

January 2023

# The Grapevine



The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners

(A background to counteract the actual weather)

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST IN JANUARY



**Thursday 01-05**

Plant Sale committee meeting  
10:00am in Extension Office Auditorium

**Monday 01-09**

Education Outreach Meeting  
10:00am in Extension Office Auditorium

Spring-into-Gardening Meeting

1:00pm in Extension Office Auditorium

**Wednesday 01-11**

YCMGA board meeting  
10:00am in Extension Office Auditorium All Master Gardeners welcome!

**Thursday 01-26**

Class Mentor meeting at  
1:00pm, in Extension Office auditorium

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

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**Awards/Memorials**  
Nancy Woodworth

**Community Garden**  
Linda Mason  
Susan Burdell

**Demonstration Gardens (2)**  
Sue Nesbitt  
Donn Callahan

**Education Outreach**  
Suzanne Beukema  
Rita Canales

**Newsletter**  
Donn Callahan

**Farmers' Mkt. Mac.**  
Tom Canales

**Farmers' Market Newberg**  
Shelly Toombs

**Garden-to-Table**  
Gene Nesbitt  
Gloria Lutz

**Greenhouse**  
Linda Coakley

**Hospitality**  
Gail Stoltz

**Insect Committee**  
Terry Hart

**Plant Sale**  
Gin Galt  
Cynthia Norcross

**Propagation**  
Pat Fritz  
Marilyn MacGregor

**Publicity**  
Nancy Woodworth

**Scholarships**  
Susan Nesbitt

**Social Media/ Website**  
Tom Canales

**Spring into Garden**  
Rita Canales

**Sunshine Committee**  
Susan Alin  
Sandy Beaver

“A lawn is nature under totalitarian rule.”

Michael Pollan, “New Republic”

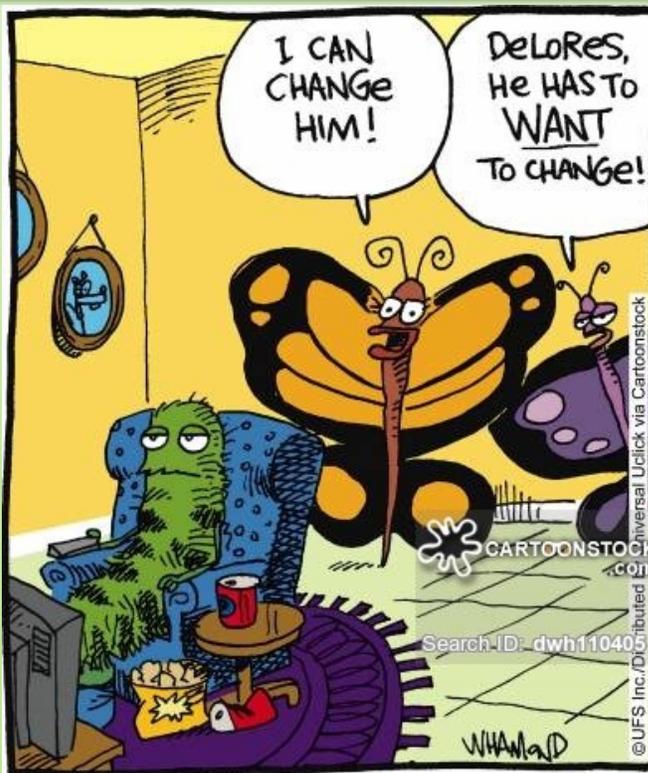
## Save this Date!

All day Saturday  
March 18<sup>th</sup>  
(8:45 to 4:00)

### "Spring-into-Gardening"

### Our Changing Landscape

Soil: What it is and how it works/  
Native Plants/ Invasive Plants/  
Landscaping to lessen Fire  
Danger/ Pollinators/ Unirrigated  
Landscape Plants AND MORE!





**GARDEN-TO-TABLE MENTORS** ENGLISH-SPEAKING OR SPANISH-SPEAKING, OR BOTH. INTERACT ONCE PER WEEK WITH UP-AND-COMING GARDENERS AND SHARE YOUR GARDENING WISDOM OR LEARN ALONG WITH THEM. CLASSES WILL BE IN McMINNVILLE, NEWBERG AND WILLAMINA. YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR SITE AND WE WILL PROVIDE INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT!

CONTACT YCMGA LORI GAMROTH AT [GAMROTH.LORI@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GAMROTH.LORI@GMAIL.COM)

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**HOSPITALITY CO-CHAIR** THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING FOOD AND DRINKS AT YCMGA EVENTS, INCLUDING WEEKLY MASTER GARDENER IN-PERSON TRAINING SESSIONS, OUR SPRING INTO GARDENING CONFERENCE AND PLANT SALE, AND GRADUATION AND MISCELLANEOUS POTLUCKS. GAIL NEEDS SOMEONE TO VOLUNTEER TO COVER SOME OF THESE ACTIVITIES AND TO HELP WITH THE BIGGER EVENTS. *IT'S FUN TO GET INVOLVED.*

CONTACT CARLA STABLES AT [CARLA.STABLES@OREGONSTATE.EDU](mailto:CARLA.STABLES@OREGONSTATE.EDU)

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**EXTENSION OFFICE GARDEN** CO-LABORER DESIRED. HELP THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE EXPERT MAINTAIN THE EXTENSION OFFICE GARDEN WITH PRUNING, WEEDING, AND CHOOSING NEW PLANTS. PICK YOUR DAYS TO WORK: WORK WITH CURRENT CARETAKER OR TAKE TURNS IF YOU PREFER. LOTS OF FUN, SATISFACTION, FEELING OF GREAT ACHIEVEMENT THAT IS RARELY NOTICED.

CONTACT DONN CALLAHAM [M42ONEB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:M42ONEB@GMAIL.COM)

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**GARDEN-TO-TABLE:** ARE YOU TECH-SAVVY? WE WANT YOU TO JOIN OUR **ZOOM MEETING MODERATOR TEAM.**

MEETING ON MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> & APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> FROM 12:30 TO 3:00 IN NEWBERG  
FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>, AND APRIL FIRST FROM 9:30 TO NOON IN McMINNVILLE

CONTACT BETH LAFORCE [BLAFORCE@GEORGEFOX.EDU](mailto:BLAFORCE@GEORGEFOX.EDU)

## Flies with Pop-Out Eyes



**H**igh-rise eyes give macho pizzazz to the adult male *Pelmatops* fruit fly. In one of the stalkier species, *P. tangliangi*, the eyes-up transformation takes only about 50 minutes. Once stretched, the skinny eye-stalks darken and harden, keeping the eyes stuck out for the rest of the fly's life. The details of *P. tangliangi*'s eye lift come from [the first published photo sequence of their ocular blossoming](#), which appears in the September *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*.

Video images show the eyestalks curl and rise irregularly. Yet they are not flopping around while partly inflated: they seem slightly stiff, but still flexible enough.

Entomologist Xiaolin Chen suspects that what are now named as two species, based on the few specimens available, may just be two sexes of the same species. Her research paper describes a male *P. tangliangi* mating with a female known by a different species name. Her stalks aren't as magnificent as his, but she does have them.

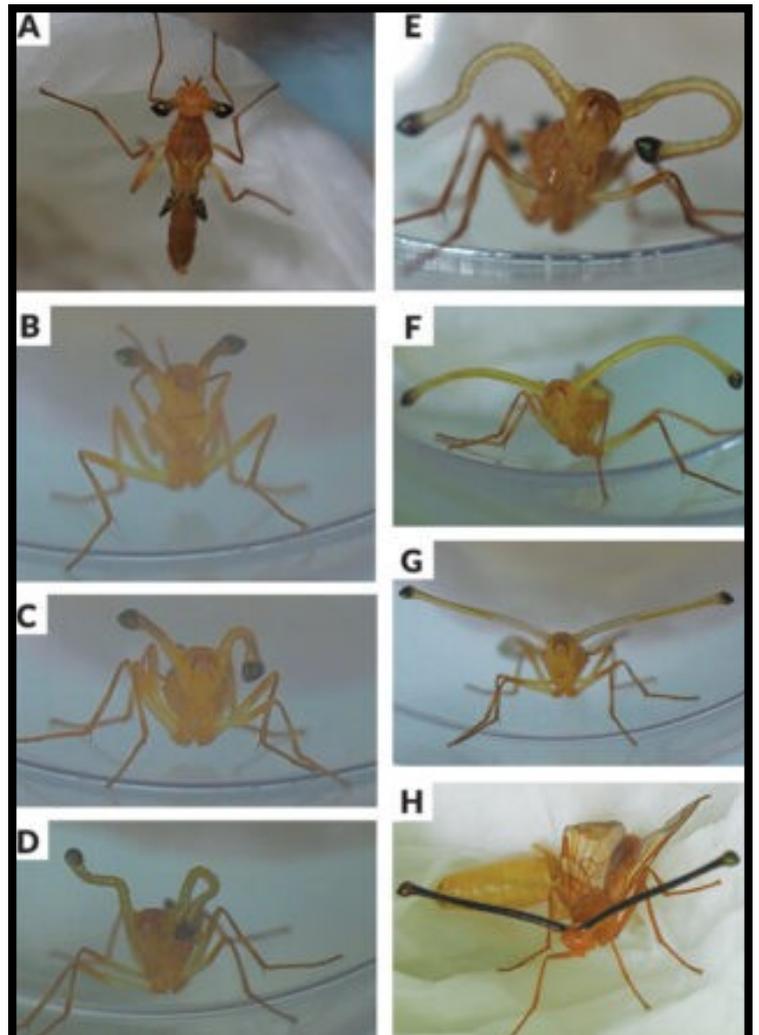
While the headgear can burden a flying insect, long eyestalks may give flies some swagger. These *Pelmatops* and other kinds of stalk-eyed flies face off, eyestalk to eyestalk, with intruders. There's no knocking and

locking stalks in fierce fly disputes though; they use the rest of their bodies for combat.

Extreme eyes may also have other benefits. In the wild, Chen finds these fruit flies on long stems of *Rubus* berry brambles. The eyes naturally periscope outward and upward, allowing the flies to spot danger while the body stays hidden in the greenery.



*“Science News”* magazine, December 3, 2022



Sequence of eye-stalk emergence in  
*Pelmatops tangliangi*

## A Master Gardener's Favorites . . .



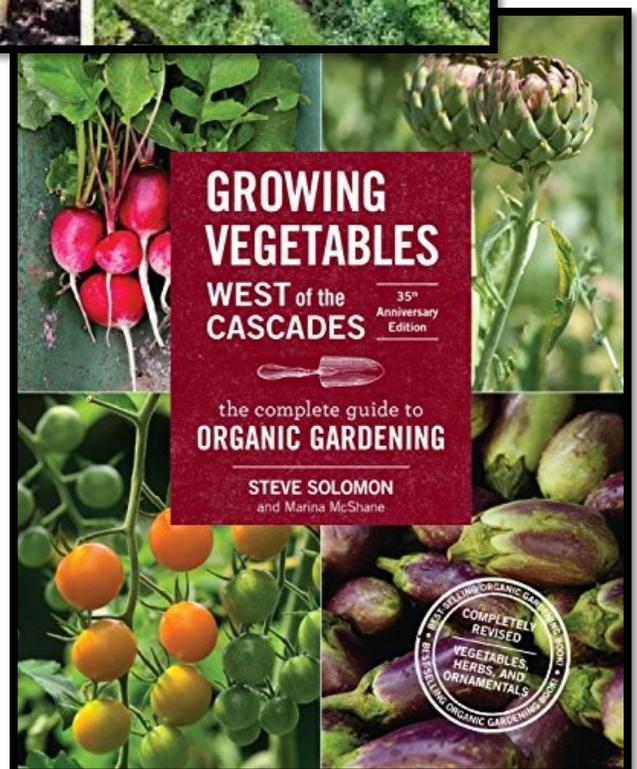
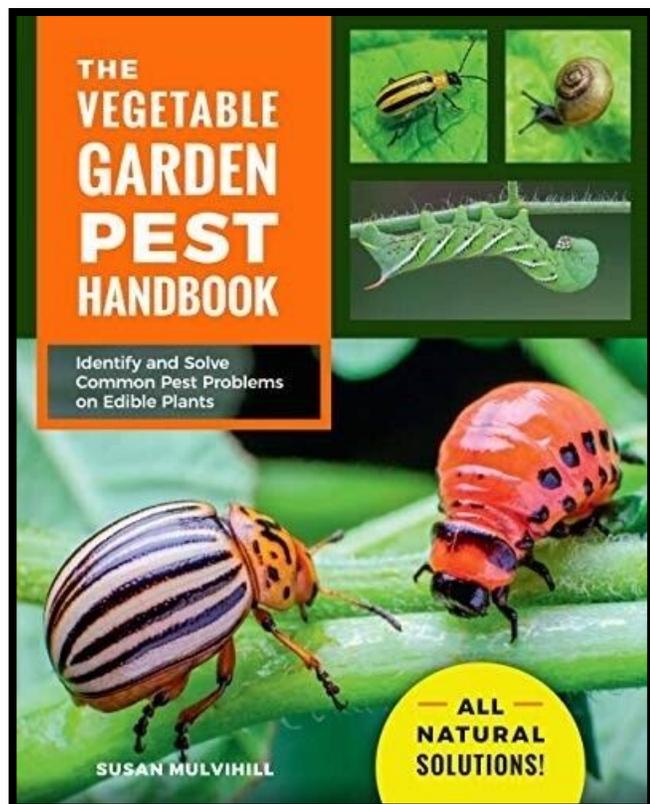
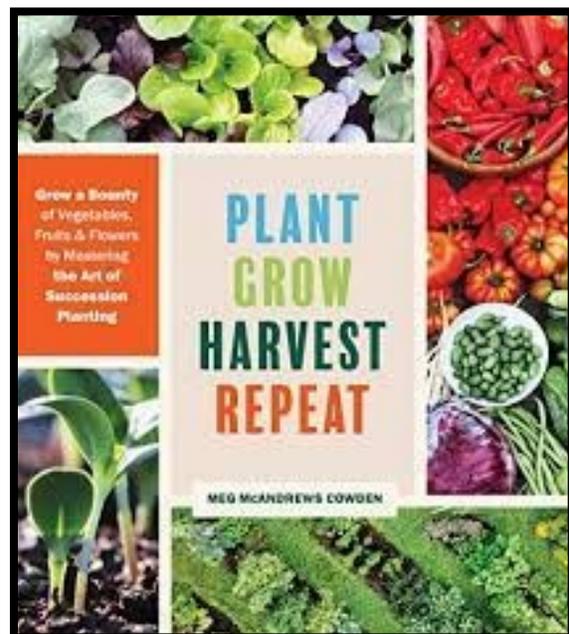
While we slow down and appreciate the rest we deserve from the 2022 gardening season, I highly recommend getting your hands on the following books while sipping a hot cup of Joe and enjoying one of my all-time favorite cookies for winter—old-fashioned chewy ginger cookies.

- Solomon, Steve and Marina McShane. **Growing Vegetables West of the Cascades: the complete guide to Organic Gardening.** Sasquatch Books, 2015. ( This book has great vegetable gardening applications specific to gardeners in Western Oregon).
- McAndrews Cowden, Meg. **Plant Grow Harvest Repeat.** Timber Press, 2022. (Book contains inspiring advice to get people to stop thinking about just a “summer garden” and instead think about the “yearly garden”).
- Mulvihill, Susan. **The Vegetable Garden Pest Handbook.** Cool Springs Press, 2021.

(This book is great for documenting both beneficial and pest insects in the home garden as well as building plans for construction of habitats and pest barriers. Susan is also a Washington State Master Gardener and this book is applicable to our climate).



*Shelly Joombs*





## Good News for All Master Gardeners

As detailed in the December YCMGA board meeting minutes (available on our website) Master Gardener funding must be shared by federal, state, and county. For nearly two decades, in the absence of county funding, OSU Extension has remained committed to serving Multnomah County residents and worked with volunteers and partners to sustain programming.

However, we are pleased to share that an anonymous donor has committed funding for one year that will allow us to offer training in Multnomah County in 2023. In the coming weeks, our team will seek your input to determine how best to offer this training in Multnomah County. In the coming year, we also commit to continued collaboration with you to find solutions for long-term funding and support; this is also part of the donor's request.



## Sad News for Oregon Master Gardeners

Effective July first of 2023, Gail Langellotto will no longer be involved with the Master Gardener program under the auspices of Oregon State University. She will still be a professor and researcher at OSU, but no longer supervising the Master Gardener program.

Gail has decided to focus more on teaching, and particularly on research. Some of her focus will now be on [supporting native plant producers](#), hydroponics, [insect husbandry](#), [urban agriculture](#), and environmental microbiomes.

Her change will also give her an opportunity to focus on teaching, and make course improvements she has long wanted to make, but never had the time to do. A replacement person has not yet been announced, but the school has half a year to find a qualified replacement for Gail.



Gail (second from left) with Yamhill County Master Gardeners at one of the first "Mini-colleges" (in the distant past)

## New License Plate May be Available



**IN ORDER FOR PRODUCTION TO BEGIN, THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT MUST FIRST SELL 3,000 LICENSE PLATE VOUCHERS. WHEN WE ARE CLOSE TO REACHING OUR SALES GOAL, A PHYSICAL VOUCHER WILL BE SENT TO YOU IN THE MAIL. TO**

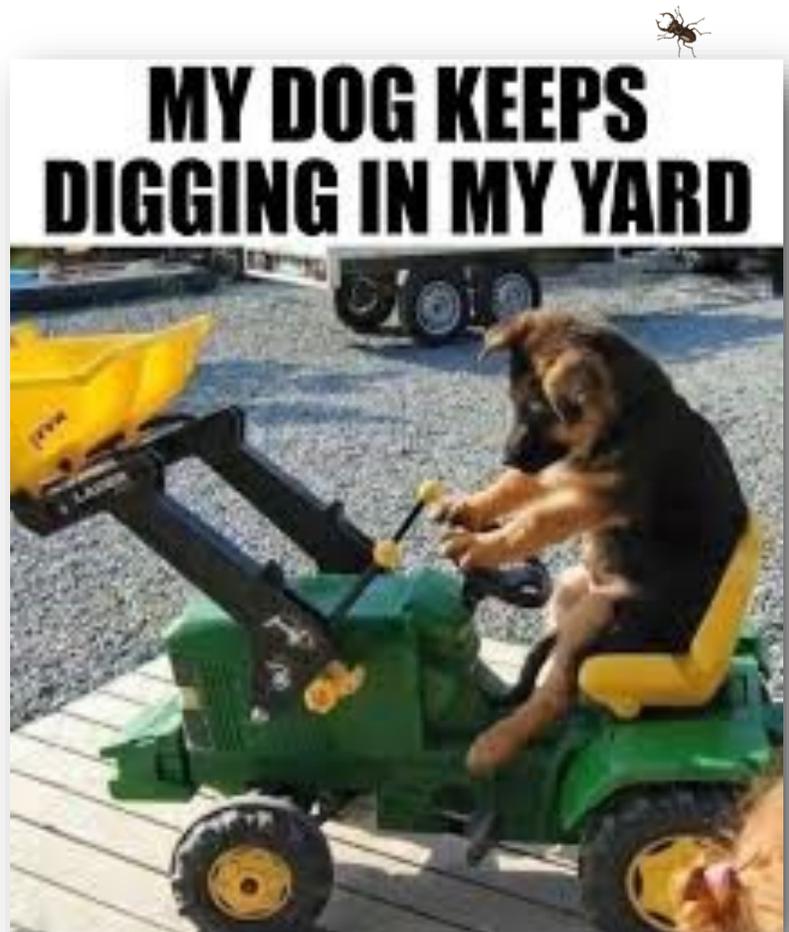
**REDEEM YOUR VOUCHER, SIMPLY BRING IT TO ANY OREGON DMV LOCATION TO RECEIVE YOUR PLATE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BUY A VOUCHER, CONTACT: [HERE](#)**

(If enough Oregonians sign up for it). Featuring two of Oregon's most iconic bees, the managed honey bee and the wild yellow-faced bumble bee, Oregon's newest license plate is designed to showcase the unique Oregon landscape of natural areas, agricultural fields, and backyard gardens that help support the state's over 600 species of bees.

The plate design centers around a field of red clover – a majestic sight that can be found dotting the rolling hills of Oregon's Willamette and Grande Ronde valleys. Oregon produces over a quarter of the U.S. supply of red clover seed. Both managed and wild bees pollinate this crop.

The nectar and pollen, in turn, is a key food source for bees. This same interrelationship can be seen in every corner of the state-- coastal cranberry bogs, Rogue Valley pear orchards, high desert carrot seed fields, Columbia River Gorge sweet cherry orchards and Hermiston melon fields.

If you want to promote the new license plate at clinics (and any other event) postcards and tablecloths of the license plate are available. You can also contact the Honey Bee Lab ([at this website](#)) if you want help promoting the new license plate. Purchase a Pollinator Paradise plate today and help support the bees of Oregon by supporting bee research!



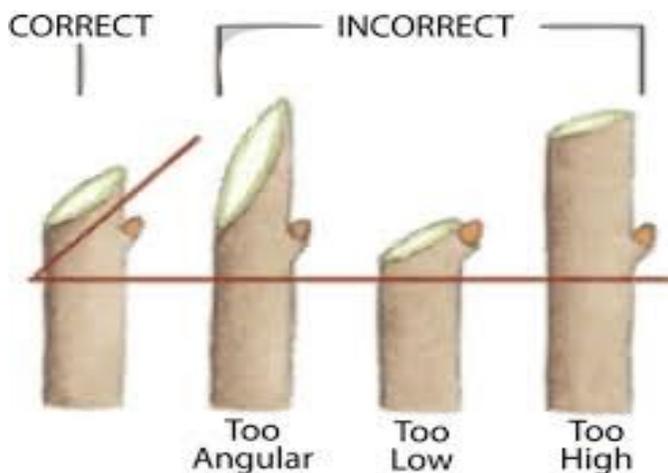
## Four Main Goals of Pruning Roses

**R**ight now is the time to maximize your pruning. Pruning has four main goals: remove dead twigs and branches; remove weak, damaged, and useless branches; open the plant to improve air circulation; and create an attractive shape.

### YOU WILL NEED

Nearly all roses are well equipped with sharp thorns, and some are very thorny. First of all, you need a pair of heavy goat-leather gloves, preferably long enough to protect your forearms. (Goat-leather is a necessity for thorns. No other leather or manufactured material keeps the thorns from penetrating).

The next essential is hand shears. Bypass pruners (the scissors type) make the best clean,



sharp cuts. The other type of pruner (anvil-type) often makes slightly ragged cuts, but is better for dead wood. Both types are used for twigs up to about 1/2" diameter.

For thicker stems, you'll also need bypass loppers and possibly even a pruning saw. It needs to be a saw specifically for pruning; these have special teeth, and can reach tight places.

### PRUNING CUTS

**CUT AT AN ANGLE.** Cut about 1/4 inch above an outward-facing bud at a 45-degree angle. Cutting above an outward-facing bud forces growth up and away from the center of the plant, improving air circulation, which reduces pest problems. You

can wait until early spring when buds swell and are easy to spot.

**CUT BACK TO LIVE TISSUE.** After you cut, examine the pithy tissue in the center. Is it white and healthy clear through? If not, cut back farther.

**REMOVE DEAD BRANCHES COMPLETELY.** Brown and shriveled branches stand out like sore thumbs. Cut them to the base, using a saw if necessary.

**NEVER GIVE A SUCKER AN EVEN BREAK.** Suckers are vigorous canes growing from the rootstock below the graft union on grafted plants. It is best to actually break them off, rather than just cut them, to discourage regrowth. Cut these off to the main stem, even if you have to dig away some soil to get to them.

### BEST CUTS FOR DIFFERENT ROSES

The preceding guidelines would allow you to do a pretty good job of pruning any rose. But knowing the idiosyncrasies of the different kinds of roses also helps.

**HYBRID TEAS AND GRANDIFLORAS.** Keep the thickest green canes evenly spaced around the bush. Prune out all canes with diameters less than a pencil width and old, brown canes that tend to be less productive. A new hybrid tea should have three to five canes left. Grandifloras such as 'Queen Elizabeth' and older hybrid teas can support six to eight canes.

Later in the season you'll be pruning again when you're making bouquets for indoors. Cut so that you've a long enough stem for a vase but don't remove too many leaves. Try to leave at least two 5-leaflet leaves on the remaining stem. Therefore the ideal place to cut is just above an outward growing bud and/or the uppermost 5-leaflet leaf.

**FLORIBUNDAS AND POLYANTHAS.** Leave six to eight main canes, and remove most of the twiggy growth in the center of the bush. Compared to hybrid teas and grandifloras, leave more minor branches, especially toward the top of the plant.

Prune the remaining canes to give the plant a rounded shape.

**CLIMBING ROSES.** Don't prune any climber, except to remove dead or broken branches, for two or three years. That's enough time for the plant to develop strong branches that can produce flowers for many years. On established plants, prune dead or damaged branches to the base. Train main branches to grow as horizontally as possible. How you do this varies with your situation. Imagine the arching canes of a climbing



rose along a split-rail fence; canes arching in this fashion produce many more flowers than canes growing straight up.

The two most common types of climbing roses are the naturally vigorous mutations ("sports") of hybrid teas, grandifloras, and floribundas, and those simply called "large-flowered climbers." Both types produce flowers on long-lived side branches (laterals) off the main canes. Flowers develop on the side branches. In late winter or early spring, shorten those laterals to about 6 inches.

**SHRUB ROSES.** Modern shrub roses require minimal maintenance. Vigorous plants can be pruned more, while slow-growing plants should be pruned less. Some, like 'Carefree Beauty' and some of the Midland series, require only light

annual pruning.

**MINIATURES.** Some need no regular pruning at all. If you have a few plants indoors, use narrow-bladed pruning shears (or scissors) to prune and shape. For miniatures used as landscape plants, use hedge shears to maintain size.

**OLD-FASHIONED HEIRLOOMS.** How and when to prune depends somewhat on the type. Alba: Prune after spring flowering. Bourbon and Portland: Just before spring growth, shorten main canes by a third and side shoots to three buds. Centifolia and Moss: After blooms fade in spring, shorten main canes and side shoots. China: In winter, remove twiggy growth and shorten main canes by a third. Damask: After spring flowering, remove twiggy growth and cut back laterals to three buds. Gallica: Just before spring growth and after spring flowering, remove twiggy growth. Hybrid perpetual: After spring blooms fade, cut back main shoots by a third and shorten side shoots. Tea: Just before spring growth, remove twiggy growth and shorten main canes by a third.

**The final piece of advice...**

*IF IT DOESN'T THRIVE, RIP IT OUT  
AND REPLACE IT WITH A NEW ROSE!*



Garden.org newsletter  
February 19, 2022



## Tales from the Chef's Garden

**W**e keep crops in the ground as long as we can, until a hard freeze, and that certainly applies to the Filderkraut cabbage which takes up an inordinate amount of space because of its shape. However, they make up for that deficiency by having excellent flavor. At any rate, we harvested all the fall cabbage in December before the Christmas special freeze.

Now in January we start earnestly planning for the next season. As one would expect this entails much time perusing seed catalogs. We have already prepared the garden plan for the year. We break this complicated task into smaller bites by starting with the known space hogs - *solanaceae*, *cucurbitaceae*, and the fall/winter *brassicaceae*. Once we figure out where these are going, hopefully with a 4-year rotation, then we can fill in the cracks with all the others.



Filderkraut cabbage  
in December.

we're focusing on pest control. Last year we fo-

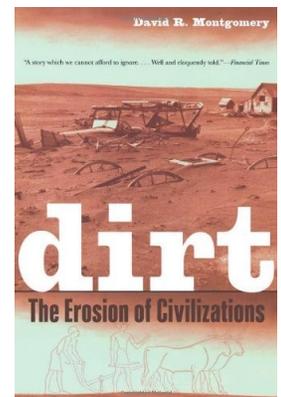
The plan is penciled out and hanging on the wall and the seed orders submitted: what do we do? There is always some sort of maintenance, plantings in the greenhouse to tend and harvest, and we do a fair bit of studying on some sort of garden-related issue. This year

cused on soil. So that is what I'm going to talk about for the rest of this article.

In January we are past the celebrations and the desire for snow and are ready to plant seeds, but we can't really do much in the garden yet. So this year read a book or two which will stretch your mind. The book that set me off last year I read because a friend loaned it to me and said I would find it interesting. It was "*Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations*" by David R. Montgomery, Ph.D. who is a professor of Earth and Space Sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is a well-published author who has written several well-written, researched, and documented books which are very readable for the regular public. In other words, one doesn't need to be a Ph.D. to understand them.

Dr. Montgomery starts his book with, "The twin problems of soil degradation and erosion have plagued humanity since the dawn of agriculture." This situation of top soil washing away is not a modern problem; it started once humans started working up soil to plant crops. Virgin soil is fertile and produces abundant crops. Abundant crops lead to healthier people which leads to higher rates of reproduction, which means more housing and food is needed. As a civilization grows in an area, typically in a river valley, it pushes the agriculture into less desirable land, i.e. slopes.

Slopes have thinner top soil and readily erode. As agriculture moves to more and more marginal land the nutritional quality of the produce, (I



might have imagined that part), as well as the quantity of the produce is reduced. Impoverished crops lead to malnourished people and animals and famine. Then the area is abandoned for many decades or centuries, giving the soil an opportunity to slowly rebuild before the cycle starts all over.

The author goes into great detail on the rise and decline of ancient civilizations all over the world

and how they treated their most valuable asset, the soil. He asserts, "Soil, of all things, brought down ancient societies that abused their land and paid the ultimate price, leaving a legacy of degraded, worn-out fields and impoverished descendants." It is an interesting way to look at history—through the eyes of a geologist.

This book will make you determined to be a better steward of the landscape in your care. If you want to know how to avert or mediate the problem of topsoil loss, then you need to read two more of his books, *Growing a Revolution: Bringing our Soil Back to Life* and *What Your Food Ate: How to Heal our Land and Reclaim our Health*.

By the time you have read and digested the information in these books, it will be time to get outside into the garden and put new principles into practice. Enjoy the mind-stretching!



Sir Hercules not only heads the rodent patrol, he now helpfully audits my expense reports!



Anna Ashby

**"CRIMES Against NATURE"**



# Heather's Highlights

Happy 2023!

It is amazing how quickly the last year has flown by. Thank you very much for a very successful 2022. I appreciate all of your volunteer time and efforts: you make the Yamhill County Master

Gardener program truly remarkable. We had a great year and were able to return to in-person meetings and events, which has brought new energy to the program.

In 2023 I am looking forward to the return of the in-person plant sale and a more traditional Spring into Gardening event. Master Gardener training will start on February 16<sup>th</sup>. I am very excited to welcome our new Master Gardeners to our organization. Enjoy the calm after the busy holiday season, and I will see you all in 2023!



## PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

### Baby It's Cold Outside!

Our recent **cold weather** has the potential to cause cold damage to plants in our landscapes, especially those in containers or those that aren't quite zone hardy. In Yamhill county we are primarily USDA plant hardiness zone 8b, which means temperatures from 15-20°F can be expected. Generally if you have plants in your landscapes planted in the ground that are hardy to zones 8 or below, they should not have extensive damage.

stay a little warmer, or be a bit colder, especially if it is in a low-lying area or exposed to wind.

Once the cold is over you may see some immediate damage such as water soaking, 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.



Typical Deutzia Damage

However, we had sustained temperatures well below freezing for over 24 hours with a dry wind,

which can also be damaging since this can cause the plants to desiccate. When the ground (or containers) are frozen, the root systems can't deliver water to leaves which can especially be harmful to broadleaf evergreens. Keep in mind that microclimates can mean some areas can



Typical Holly Damage



## Giant Pumpkin Growth Makes Progress



Despite their grotesquely bloated appearance — or perhaps because of it — **giant pumpkins** are known to evoke a curious reaction: love at first sight. Growers of the over-size gourds commonly recall feeling a relentless, magnetic fascination upon discovering them.

This obsession is driven partly by the plant's unbelievable growth during the height of summer — in the time it takes to eat a sandwich, it's possible to measure minute changes in size. Originally, people wanted a pumpkin to grow 15-20 pounds a day: now they can grow 50-60 pounds every single day.

At more than 2,500 pounds, the world's heaviest pumpkin weighs twice as much as the record-holder 20 years ago and three times as much as the standard-bearer 30 years ago. Selective breeding has propelled this massive progress, with enthusiasts planting seeds from past champions and fertilizing the flowers of those plants with pollen from other promising offspring. These lineages are tracked as earnestly by giant pumpkin breeders as those of thoroughbred horses or champion livestock.

Since the 1980s, the market for giant pumpkin seeds has grown from several hundred people to tens of thousands around the world. At least 1,000 square feet are needed to produce a single "world class" pumpkin. Growers must be careful to remove all but the sole female flower that's

meant to be pollinated, so all the vine's energy is focused on the resulting pumpkin, and sprinkling mycorrhizal fungi into the soil helps the plant better absorb water and nutrients. Vigor is further enhanced by burying portions of the vine so additional roots grow from the nodes.

In the past, pumpkins that simply packed on pounds without greater durability were easily damaged, often disqualifying them from competition. They'd collapse under their own weight. Traits that confer thick walls and flexibility are critical, so the fruit — yes, a pumpkin is a fruit — can withstand its own weight and environmental stressors. So now the select breeding is not only for size, but also for general durability.

To grow a pumpkin weighing more than 3,000 pounds, the hobby's current holy grail, breeders will also need to prolong the pumpkin's prime growing period. The earlier the vine is established and the fruit is fertilized, the more time the pumpkin has to attain an incredible size. Rain and low temperatures can diminish that growth opportunity, as occurred this spring, which has compelled some growers to install a greenhouse for each pumpkin!

Of course the growing of giant pumpkins is a competitive sport, governed by rules set out by the *Great Pumpkin Commonwealth*, the hobby's international governing organization. Their next international convention will be in Danvers, Massachusetts, so be sure to book your flight now!



*Matteusz  
Perkowski  
Capital Press  
10-27-22*







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## The Grapevine

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**FOR FREE SUBSCRIPTION BY EMAIL, SEND REQUEST TO ABOVE ADDRESS.**

**GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE YAMHILL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS™ ASSOCIATION ARE ANNOUNCED IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. CONTRIBUTORS VARY BY MONTHLY EDITION.**

**GRAPEVINE EDITOR: DONN CALLAHAM**

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

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**Heather Stoven  
 Yamhill County Extension Faculty  
 for Community Horticulture**