

November 2025

The Grapevine

The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners

UPCOMING EVENTS



Raccoons are so cute- except
for when they look for grubs
in your new lawn. →



**SUNDAY 11-16: ANNUAL YCMGA FALL AWARDS PROGRAM
AND GRADUATION CELEBRATION. 1:00 P.M. AT YAMHILL
COUNTY HERITAGE CENTER, DURHAM LANE, MCMINNVILLE
DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR CONTRIBUTION
FOR OUR POTLUCK DINNER.**

**December 4th 10:00 am Cimate Futures Class-Extension Office
December 12th 11:00 am Field Trip to Chapul Farms**

2/25/83



"I'm leaving you, Charles ... and I'm taking
the grubs with me."

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Awards/Memorials
Nancy Woodworth

Community Garden
Alex Prentice

**Demonstration
Gardens**
Rita Canales
Donn Callaham

Education Outreach
Carolyn Nyquist

Newsletter
Donn Callaham

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

Photography
Mary Lou Polvi

Plant Sale
Gail Stolz
Dennis Quenneville

Propagation
Mary Ann Nolan
Linda Sellheim

Scholarships
Susan Nesbitt

Social Media/Website
Dave Gilbey

Spring Into Gardening
Sue Nesbitt

Sunshine Committee
Polly Blum
Judith Beck
Susie Alin

REGULARLY-SCHEDULED COMMUNITY GARDEN

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
MEET AT 10:00 A.M.

PERENNIAL PROPAGATION
EVERY TUESDAY, 10:00 AM
TO NOON AT GREENHOUSE

EDUCATION GARDEN
MAINTENANCE EVERY
WEDNESDAY
9:30 AM AT FAIRGROUNDS

Education Outreach
First Wednesday, 1:00 pm

Plant Sale Meeting
November 12th 10:00am
Spring Into Gardening



MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR FOR YCMGA MEMBERSHIP

THIS POSITION MAINTAINS THE YCMGA MEMBERSHIP ROSTER IN AN EXCEL SPREADSHEET.

- CAN BE DONE REMOTELY FROM HOME
- ESTIMATE 20-30 HOURS PER YEAR
- MUST BE DETAIL-ORIENTED
- NOT AN ELECTED VOTING MEMBER OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DUTIES INCLUDE:

- Maintaining Membership Roster (Excel spreadsheet)
- Coordinating records with Carla
- Preparing Membership Annual Report for OMGA
- Preparing Dues Notices for Members
- Tracking payment of dues
- Coordinating dues payments with Treasurer
- Coordinating roster with OSU Extension Office
- Security Permissions/ Online Access
- Access to Box – Membership documents (new folder)
- Email address for notification of dues payments (online via Stripe) Membership@ycmga.org

SKILLS/SOFTWARE NEEDED:

1. Equipment needed: computer with internet
2. MS Office software w/ Excel

**PLEASE RESPOND TO [TREASURER@YCMGA.ORG](mailto:Treasurer@YCMGA.org)
<[MAILTO:TREASURER@YCMGA.ORG](mailto:Treasurer@YCMGA.org)> BY NOVEMBER 17
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR THIS POSITION.**

Plant Sale Bench Card Coordinator

The Plant Sale Committee is seeking a volunteer to assist with researching plant information and preparing laminated bench cards for display at the annual Plant Sale. A current layout and design template will be provided to ensure consistency.

This position may be completed remotely, with the expectation of attending Plant Sale Committee meetings to coordinate with the team.

This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the success of one of our most visible and well-loved events while helping to educate and inspire plant sale visitors.

If you are interested, please contact Gail Stolz for more information. gstolzinor@outlook.com

More



SPONSOR OUTREACH COMMITTEE

is looking for a new person to bring into the committee to learn the process. Members of the "Friends of the YCMGA" committee are responsible for contacting our community businesses and organizations to ask for their support of YCMGA Education/Outreach activities.

The sponsor contacts are divided among the committee members, usually 5 or 6 per member. The Committee creates a sponsor packet for each sponsor. A total of 10-20 hours may be needed with the contacts made in the fall and early winter. with follow-up as needed.

Committee members will host any sponsors attending the YCMGA Awards program. If interested in working on the Friends of YCMGA Committee, please contact **Terry Hart or Gene Nesbitt**. We will be starting our fall contacts soon.

These Ant Queens Produce TWO Species...

The Iberian harvester ant ([*Messor ibericus*](#)) takes adaptation weirdness to the next level. This ant is [the only known organism that propagates two species by itself](#).

Social insects such as honey bees and ants, which live in colonies with complex divisions of labor, have some of the animal kingdom's most genetically complex forms of reproduction. Queens run most of the show.

Before establishing a new colony, a young queen typically mates in the air with winged males. She takes this nuptial flight just once and stores the sperm for the rest of her life, which can be more than a decade for a harvester ant queen. Inside her nest, she fertilizes some of her eggs, but not all, as she lays them. **But these queens mate with males of another species and then clone those males.**

The queen's control over fertilization helps her create the various castes of the colony. Sterile female workers, which hatch from fertilized eggs,

build the nest, gather food, and raise the larvae. Fertilized eggs can also develop into future queens under particular conditions, such as when they are fed extra protein as larvae. Males develop from unfertilized eggs, grow wings, and leave the colony to mate with virgin queens.



Queen ant makes males of another species for daughters to mate with



JOIN US FOR THE

Yamhill County
Master Gardeners
Fall Awards Program,
Graduation & Potluck

NOVEMBER **16** SUNDAY

1:00 PM

YAMHILL VALLEY HERITAGE CENTER

11275 SW DURHAM LANE

MCMINNVILLE

RSVP: [HERE](#)

Casual Attire



Peaches, pears, apricots, quinces, strawberries, and apples are members of the rose family. So are ornamental species such as spirea, mountain ash, goatsbeard, and ninebark.





Reorganization!

It's been almost two years since the garden was reorganized, and things

certainly look differently.

The management team tripled to 18 dedicated individuals. Alex Prentice, garden manager, was recently joined by Peter Sturman, administrative manager. Tom Canales is back, coordinating garden maintenance, and started out making new greenhouse tables. Carolyn Gregory has joined Betty to split the membership duties, because with half our beds rented to row gardeners, the job was getting too large for just one person. Melissa Young has joined Russell on the planting team, as well as sharing the PR job with Carolyn.

Duniway Middle School students joined us again for two community service days in October to tackle some big jobs and bring some youthful energy to the garden.

The increase in row gardeners justified several more positions; row gardener/volunteer coordinator, social coordinator, and education coordinator (and that position is open.)

With only half the beds devoted to YCAP production, you might have expected a reduction in donations. We are pleased to report 602 pounds donated in October and over 12,000 pounds donated year-to-date, equal to last year.

We've had so much fun trying new things, and most have worked well. We've gotten progressively better at switching gears, doing things different, and developing best practices. And we have fun trying.



Steadfast Volunteers being honored

The McMinnville Community Garden continues to serve in many capacities, and we always need volunteers. Please contact us if you have time to spare or need hours to recertify as a Master Gardener. We have a wait-list for beds, but ***please let us know if you are interested.***



Lori Anderson



From Leaf-cutting to Human Surgery

Female sawflies have a challenge unique to the natural world. In order to lay their eggs, they must cut into plants to lay eggs without killing the plant host, which provides food and shelter for the developing larvae. To do this, they employ a cutting mechanism that essentially thinks for itself. The sawfly's egg-laying organ can cut through soft plant tissue but automatically avoids the plant's tough internal 'plumbing' including the tubes that carry water and nutrients. This ensures the plant survives and serves as a food supply for the larvae coming from the eggs. (Great news for the sawfly—not so great for the plant).

Research reveals how these tiny insects use a completely [passive cutting system](#) that automatically knows which materials to slice through and which to leave untouched, all without any sensors or computerized controls. The sawfly's egg-laying organ—the ovipositor—acts like a [biological reciprocating saw](#) that instinctively knows when to cut and when to push material aside. Think of it as a very refined hedge trimmer, with two blades working in concert with each other.

The two toothed blades slide against each other but cut materials only below a certain strength threshold. This natural selectivity prevents damage to the vital plant structures while allowing the insect to create precise incisions for egg laying. What makes this truly unique is that this selective cutting happens purely through the tooth geometry and composition interacting with different material properties of the plant. *There are no sensors or computers but rather elegant engineering refined by*

millions of years of evolution.

Small serrations on the "blades" work in concert with larger protrusions to create the selective cutting action, with different tooth

designs optimized for cutting different plant tissue layers. This mechanism seems to work across multiple sawfly species, each of which is adapted to different plant types. Different species of sawflies have evolved distinct tooth geometries optimized for their specific plant hosts, and there are over 8000 species of sawflies.

Thinking that this system may be of use in human surgery, scientists built a scaled-up version and tested it on samples of simulated human tissue. They found the system operates on an ultimate stress threshold—below this threshold, materials are cut cleanly, but above it, they are harmlessly displaced out of the cutting zone.

This means scientists could develop a range of surgical tools, each optimized for different tissue types or surgical procedures, all based on these natural cutting systems of the different species of sawflies.

The study examined only two species out of more than 8,000 sawfly species, representing at the very least an enormous reservoir of potential engineering solutions for surgery on humans and animals.



*Short synopsis of recent research,
from Herriot-Watt University,
October 06 2025,
journal Bioinspiration &
Biomimetics and other sources*



PESKY PROFILES

By Heather Stoven

Lawn Mushrooms

With the return of fall rains [mushrooms](#) often appear in lawns, sparking concern from gardeners. Mushrooms are the fruiting structures of a fungal group called Basidiomycota.

For much of the year, [these fungi](#) survive as fungal strands in the soil called hyphae. The fungi are typically living on plant material in the soil, such as thatch, roots, stems, or old tree roots where they break down these substances.

Wet soil conditions will speed up the decay within the soil, which is why mushrooms are most commonly seen in western Oregon from fall to spring. Over-irrigated lawns or new lawns will also support mushrooms during the summer. Most mushrooms in lawns are not concerning for overall lawn health. If they are a concern for the

safety of pets or children they can be knocked down with a rake.

To prevent the mushrooms from forming, raking to remove dead organic material can help, along with grinding out roots and stumps when trees are removed. Aerating lawns may also help. Using fungicides in the soil for mushrooms is not recommended.



Heather's Highlights



Hello Master Gardeners!

I hope you are having a good fall and are enjoying the changing colors around you. In the office we are busy planning for the graduation and awards ceremony which is coming up soon. The event will be located at the Yamhill Valley Heritage Center on November 16th at 1 p.m.

Carla will be sending out a survey soon where you can RSVP your attendance and designate what food you will bring for our amazing potluck. I am looking forward to celebrating our accomplishments and announcing our award recipients during the ceremony, so please RSVP for the event.

Another happening with our program is the opening of registration for the 2026 MG training. We had a lengthy list of individuals who expressed interest for next year, and a number of them have already registered. Registration has opened to the general public, so feel free to spread the word to your friends and neighbors!

We are looking forward to welcoming new individuals to our program and a wonderful 2026 training season.



YCMGA 2025 Award Winners



Master Gardener of the
Year 2025



Behind-the-Scenes
Nancy Woodworth

A Note about YCMGA Awards:

OMGA asks all chapters to choose their county "Master Gardener" and "Behind-the-Scenes" awards winners by May 15th of each year so these people can be recognized at the annual "Joy of Gardening" conference each July. Our awards committee chose Carolyn and Nancy for 2025, and presented their awards at the annual YCMGA ice cream social in June of 2025.

The taxonomical family *Solanaceae* is responsible for deadly poisonous nightshades. It also produces tomatoes, peppers, potatoes and eggplants.

Propagation

Propagation Stuffs the Greenhouse

In proper spooky season fashion, propagation celebrated October with a "Knives Out" theme as we carved and divided so so many plants. November will find the group putting down the knives and picking up forks. It's time for fluffing soil and stuffing plants into the greenhouse. Think of the Wiser hoop as a Thanksgiving turkey!

Propagation's seed starting project will begin in November. Linda Sellheim led a small field trip to "Concentrates" to gather supplies. She also shared her super-successful methods of seed blocking with capillary mat-

Hardwood cuttings are also on the agenda for November. One of the weekly video tutorials included 40 different deciduous plants to look for at the end of fall and early winter. If you have a favorite (unpatented) shrub that can spare some material, please reach out. Some ideas are:

- **fig**
- **viburnum**
- **spirea**
- **mock orange**
- **hydrangea**
- **weigela**
- **jasmine, and**
- **Oregon grape.**

Cuttings
Wanted!

Please note that propagation workshops are now on winter hours. Starting November 4th, the team will meet at 10 am on Tuesdays. If you missed our fun fall lunch outing at Two Dogs, you'll want to get on the email list for details on a December potluck and a seed exchange. Contact Carla Stables carla.stables@oregonstate.edu to begin receiving weekly updates from the group via Linda Sellheim lindasellheim@gmail.com.

Angie Windheim



ting and wicking ropes for moisture control. Mary Ann Nolan also chimed in with some helpful tools including super-sized domes and a *turkey baster...how perfect.* The source book for Linda's wildly successful garden is Meg McAndrews Cowden's **Plant Grow Harvest Repeat: Grow a Bounty of Vegetables, Fruits, and Flowers by Mastering the Art of Succession Planting.**

Meg McAndrews was a presenter for the Level up Series in April of 2022. To watch the video:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2022#Succession>



Seeding tutorial

The Mighty Kiwi Berry

Who needs a tropical island when Oregon can grow paradise right here? Meet the kiwi berry—a smooth-skinned, bite-sized cousin of the fuzzy kiwi that thrives in our cool Pacific Northwest climate. These little green gems are sweet, tangy, and bursting with vitamin C—a delicious example of Oregon's unique growing magic.

Kiwi berries (*Actinidia arguta*) are the hardy kiwi, perfectly suited for Oregon's temperate weather. Unlike regular kiwis, they have no fuzz—so you can pop them straight into your mouth, skin and all! Inside, they reveal that familiar bright green flesh and tiny black seeds. Their taste? Imagine a kiwi, strawberry, and sunshine smoothie all in one bite.

These hardy vines are right at home in Oregon's Willamette Valley, Columbia Gorge, and even along the coast. They love our mix of mild summers, rainy winters, and rich soil. Many small farms across the state have begun cultivating kiwi berries, and they often appear at farmers' markets from late August through October—a true late-season treat.

If you have a trellis or sunny fence line, kiwi berries are worth growing! Their vines can stretch up to 20 feet in a single season, with glossy green leaves and fragrant white blossoms in early summer. The vines are dioecious in that you need both a male and female vine to produce fruit.

Kiwi berries are both ornamental and productive, perfect for sensory or therapeutic gardens. The vines provide shade and movement, their flowers attract pollinators, and the fruit invites curiosity and connection. They're hardy down to -25°F—so yes, they can easily handle an Oregon winter nap!

Fresh off the vine or straight from a local market, these little treasures are a hit:

- Add to fruit salads or yogurt parfaits for color and zing.
- Drop into sparkling water or lemonade for a garden-fresh drink.
- Slice and freeze for smoothies or sorbet.
- Use as garnishes for desserts or resident celebrations.

And because they're packed with fiber, vitamin C, and antioxidants, they're as wholesome as they are delicious. Just like our gardens, the kiwi berry teaches us that small things can hold extraordinary sweetness. With patience, care, and Oregon sunshine, these vines remind us that good things truly do grow close to home.



Jillian Nelson



For more information on Kiwiberries:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/extd8/files/catalog/auto/PNW507.pdf>

Inviting Birds in Winter

To attract birds to your garden, provide for their four basic needs -- food, water, shelter, and a nesting place -- then think about how else to make your garden more bird friendly. Here are some tips to bring them up close and keep them coming back.



CHOOSE THE RIGHT FEEDERS, AND KEEP THEM CLEAN.

To attract the largest number of bird species, you'll need a variety of feeders. To clean feeders, soak them in a mild bleach-water solution (1/3 cup bleach per

gallon of water). Rinse them thoroughly and let them air-dry. You can also wash feeders in the dishwasher if its heat setting isn't so hot that it would melt plastic parts. Clean feeders at least once a month.

WINTERIZE BIRD BATHS. Clean water for drinking and bathing is a major bird magnet in all seasons but is especially important in winter. So that birds feel secure, select a sheltered location and position your bird bath at least 3 feet above the ground. Ceramic bird baths can crack during freezing weather, but any wide, shallow, gently sloped basin that will withstand temperature extremes will do. *It's important to clean the*

bath and replace the water once a week.

DON'T CLEAN UP YOUR GARDEN

(ENTIRELY). From a bird's perspective, paradise looks a lot like what gardeners would call a weed patch. Resist the temptation to tidy up every inch of your yard. While it's important to clean vegetable, annual, and perennial beds to prevent pests and diseases from overwintering, select an area such as a grassy field or wildflower meadow that can wait until spring for cleanup. Insects, seeds, and other food material left behind will attract birds.

CHECK VISTAS. Make sure you can see your feeding stations easily from indoors. Place feeders where you and the birds can see them, and where you can reach them easily for refilling.

MAKE A BRUSH PILE. If the best place for a feeding station is in the middle of a large lawn, consider constructing a brush pile nearby to serve as both shelter and foraging habitat for birds. Placed between the feeders and the nearest natural habitat, it will give birds a convenient rest stop and make them feel safer about visiting feeders.

To make a brush pile, place tree branches in a square about 3 feet on a side. Top with branches to get a kind of messy tepee effect. Don't worry about being too neat. A good brush pile is just that, a pile of brush. You can add your Christmas tree and holiday wreath when you're done with them.

CREATE A WELCOMING HABITAT. Once you've supplied the basics, consider other ways of welcoming birds. Are your feeders protected from prevailing winter winds? If not, move feeders to the lee side of your house. As



a longer-term solution, create a windbreak or winter habitat with pines or other evergreens.

STORE SEED PROPERLY. Most bird food deteriorates after several months, so buy only as much seed as you'll need for one season. If you buy sunflower seed in 50-pound bags, store it in a heavy-duty plastic or light-weight metal garbage can with wheels on the bottom and handles to secure the lid. The lid prevents marauding animals from getting at the seed and also keeps it dry, so it won't spoil. Clean the storage container annually, also with a mild bleach-water solution.

THE RIGHT FOOD. It's important to select food appropriate to the feeder and attractive to the birds that will feed there. Black oil sunflower seed, a favorite among many bird species, will attract the most kinds of birds. Use it in tube and hopper feeders. Keep in mind that most birds will sift through mixed bird seed, selecting the kind they prefer and tossing the others aside. **(Note that corn and millet may attract unwanted blackbirds, squirrels, rock doves, and house sparrows.)**

- **HOPPER FEEDER.** Attracts most feeder visitors. Use black oil sunflower seed.
- **PEANUT FEEDER.** Attracts chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and wrens. Use raw peanuts.
- **PLATFORM FEEDER.** Attracts ground feeders such as juncos, white-throated and tree sparrows, towhees, doves, cardinals, jays, and many finches. Use any type of food, but to discourage blackbirds, rock doves, and house sparrows avoid using mixed seed.
- **SATELLITE FEEDER.** Attracts small clinging birds such as chickadees, titmice, and nuthatches but excludes larger birds such as jays and doves. Use black oil sunflower seed or peanut bits.
- **SUET FEEDER.** Attracts woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, titmice, and others. Use suet or bird treats.
- **TUBE FEEDER.** Attracts perching birds such as goldfinches, redpolls, siskins, house and purple finches, chickadees,



titmice, and nuthatches. Use black oil sunflower seed.

- **THISTLE FEEDER.** Attracts finches. Use niger (thistle) seed.



*Bill Thompson III is the editor of Bird Watcher's Digest and the author of [Bird Watching For Dummies](#).
Article from the National Gardening Association*

CRIMES

AGAINST

NATURE



Celebrando de La Cosecha Latina



Speaker line up left to right: Wendy, Jessica, Blanca, Cris, and Maria

I got to be one of the lucky attendees to the Master Gardeners cultural Growing and Belonging program, *Celebrando de La Cosecha Latina*, held September 27th. It was so great that I volunteered to write this review on my iPhone, tapping away with one finger!

When I entered the Public Works Auditorium it was already packed. The tables had festive table cloths and decorations symbolic of the country each presenter was from. We were seated 6 per table in family style, with a raffle ticket at each place.

Wendy Bennett, a current MG trainee, was the organizer of the event, but all 5 of the presenters -Maria Loredo, Blanca Wallace, Cris Pinzon, Jessica Quiñones, and Teresa Velazquez (all are MG or MG trainees except Maria) worked with Wendy to create a wonderfully organized and entertaining event. Jennifer Scott called herself the "encourager", but I could hear her behind me and I suspect she was more of

a stage manager. Each presenter gave a brief story about their country of origin and their American experience, from arriving as a field migrant without any cooking supplies to living in a fishing village in Mexico, in an arid land without a vegetable in sight. Guatemala, Columbia, Baja California, and Texas were all represented.

The presenters each chose their favorite comfort food from home and demonstrated how it was prepared. And then magically a sample dish of that food appeared before each of us! Just as quietly and efficiently they disappeared when we were done (thank you Wendy's family and Christina's husband). We got to sample Guatemalan enchiladas (Blanca) which are totally unrelated to what we call enchiladas, Calabacitas -a Mexican Sautéed Squash dish (Jessica), Nopales (cactus) and Chorizo (Maria), Esquite Street Corn (Cris' Mexican side), Arepas with Poblano Crema Sauce (Cris' Colombian side) and Baja Shrimp and Scallop Ceviche (Teresa, who couldn't attend so Wendy presented). I was stuffed by the end, but everything was so delicious I couldn't resist any of them.

Additionally we each got our own booklet with all of the recipes to take home. You might smell some mouth-watering Latina cooking odors in your neighborhood



Guatemalan samples ready to go

soon! After the presentations there was a question and answer period, followed by announcing two lucky winners of the gift baskets. I sure hope there are more programs like this in the future.

The presenters also teach in the Garden-to-Table program. There are about 18,500 Latina residents (2023) in Yamhill County. YCMGA provides Spanish language gardening instruction and support to the Latina community each year through our Garden-to-Table program. I'd encourage everyone to look into the Garden-to-Table program. Diversify your life! As stated in the beginning, "....just as a healthy garden is biodiverse, so too is a healthy gardening program".



Pat Fritz



Cris discussing seasonings

Electrifying Jumps

A remarkable combination of static electricity, nematodes, predatory behavior and symbiosis was recently discovered by researchers at Emory University. When a particular microscopic worm, or [nematode](#), senses the electrical charge of an insect flying above, it curls into a loop and leaps as high as 25 times its body length to reach that insect. This is the equivalent of a human being jumping higher than a 10-story building. During the leap, they can rotate up to 1,000 times per second.

[Electrostatics](#) (this web site also contains video of the flying nematodes) play a crucial role in the



Nematodes under microscope

survival of these jumping parasites, and apparently in many other small organisms as well. A charge of a few hundred volts, similar to that generated by an

insect's wings beating the air, initiates an opposite charge in the worm, creating an attractive force.

For instance, spider webs take advantage of the charge of flying insects to electrostatically ensnare them as they pass by. Other examples are those of bees collecting pollen, flower mites hitching rides on hummingbirds and balloon spiders drifting on silk strands over large distances. Even ticks can get sucked up from the ground by fluffy animals, purely through the static electricity in the animal's fur.

Nematodes kill insects through a symbiotic relationship with bacteria. The worm thrives in soils nearly everywhere on Earth except the Poles. When the worm hits its target, it enters the insect's body through a natural opening. It then deposits its symbiotic

From video of nematodes attaching to victim



bacteria, which kill the insect within 48 hours. After the death of the host, the worm feeds on the multiplying bacteria, as well as on the insect tissue, and lays eggs. Several generations may occur in the insect's cadaver until the juvenile worms emerge into the environment to infect other insects with bacteria.

All of these combined factors (the prevalence of nematodes, the role of static electricity, the extreme effectiveness of the process) are being researched to be used in commercial agriculture to at least partially replace chemical insecticides.



Synopsis of research from Emory University, and other sources



Extreme Topiary

Injured eye? Just Grow a New One...

There is a snail, the [Golden Apple snail](#) (*Pomacea canaliculata*) which can regrow its eyes when they are injured beyond repair. (It also is the size of an apple, and invasive in some areas). Human eyes are complex and irreparable, yet they are structurally like those of the freshwater apple snail,

The snails will grow a new eye even if an eye has been completely removed. First, the wound must heal to prevent infection and fluid loss, which usually takes around 24 hours. Then, unspecialized cells migrate and proliferate in the area. Over the course of about a week and a half, these cells specialize and begin to form eye structures.



By day 15 post-amputation, all of the eye's structures are present, including the optic nerve, and these structures continue to

mature and grow for several more weeks. At the end of this time, the snail has a completely functional new eye.



Apple snails and humans share several genes related to eye development. U.C Davis researchers found that the same gene—[called pax6](#)—is used to form eyes in both the snails and humans.

Since the snails and humans possess this gene which allows the growth of complete new eyes, the plan now is to begin researching the [use of this gene in humans](#) with the hope of having humans regrow eyes as well.



Largest Living Organism

"Pando" is an [aspen clone](#) that originated from a single seed. It is believed to be the largest, most dense organism ever found at nearly 13 million pounds. The clone spreads over 106 acres, consisting of over 40,000 individual trees. The exact age of the clone and its root system is difficult to calculate, but it is estimated to have started at the end of the last ice age. Some of the trees are over 130 years old.

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

<https://ycmga.org>

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Master Gardener™

The Grapevine

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(503) 434-7517.**

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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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OMGA Alt. Rep: Lydia Cook

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