doing a cursory survey by plane. Many trees had scorched leaves and needles, mostly on the south and west sides, which were fully exposed to the sun for the hottest parts of the day. The nature of the damage quickly helped them rule out drought or pests as the cause.



Numerous species, including Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, giant sequoia, western red cedar, spruce, maple and western hemlock were all damaged.

Chal Landgren, a Christmas tree specialist at Oregon State University, said similar impacts were seen at Christmas tree farms in the region.

Because most Christmas tree farms are run without irrigation and the Pacific Northwest was already suffering through a drought, older trees, especially the Noble, Grand, and Fraser firs, suffered some scorch and on some trees, the leader -- the top branch on which a topper is generally affixed for Christmas -- were bent and limp. Many young trees did not survive. Of those that did, growers will have to wait one or two years to see if the trees recover and become salable.

Such a heat event will have significant growth impacts, and only multiple years of observation will determine the extent and permanence of the damage. A sobering fact is that a heat dome of that severity has now been made 150 times more likely because of global warming.



Do PONDEROSA PINE NEEDLES MAKE SOIL ACIDIC?

The notion that pine needles change the soil pH so that nothing will grow or that it will damage plants has been out there for years. The truth is pine needles do not make the soil more acidic. It is true that pine needles have a pH of 3.2 to 3.8 (neutral is 7.0) *when they drop from a tree*. If you were to take the freshly fallen needles (before the needles decompose) and turn them into the soil right away, you may see a slight drop in the soil pH, but the change would not be damaging to the plants.

For those of you that leave the needles there on the ground, they will begin to break down naturally and the microbes (decomposers)

in the soil will neutralize them. So, you can leave them there (*if you're not in a wildfire-prone area. If they do present a risk of fire, remove or burn them*).

They are a good mulching material that will keep the moisture in, suppress weeds and eventually add nutrients back to the soil. You can also add them to a compost pile; they will slowly break down over time. If you run them through a shredder they will break down faster. A general rule of thumb is not to add more than 10 percent of pine needles to your compost pile.

If you are having difficulty growing other plants under your pine trees it is likely due to the fact that evergreen roots are numerous and compete for water and nutrients. The shady conditions under a tree can also make growing other plants a challenge.

Amy Jo Detweiler,

OSU Extension Horticulturist



OSU Has High Praise for YCMGA Member

The following quote is in reference to Michael O'Loughlin and his brother, who recently received the honor of 2021 National Pollinator Conservation Award.

"I have worked with pollinators and landowners for over 30 years and in all those years, I have never encountered a large commercial farm as dedicated to pollinator conservation as that of O'Loughlin Farms," Melathopoulos said.

"They serve as the bridge between abstract ideas about conservation and what can be done on the ground in a commercially viable manner. They have the rare combination of being exceedingly practical farmers with a deep knowledge of pollinator biodiversity and natural history. In fact, *I am positive there is not a single commercial farm in the U.S. with operators who understand the native bee fauna as well as Dan and Michael.*"



Andony Melathopoulos,
OSU Pollinator Health



Extreme Topiary

Heather's Highlights

It is amazing how quickly the last year has flown by. It is looking like we may continue to experience some COVID challenges as we enter into 2022, but I know we are up to it.

I am always impressed by what our Yamhill County Master Gardeners can accomplish, so I am sure the year ahead will be a success. Due to pandemic constraints we have been challenged to develop creative solutions and learn multiple new ways to reach out to one another and engage the public. It has indeed been difficult to keep physically apart, however

Happy 2022 my fellow gardeners! It is

I know we can keep doing what is necessary to stay safe and I am sure we will see some improvements in the year ahead. I think one of the main things I have learned over the last couple years is to remain flexible, and always have a "plan B" or even a "plan C".

I appreciate all of your understanding and flexibility as we have worked to host our events in different ways. As you know our Master Gardener training series will be hybrid this year starting in mid-February. This will be a new format; however I think it will be a positive way to bring new individuals into our program while providing flexibility. In addition, please watch for the Level-Up Series which will continue starting in February 2022. Keep your eyes peeled for the schedule when it is released in January. In the meantime, enjoy the calm after the busy holiday season, and I am wishing you all a safe and happy 2022.



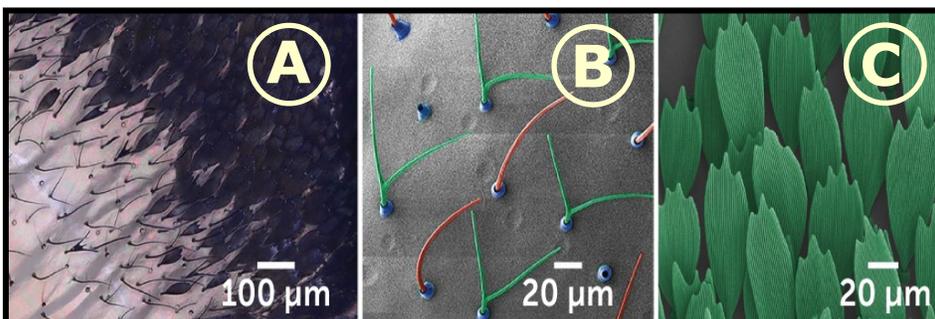
Transparent butterfly wings

Although transparent structures in aquatic animals are well established, they are very rare in land organisms.

The wings of glasswing butterflies (*Greta oto*) [under the microscope](#) show sparse, spindly scales overlaying a see-through wing membrane with antireflective properties to help camouflage these insects. Butterflies need at least some scales on all parts of their wings to repel water (which would cause the wings to stick together in the rain).

The black rims of *G. oto*'s wings are densely packed with flat, leaflike scales. But the transparent areas have narrow, hair-like scales spaced farther apart. As a result, only about 2 percent of the underlying clear wing membrane is visible in black regions, but about 80 percent of the clear membrane is exposed in transparent areas.

The texture of *G. oto*'s wing membrane also helps reduce the glare coming off transparent regions of the wing. If the membrane surface were flat, the abrupt change in optical properties between the air and wing would cause light traveling through the air to bounce off the wing's surface and reduce transparency. But an array of tiny wax bumps coats the surface of the membrane, creating a more gradual shift between the optical qualities of the air and wing. That allows more light traveling through the air to pass through the wing rather than reflect off of it, softening the glare.



ScienceNews 6-21-21

- A: Clear to opaque transition
 B: Scales on clear region.
 C: Scales on opaque section.



PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

Don't Get Caught Out in the Cold!

Looking at our post-Christmas forecast, it appears we are going to get a blast of winter headed our way. Fortunately we have had a bit of winter already - early or late cold season temperatures can be especially damaging, since plants are less acclimated to cold during those times. Plant cells can be ruptured when ice crystals form internally, damaging tissues and potentially causing extensive damage or death.

Currently forecasted temperatures, while cold, don't look to be record-breaking, therefore most plants should be ok. However, if you are like me, you may enjoy pushing the boundaries a bit and grow some plants which are on the edge of zone-hardiness in our region. In Yamhill county we are primarily USDA [plant hardiness zone](#) 8b, which means temperatures from 15-20°F can be expected. Keep in mind that microclimates can mean some areas can stay a little warmer, or be a bit colder, especially if it is in a low-lying area.

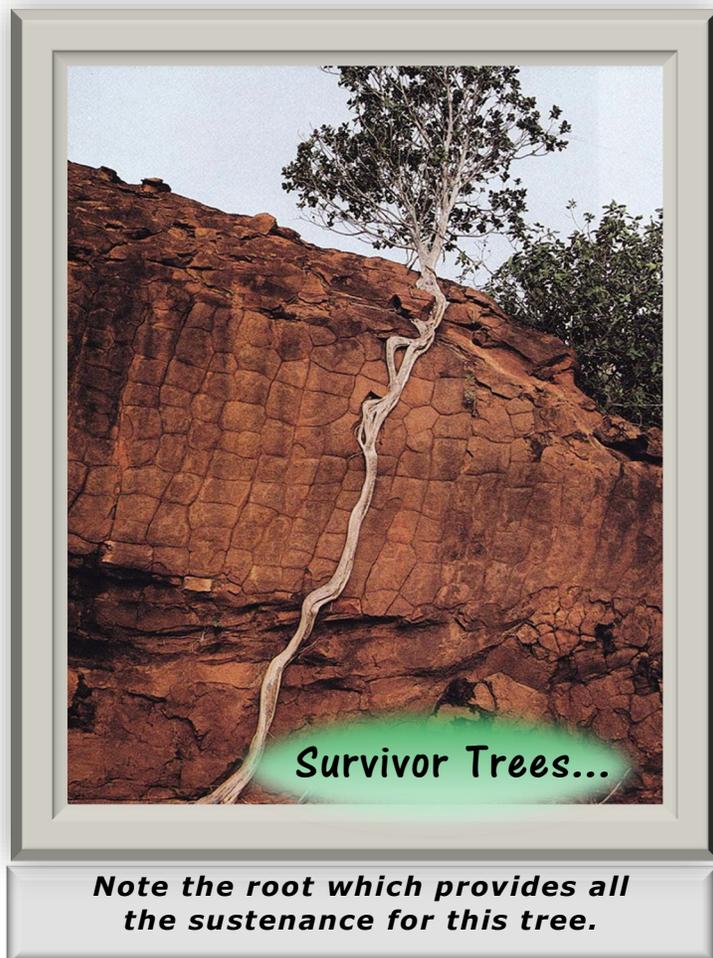
Provided the plants in your garden are zone 8 or lower, they should be ok. For those plants that are not quite adapted, some extra protection is necessary. You can cover plants with frost protection cloth, mulch or blankets to keep the plants warmer. If we do get the predicted snow with this weather system, the snow will also act as a blanket keeping the plants warmer than the outside air temperature.

Potted plants are also susceptible to cold since their root systems are above ground, with damage potentially occurring below 28°F. If it isn't possible to move containers to a warmer place, such as a garage, place the pots together and cover them (protecting the pots as well), doing your best to avoid touching the cloth or plastic to the foliage. Make sure the containers are well watered prior to the cold: this obviously isn't an issue for plants in the open, but make sure plants that have been under eaves are moist, since plants can't obtain water from roots in frozen soil. Once the cold is over you may see some

immediate damage such as brown or black tissue, or cracked stems.

Keep in mind that cold damage can also take months to become apparent. It is best to wait until the total extent of the damage can be determined prior to pruning and assessing survival. It may be late spring when plants are leafing out that the extent of the damage is completely evident.

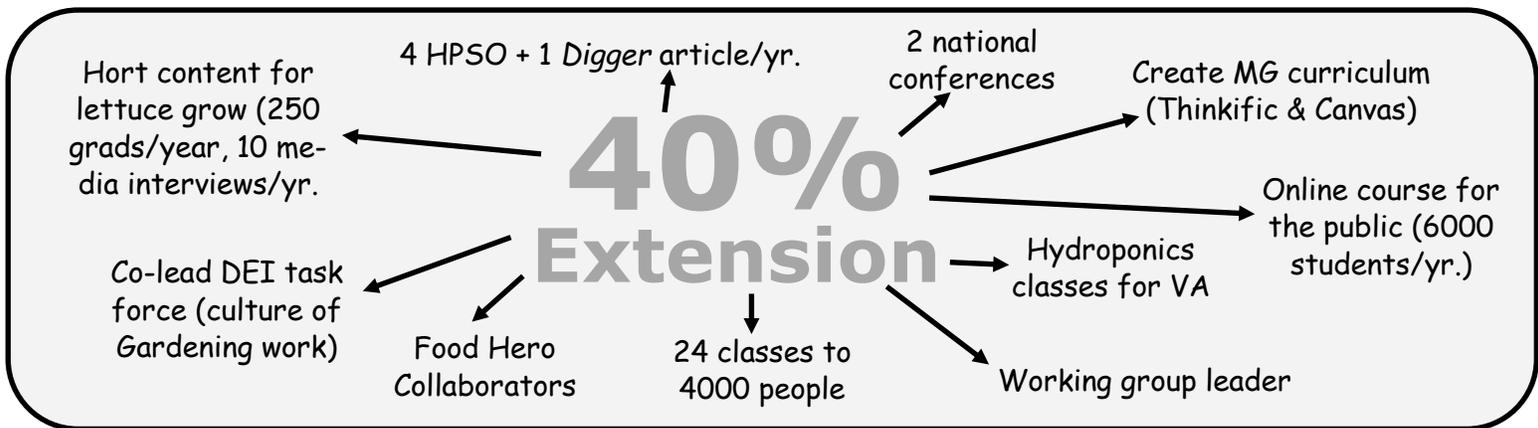
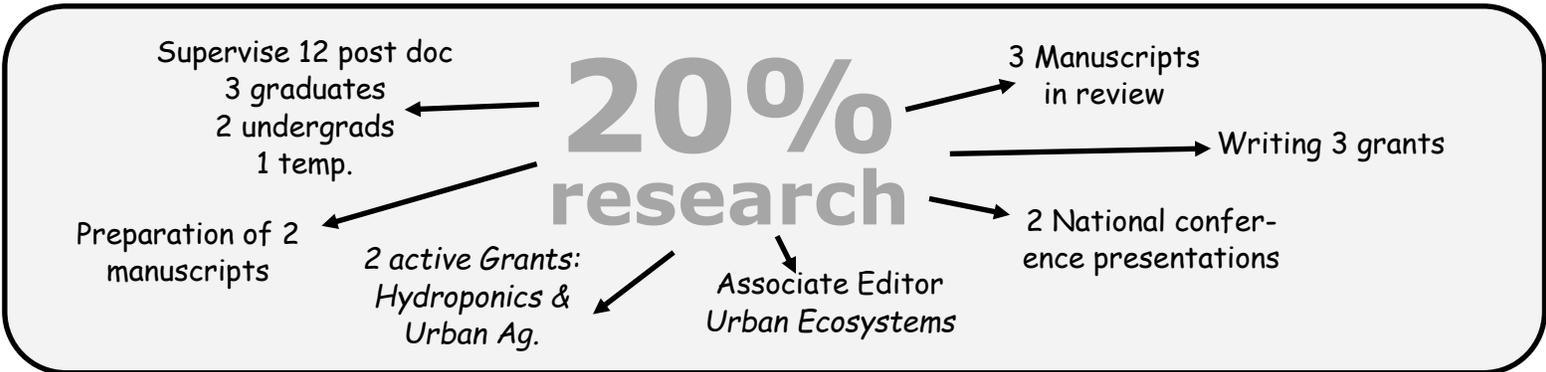
Keep this cold spell in mind while working the MG desk next spring: we may get some questions related to dead, damaged or unthrifty plants which could be related to our mid-winter cold spell.



Note the root which provides all the sustenance for this tree.

WHAT DOES SHE DO?

GAIL LANGELLOTTO, PH.D., PROFESSOR OF HORTICULTURE, EXTENSION COMMUNITY HORT SPECIALIST, & MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM COORDINATOR SHARED A 25-PAGE POWERPOINT, OUTLINING HER OSU RESPONSIBILITIES, AT THE LAST OMGA MEETING. EACH ARROW POINTS TO JUST ONE ACTIVITY; DESCRIBING AN ACTIVITY WOULD CONSUME UP TO 5 PAGES. THIS VERY CURSORY OUTLINE SUGGESTS HER VARIED WORKLOAD, AND SHOULD MAKE ALL OF US APPRECIATE WHAT SHE DOES!





Yamhill County Extension
2050 NE Lafayette Avenue
McMinnville, OR 97128-9333

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



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The Grapevine

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GRAPEVINE EDITOR: DONN CALLAHAM

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Yamhill County Extension Faculty
for Community Horticulture

