

March 2025

The Grapevine

The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners

THURSDAY 3-06: MASTER GARDENER TRAINING CLASS
(EXTENSION AUDITORIUM, WATCH FOR EMAIL)

WEDNESDAY 3-12: YCMGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING, 10:00 AM IN EXTENSION AUDITORIUM.
ALL MEMBERS **AND MASTER GARDENER**
STUDENTS WELCOME!

THURSDAY 3-13: MASTER GARDENER TRAINING CLASS
(EXTENSION AUDITORIUM, WATCH FOR EMAIL)

THURSDAY 3-20: MASTER GARDENER TRAINING CLASS Volunteer Fair

SATURDAY 3-22: Deadline for Grapevine article submissions

THURSDAY 3-27: MASTER GARDENER TRAINING CLASS
(EXTENSION OFFICE AUDITORIUM, WATCH FOR EMAIL)

SATURDAY 3-29: SPRING-INTO-GARDENING 8:45 TO 4:00
AT LINFIELD COLLEGE



COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Awards/Memorials
Nancy Woodworth

Community Garden
Dennis Quenneville
Pam Israel

**Demonstration
Gardens (2)**
Rita Canales
Donn Callahan

Education Outreach
Carolyn Nyquist

Newsletter
Donn Callahan

Farmers' Mkt. Mac.
Tom Canales

**Farmers' Market
Newberg**
Lydia Cook

Garden-to-Table
Beth LaForce
Jennifer Scott

Greenhouse
Linda Coakley

Hospitality
Gail Stoltz

Insect Committee
Terry Hart Joan
McKibben-Williams

Library
Ken Bunn

Plant Sale
Gin Galt

Propagation

Mary Ann Nolan
Linda Sellheim

Scholarships
Susan Nesbitt

Social Media/Website
Lael Whitaker
Dave Gilbey

**Spring into
Gardening**
Sue Nesbitt

Sunshine Committee
Susan Alin
Sandy Beaver



REGULARLY-SCHEDULED MEETINGS

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

FIRST Monday OF THE MONTH.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.
MEET AT 10:00 AM

PERENNIAL PROPAGATION

EVERY TUESDAY, 10:00 AM TO NOON
AT GREENHOUSE.

EDUCATION GARDEN

MAINTENANCE EVERY WEDNESDAY
9:30 AM AT FAIRGROUNDS

GREENHOUSE

MAINTENANCE EVERY TUESDAY 1:00
PM AT FAIRGROUNDS



"Nik! The fireflies across the street—
I think they're mooning us!"

Opportunity to Get Involved in Public Education!

"Vigorous Veggies" Workshop Planned for May

YCMGA is sponsoring a 2-part vegetable gardening workshop series for the public. These will be held in McMinnville Community Garden on April 26th and May 10th and repeated in Newberg in the St. Michaels Episcopal Community Garden on May 16th and May 31st at 10:00 am-noon.

The format will be 2-hours of discussion/demonstrations in the Community Gardens. There will not be a classroom component. Workshop 1 will include garden planning, soil, seeding and transplanting. Workshop 2 will include watering, fertilizer, weeds and pest control.

Some Great Volunteer Opportunities...

LEAD OR ASSIST WITH INSTRUCTION OF ONE OR MORE TOPICS AT ONE OR MORE WORKSHOPS.
PLEASE CONTACT GENE NESBITT AT EMAIL: GHNDERM@GMAIL.COM OR CALL/TEXT 971-312-7914.

ASSIST WITH WORKSHOP SET UP, REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS
(MINIMUM OF 3 VOLUNTEERS/WORKSHOP).



Workshop 1 VEGETABLE GARDEN ESSENTIALS

What's Covered:

- Site selection
- Plant footprint
- Cool vs. warm weather vegetables
- Making a garden map
- Companion planting
- Trellising
- Soil types and structure
- Soil pH and temperature
- Seeding options
- Transplanting techniques

Workshop 2- GROWING VIGOROUS VEGGIES

What's Covered:

- Watering systems
- Watering depth/frequency
- Fertilizer nutrients
- Organic vs. chemical fertilizers
- Plant nutrient requirements
- Identifying weeds
- Control and prevent weeds
- Integrated Pest Management
- Controlling common insects
- Controlling common animal pests

REGISTRATION for the workshop (25 maximum) will be limited to the general public.

It will open up for Master Gardener participation if space is available.

Workshops will be \$15 each or \$25 for both, no charge for the food-insecure.



New Career Opportunities at the Community Garden!

The **McMinnville Community Garden** is expanding its management team. We are looking for people interested in learning the details of the following positions, to ultimately take on the responsibility of being a **co-coordinator**.

PLANTING	contact Russell Weaver at gscl4756@gmail.com .
HARVESTING	contact Barb McGuire at barbmcg116@comcast.net .
PROPAGATION	contact Candace VanZanten at cvanzanten64@onlinenw.com .
FLOWER PRODUCTION	contact Linda Benson at ljbenison52@gmail.com .
MEMBERSHIP	contact Betty Ballentine at bballentine51@gmail.com .
PRODUCE TABLE	contact Glenda Wenner at awenner@hotmail.com .



Do Trees Age?

The life span of a tree is determined by their DNA- - the [operating system embedded in their genes](#). Trees that are programmed to grow very quickly are less strong (and shorter-lived) [than ones that grow very slowly](#).

A convincing display of virtual immortality is "Pando", an 80,000 year-old quaking aspen in Utah consisting of 47,000 clonal stems, covering 106 acres. Pando constantly renews its above-ground parts by sprouting new stems from its roots.

But even a tough old tree will eventually die, not so much of old age as from misfortune. It's not clear if trees would be immortal if they weren't subject to the stresses of windstorms, fungi invasion, and insect attack, fires and more. Without these exterior forces it is possible that some trees would be immortal.

Trees don't grow old in the same way as animals where cell replication deteriorates with age. When young they grow taller and then focus on thickening their trunks and developing a wider canopy as they age. but their cells do not deteriorate steadily as yours and mine irrevocably do.



What is Humate?

Forty years ago, a venture looking for oil deposits in the Utah desert came up empty— of oil. But another valuable material was found instead. It is known as humate, and is actually very old compost in which the organic material, after being completely broken down by bacteria, has stabilized. This is, basically, an ancient forest floor which is being mined.

Humate is a "[biostimulant](#)." Biostimulants are products of natural origin that contain one or more substances and/or microorganisms that, when applied in small amounts to crops, stimulate natural processes to improve nutrient uptake. They also increase nutrient efficiency, increase plant tolerance to abiotic stress and improve crop quality. They are not fertilizers since they



do not provide nutrients directly, but rather stimulate the physiological processes of the plant itself to improve the availability and absorption of nutrients, particularly under stressful conditions for plants.

The two most [insidious threats](#) to food production worldwide are soil salinization (from continuous applications of commercial fertilizer) and drought. These two main abiotic factors affect plant development and decrease crop productivity and quality, so the application of humates can be a significant factor in lessening that threat.

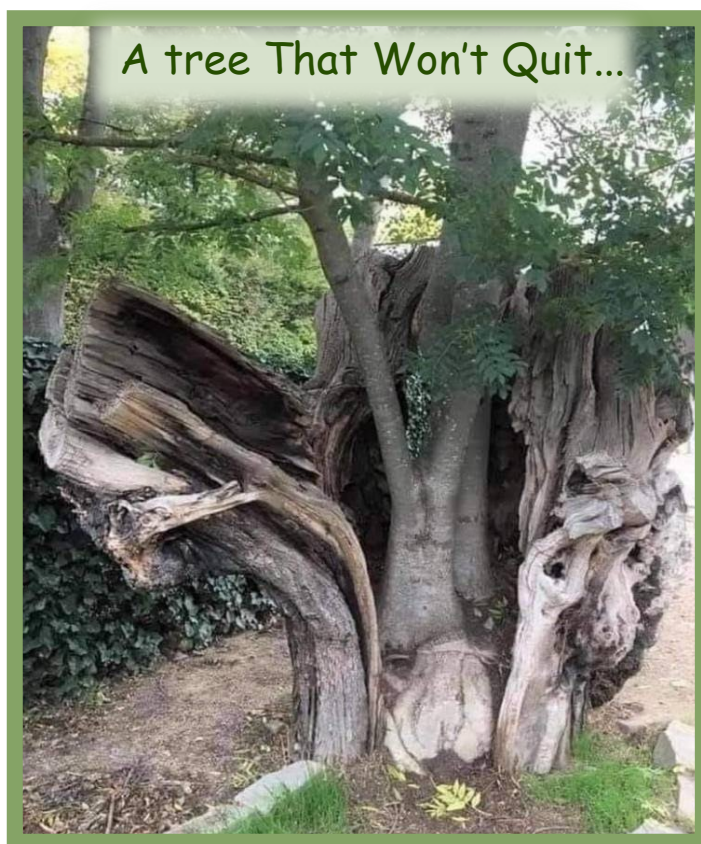
The value of humate is in the [acids](#) within it, which delay nutrients (applied fertilizer or nutrients already within the soil) from leaching out of the soil and add water-retention ability to soil. This is of particular value to conventional agriculture as interest grows in sustainable and



regenerative farming. Adding one part of humate to approximately ten parts of any fertilizer will retain much of that fertilizer in the soil, preventing nitrogen and other nutrients from being either leached from the soil or volatilizing.



Donn Callaham



Heather's Highlights

Hello Master Gardeners!

Happy early spring! I am very excited that spring is around the corner and we can hopefully spend more time gardening and spreading the love of gardening to others.

We have multiple upcoming activities in which we will engage with the gardening public, including: Garden-to-Table which starts March 1, and Spring-into-Gardening on March 29th at Linfield College. If you have not signed up to volunteer at the event, the link to do so is below. There are also openings to register to attend the event: please encourage your friends to attend as we have lots of wonderful topics this year.

Prior to registering to volunteer, please make sure you have signed the OSU Conditions of Volunteer Service and Code of Conduct form. Many of you have already signed--thank you! For those who haven't, look in your email inbox for a DocuSign document that would have arrived in mid-February.

Sign up to Volunteer at SIG: <https://signup.com/go/QyhDGbX>



PESKY PROFILES



By Heather Stoven

Stinky Bob is Here

No, I am not referring to an unfortunate individual with poor hygiene, but instead to a malodorous, invasive weed which takes over

shady, moist sites, including gardens.

Stinky Bob also goes by the common name "herb Robert" (*Geranium robertianum*) and has deeply dissected leaves reminiscent of our native bleeding heart and also has pink ½" flowers.



This weed is spread by seeds which are ejected forcefully up to 20'. Herb Robert is a winter annual, meaning the seeds germinate in fall and the plant grows during winter and spring and dies after producing seeds in late spring to early summer. Catch this weed early to best manage it – the plant can be hand-pulled, or apply mulch to smother small populations. Herbicides can be used in larger areas to manage this [weed](#) if necessary.



A SUCKER FOR SAKURA SEASON

They blossom, and then

We gaze, and then the blooms

Scatter, and then...

Poet Uejima Onitsura 1661-1738

Once upon an ornamental cherry tree farm in Boring, Oregon, a dad passed the gardening gene on to his daughter. Nursery work was difficult and dirty. She may have whined about weeding more than once. She may have run from the field crying of bees. She may have clipped a fingertip instead of a tree sucker. But in the end, this girl prefers dirt to a desk, and she remains smitten with *sakura*.

"Ornamental" by definition means merely decorative and without purpose. Flowering cherry trees are certainly grown for their beauty and as a symbol of spring. But they are so much more than a pretty face. Just take a moment to listen to the hum of a *Prunus* 'Yoshino' at peak bloom. There is a reason that honeybee swarms have come to rest twice on my "ornamental" cherry trees.



spread a wealth of cherry pollen. I'm amazed at the bushtit feeding frenzy that has petals tossed through the air like confetti every spring, though you may want to quickly harvest a few flowers for yourself. *Sakura* simple syrup and salt-pickled *sakura* blossoms are a delicacy.

A PEEK AT PEAK BLOOM

Sakura flowers are known to be heartbreakingly brief. There are press conferences, watch parties, and ongoing forecasts for peak bloom. That's when 70 percent of the blossoms are open. The fear of missing out is real.

What isn't often shared is that we can strategically plant flowering cherries to enjoy the show multiple times. Different varieties bloom at different times throughout the spring. Different altitudes matter as well. It can be more of an ongoing parade than a single party.

My collection of flowering cherry trees, all gifts from my dad, includes six varieties. That translates to over a month of flowers. The five-petaled pink *Prunus* 'Okame' bursts open in late February. They are the first to greet buzzing bees and the resident Anna's hummingbirds. The *Okame* blossoms also welcome the return of the Rufous hummingbirds.

The weeping 'Snow Fountain' *Akebono* (Yoshino), 'Mt. Fuji', and "Amanagowa" light up the yard in March. The double-pink, 28-petaled 'Kanzan' (aka *Kwanzan*) flowers come nestled in copper-colored new leaves. They are quite the



Let's also talk about those tiny, bitter "decorative" drupes that are not fit for human consumption. The nesting birds would like a word. Our feathered friends are big fans of the little cherries and also eat the blossoms. The birds help the bees



spring encore in April.

HANAMI FLOWER VIEWING HISTORY

Centuries before flowering cherry trees would reach the shores of America, the Japanese people were sipping sake under the *sakura*. Emperor Saga held the first hanami in Kyôto in 812 C.E. This imperial court "flower viewing" celebrated the transient nature of flowers. The event expanded gradually to include the samurai and then the public. By the 1600's, *hanami* picnics included everyone in the Land of the Rising Sun. It is said that none are strangers under the cherry flowers.

As for the United States, we can thank Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore for orchestrating the famed delivery of flowering cherries to Washington D.C. Scidmore was a writer and diplomat. She was also a traveler and the first woman to sit on the board of the National Geographic Society. After visiting Japan, Scidmore spent decades campaigning for Japanese cherry trees to be planted along the Potomac.



In 1909, Scidmore wrote a letter that caught the attention of the First Lady. Hellen Herron Taft had also been to Japan and loved the flowering cherry trees. She responded to Scidmore and the two women set things in motion. The City of Tokyo offered to send two thousand trees for the project.

To everyone's dismay, the *sakura* trees arrived infested with insects and nematodes. After destroying the trees, a new shipment of 3,020 trees arrived in Seattle in 1912. A dozen different varieties were sent by insulated freight cars to D.C. The first "Cherry Blossom Festival" was held in 1935 and America's obsession with *sakura* was afoot.

Oregon has its own opportunities to enjoy the flowering spectacle. The Japanese American Historical Plaza at Tom McCall Waterfront Park is loaded with gorgeous *Prunus* 'Akebono' trees that were planted to commemorate the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The trees were a gift from Japan for the dedication in 1990.

The Portland Japanese Garden has many varieties of flowering cherry trees and begins peak bloom updates in mid-March. The Gresham Japanese Garden holds a festival in March with live music called "Yozakura" or "cherry blossoms at night." The illuminated 'Akebono' trees are said to create an ethereal glow.

GROWING FLOWERING CHERRY TREES

Flowering cherry trees are known for living fast and dying young. However, with proper care, they can live to 100 years. In cooperation with the United States National

SAKURA SEASON, cont'd.



Arboretum, cuttings were taken from the surviving 1912 shipment of *Prunus* 'Yoshino' cherry trees. Seems like a good idea to ensure preservation of that genetic lineage.

Sakura trees are hardy in zones 5 through 8 though some of Oregon's late snow falls can be brutal. If in peak bloom, the weight of snow or ice can mean bent or broken branches for the non-weepers. The upright trees remain beautiful, but may not be quite the same shape anymore.

Most of us will buy our flowering cherries from a retailer. But growing from seed and softwood cuttings is slow but possible. Grafting is considered to be the advanced play. To join your cherished cherry to a sturdy rootstock, timing is key. Graft in spring when the sap is rising but the blossoms haven't yet arrived.

As pretty as they are in a big park, some ornamental cherry varieties are not

ideal for a residential garden. 'Yoshino' crowns and roots grow very wide. If you are looking for a "weeping cherry," note that this is not a particular variety. Weeping is a general term for any *sakura* tree with drooping branches. My dad would graft weeping varieties onto rootstock at different heights. It was a novel idea at the time. I have a pair of weeping *Prunus* 'Snow Fountain' that are just four feet tall.

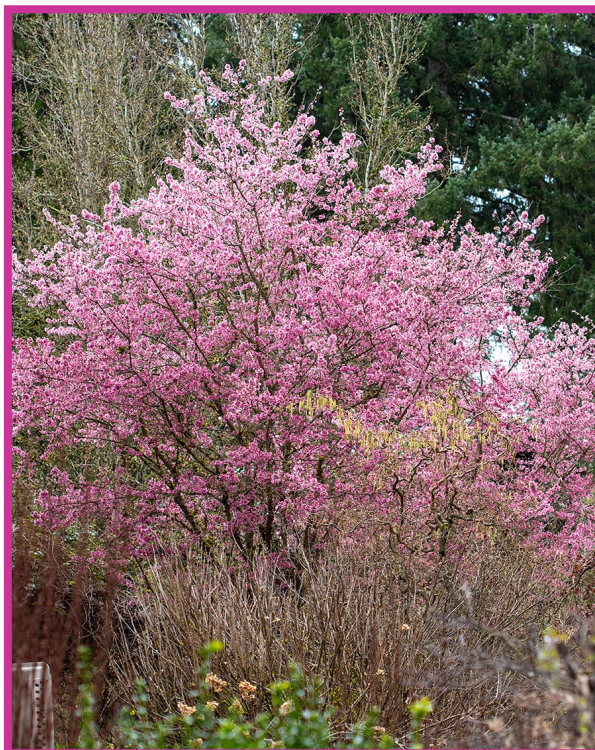
The deer, due to toxins in the leaves, ignore flowering cherry trees. However, some nasty infections can occur with scary names like Black Knot Fungus,

Silver Leaf Fungus, and Black Cherry Aphids (whose secretions lead to the black fungus). Insecticides are one of the few options for the aphids.

I prefer releasing ladybugs and giving the trees the right environment. Mine have seen aphids aplenty, but bounce back. Flowering cherries like lots of sun, not too much water, and a little grooming with clippers. Take off those suckers and keep the weepers from the ground. In 20 years - knock on cherry wood - nothing has done permanent harm to any of my trees. Not even an unfortunate SUV collision.



Angie Windheim



Yamhill County Master Gardeners and OSU

8:45 am - 4 pm
 Saturday, March 29th
 To be held at
 Linfield University
 Keck Science Center

SPRING into Gardening

\$40 per attendee
 Add lunch for \$17
 Snacks provided
 Annual Raffle

Register at YCMGA.org



• March 29, 2025 •

Gardening Classes

Flowers

Healthy Gardens

Climate Resilience

Thank You Friends of YCMGA

Proceeds support YCMGA Educational Horticultural Programs in Yamhill County.



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batch of seeds in the large greenhouse. A larger selection of Asian vegetables is being grown this year. The onion seedlings are growing tall and a second batch of 2,400 was seeded. Russell's planting team is anxious to plant peas and carrots as soon as the weather warms up a bit.

Marilyn is reviewing the results of the recent survey to determine the best classes to offer this year. Please let us know if you have a special interest.

Peter taught Blueberry Pruning to a group of dedicated volunteers February 7th. We learned about the proper tools for the task (pruners, loppers, pruning saws, and sharpeners), and why pruning is important; to keep the bushes

Our team has been busy prepping the Garden for spring planting. Candace was joined by Pam and Sherri on February 6th to start the next

healthy and productive, to avoid production of a lot of small fruit, and to promote air movement through the bush to discourage fungus disease and spotted wing drosophila. Our goal was to remove at least 1/3 of each bush, keeping 5-8

canes, and obtain a wine goblet shape. Peter demonstrated, answered questions, and encouraged the group with great success.

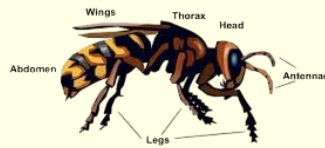
The Garden hosted the 2025 Master Gardener class for a tour on February 27th, then we'll welcome the Row Gardeners on April 5th at 1:00 pm. And we are looking for participants to join us in the UFO Festival Parade on May 17th, so start thinking about your alien gardening costume and let us know if you plan to attend.

We are always looking for volunteers and have some specific roles to fill, so please review our separate posting in this edition.



Lori Anderson

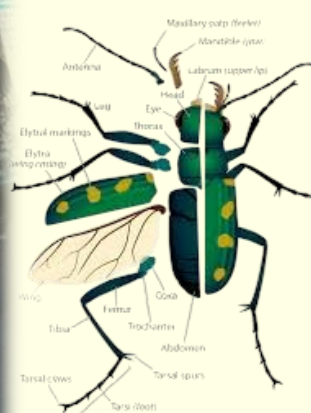




YCMGA

Ento- mology Class

2025





Mary Lou, Denise,
Melissa, Lauren,
Morgan, Blanca, Lori

Mentors:
Mary Lou, Lori

YCMGA 2025 Trainee Groups

Lydia, Danny,
Alex, Cheryl,
Carolyn, Kim



Mentors:
Lydia, Alex



Melissa, Miriam,
Tina, Autumn,,
Annika Morse,
Ellene Yorks

Mentors:
Tina, Annika

YCMGA 2025 Trainee Groups

Judi, Ciaran,
Kathleen, Wendy,
Christi, Holly,
Pam, Debbie

Mentors:
Judi, Debbie





Jose, Tim, Jill, Kelsey,
Malori, Karen

Mentors:
Tim,
Dennis (not pictured)



Wildlife
Damage
Manage-
ment [webi-
nars](#)

How to live with
deer, voles,
Gophers, and
other Rodents.



Siletz Grant Received

On February 7, Beth LaForce and Jennifer Scott traveled to the Chinook Winds Casino Resort in Lincoln City to receive a grant of \$8,164.00 from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund. This grant will enable 60 food-insecure people of Yamhill County, including both Spanish and English speakers, to participate in Spring 2025 Garden to Table classes. Each participant will receive:

- 12 hours of instruction on growing vegetables
- A mentor to support them through the growing season
- Materials to build a 4' x 8' bed, two 4' x 4' beds, 3 containers, or a garden bed in their local community garden
- Soil, seeds, and plant starts to fill their new garden space

This program is staffed by many Yamhill County Master Gardener volunteers. Any Master Gardener is welcome to participate in the classes by demonstrating, teaching, and/or mentoring. If you are thinking about helping, but not sure if it is for you, contact Beth (503) 710-7497, Jennifer (971) 237-5786, or Teresa Velazquez (503) 437-5476 to talk about opportunities to assist with the classes or to simply observe a class.

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF WATCHING OTHERS
LEARN HOW TO GROW THEIR OWN FOOD!



It's not a Moss, and it's not Spanish

Spanish Moss is not a moss; it is actually a bromeliad, the same as succulent houseplants and pineapples. It's not from Spain either but is a native of Mexico, South America, America and the Caribbean.

French explorers in the United States were reminded of Spanish Conquistadors' long beards when they saw the moss and gave it the name "Spanish Moss".



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Master Gardener™

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SEND REQUEST TO ABOVE ADDRESS.**

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GRAPEVINE EDITOR: DONN CALLAHAM

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

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