

Clatsop Master Gardener

CULTIVATOR

February & March 2023

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Welcome to the February and March edition of the Cultivator!

Since the last Cultivator, we have had several milestones including kicking off the 2023 Master Gardener training program with Len Sherp leading the class as OSU Coordinator and an incredible volunteer turnout at the Alderbrook Learning Garden (more on that on page 2!). It is thrilling to have so many energetic and enthusiastic new trainees in the program and we welcome all veteran Master Gardeners to attend class and meet the trainees.

We were grateful to have local expert, Chuck Bubl lead the Botany lecture in the second week of class and he left us with this fun fact -- the term *green thumb* came from the practice of pinching off buds of plants in order to promote fuller growth! Who knew!?

Wishing you all had a wonderful start to 2023 and a great Spring!

Jessica Sollaccio | 2023 President, Class of 2022

I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose, I would always greet it in a garden.
– Ruth Stout



Alderbrook Learning Garden Work Party

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers that helped at the Learning Garden. We pruned, weeded, filled all the beds with mulch, and built new borders for the long bed on the west side! We had several students from the Master Gardener 2023 class come, veteran Master Gardeners, as well as the 4-H group Clatsop Sundrops, and members of the community that saw our call for help! A special thanks to Trailsend Recovery Landscape Supply for donated 12 yards of mulch!



Save the Date(s)!

Board & Membership Meetings

Master Gardener Board Meetings

- February 12th | Sunday | 2-4 PM | The Reserve at Gearhart Clubhouse, 5400 Sheridan Drive, Gearhart, OR 97138
- March 12th | Sunday | 2-4 PM | Location TBD

Join us as we discuss upcoming events, new programs, and other Master Gardener business. Agendas will be shared in advance on the website's calendar event. All are welcome to join!

Spring Garden Seminar Planning Meeting

- February 15th | Wednesday | 2PM | OSU Extension Office Conference Room
- March | TBD

After a 3 year hiatus, we are bringing back our major Spring fundraising event! We need a lot of support in the planning and execution of the event and all are welcome to attend the monthly planning meetings! For more information, reach out to Joanie Chapel (joanie97103@gmail.com) and Nancy Bouse (nancysinthegarden247@yahoo.com)! You can sign up to volunteer on the website and see more details on page 4!

General Membership Meetings

- March 4th | Saturday | 10AM-12PM | CCA Food Bank Warrenton

Did you know Master Gardens donate hundreds of pounds in produce to our local food banks each year? Come for a tour of the Food Bank to see how the produce is used to help feed our neighbors!

Volunteer Opportunities

Service Days

Thursday, February 23 | 1-4PM & Saturday February 25 | 10 AM-1PM

We will be helping the City of Astoria eradicate dastardly invasive scotch broom again this year. In 2022 we had a great turnout and we're hoping for the same in 2023! Ocean View Cemetery, Warrenton.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions! Text or call Jane (208.631.4940). More details on page 5!

For details about all of our events please see the calendar on our webpage

<https://www.clatsopmastergardeners.org/eventCalendar>

Save the Date

Spring Garden Seminar Plant Sale

Saturday May 13, 2023

Hello Master Gardeners!

Thanks to all that attended our 1st Spring Plant Sale/Seminar committee meeting!!

Our next meeting is February 15, 2023 at 2:00pm, same place, OSU Ext Conference Rm. We will also meet in March & April, date & time TBD. All are welcome to come, we do need more volunteers.

The Committee Volunteers are pleased to plan our major annual fundraiser after a 3 year hiatus. In addition we also plan to continue the online plant sale, with pick-up in the Arena area of the Fairgrounds the same day (Saturday –May 13, 2023).

This event requires a lot of Volunteers to bring it together (volunteer signup is now available on our website!). Master Gardener Plant donations are greatly appreciated, we need your plants in addition to the small amount we wholesale purchase for re-sale. Please keep our event in mind as you plan your propagating and do spring plant divisions.

If you have plants that you would like to donate to the Plant Sale portion of the Seminar we will happily take them (YES uncommon house plants too). Plants need to be potted up in clean pots and also need to have information on them stating the plant name, light and water requirements, if the plant flowers a picture would be great. (Empty 4” and gallon pots will be available if you need them).

This event is a great opportunity to put in those required hours, learn a lot and have fun at the same time!! So please save the date(s) and sign up for Volunteer service!! Your time is greatly appreciated!!

Important Dates!

Next Planning Meeting

Wednesday, February 15
2:00pm | OSU Ext Conference

Event Setup

Thursday May 11th & Friday
May 12th

Contact Us!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you! – Committee Chair(s)

Nancy Bouse nancysinthegarden247@yahoo.com
Joanie Chapel joanie97103@gmail.com

CITY OF ASTORIA & CLATSOP COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS

SERVICE DAYS

Each year, CCMGA works with the city parks department to fulfill our agreement for free use of the Alderbrook Learning Garden on Marine Dr in Astoria. Since 2018, hundreds of pounds of produce has been donated to Clatsop County Food Banks from the learning garden.

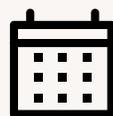
Two work days are scheduled at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton clearing scotch broom. We need volunteers to share a few hours of their time and energy. Come one or both days!
There will be snacks!

There is ample parking, the ground is level and not difficult walking. We are asked to cut the broom at the ground and drop it there. No power tools allowed.

The city will provide liability forms to sign when you arrive. We suggest that you bring a mask, but distancing should be reasonably easy to maintain as we will be outside. Dress for the weather, wear sensible shoes, bring sturdy garden clippers and your good cheer!



Ocean View Cemetery
575 SW 18th St, Warrenton



Thursday, February 23 | 1-4PM &
Saturday February 25 | 10 AM-1PM



Jane Sommerton
208-631-4940

4-H SUPER SATURDAY



WORM COMPOSTING

CCMGA participated in 4-H Super Saturday teaching worm composting. In this event, the kids go from station to station throughout the day learning a variety of skills. Our booth taught 32 children in our community about worms and their benefits!



Ask an Expert

QUESTION

Can I start perennial flower seeds in my house where there's limited light until they start poking through the ground?

ANSWER

I assume that by perennial flowers you are referring to herbaceous perennials that typically die back each year & regrow back each spring rather than woody shrubs that can also flower. If you are including woody shrubs, there are other propagation methods available for them.

When choosing perennial flowers check to see if they require stratification or scarification or both. These methods are common to many perennials.

Stratification occurs when the seeds go through a cold period prior to germination. This varies from plant to plant but can run from 45-90 days. During that time they need to be kept cool around 35-40 degrees. This can be done by putting the sealed seed packets in the refrigerator for the required time & then planting following the seed packet instruction. Another way to address this requirement is to direct sow the seeds in the winter & allowing them to go through their cold period naturally.

Scarification is the breaking down of the outer coating of the seed. This can be achieved by either scarring the surface, soaking it in water, or heating. Again read the seed packet or look up the specific plant requirement in a reference source.

Depending on the ambient temperature in your home you may also need heat mats to speed up the germination process.

As a general rule, perennial seeds germinate more slowly & have lower viability than annuals. So be patient.

Light requirements can also vary. Some seeds do not require light to germinate & others do. You can by the instructions on the packet if it states to sprinkle seeds on the surface of the soil (needs light to germinate) or to bury them at some required depth (don't require light to germinate). Once the seeds germinate & break through the soil, they will require light to grow. From the time the seeds germinate & form two leaves until they form two true leaves, the plants have to be sheltered & receive adequate light. If the seedlings do not receive adequate light, just like the annuals you grow, they can become too leggy and weak (etiolated) & unlikely to survive the transplant outdoors. Perennials like annuals that have been started indoors, require waiting until spring & a hardening period before they can be planted outdoors.

If you don't have adequate window lights then artificial lights such as fluorescents or LED shop lights & grow lights work best. Try to avoid incandescent & 'Cool white' fluorescent. Depending on the source of your lighting, you may need to leave it on from 14 hours to 24 hours.

Sincerely,
Mitra Rado, Master Gardener Volunteer

Additional Resources

WSU guide to propagating perennials | <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2076/2017/07/C101-Propagating-Perennials-15a.pdf>

Seed Germination and Sowing Options | https://www.fs.usda.gov/rm/pubs_series/wo/wo_ah732/wo_ah732_163_183.pdf

Growing Seedlings Under Lights | https://extension.unh.edu/sites/default/files/migrated_unmanaged_files/Resource008038_Rep11733.pdf

Member Spotlight

Joanie Chapel



Heading east away from the rugged Pacific Coast Hwy in Clatsop County, Oregon and driving onto Hwy 202 traveling past Youngs Bay you will find yourself in a very narrow east/west fertile strip of land along side Youngs River. Then Klaskanine River takes over. You will pass small family farms that deliver their fresh organic produce to local restaurants and support local thriving farmers markets. If you go during late summer or early fall your eye will suddenly be caught by a cacophony of color on your right. A sign reads Klaskanine River RV Park. Make a quick roadside stop and take a closer look. The kaleidoscope of pure color is the Dahlia garden of Joanie Chapel. You will quickly realize this is no ordinary garden. Joanie has created and maintained a quarter of an acre Dahlia garden for 16 years. All sizes. All shapes. All colors! Dahlias were not Joanie's first flower love affair. Roses were her first passion. Joanie cultivated roses for over two decades and devoted years of her talent, energy and expertise to the Portland Rose Garden. When Joanie migrated to the coastal region 17 years ago nature threw her a curve - the discovery that local fauna hungrily dine on roses. Necessity introduced Joanie to the deer resistant DAHLIA.

No looking back! A dahlia gardening collaboration was born between mother and daughter, Julie. This mother/daughter duo developed a Dahlia enterprise - Growing and mailing dahlia tubers across the country. Joanie hosts some 300 Dahlia plants while Julie, with professional green house and appropriate property, support some 2000 plants with brag rights of some 458 different varieties. Julie, also a Master Gardener, gardens in the Lincoln County area. Joanie travels nationally to show her dahlias and has been recognized and awarded many times over for the quality of her blooms and artistic floral arrangements of this versatile plant species. By presenting lectures and hands-on workshops (everything you want to know about dahlias but were just too afraid to ask) this generous woman gladly shares her years of experience. But wait, there is more. This passion for color & texture and understanding light & pattern has extended Joanie's creativity to the magic of quilting. Again, with an eye for detail, she has received many awards for these fabric master pieces. A floral motif is often seen in her quilt design. Generosity comes into view once again as Joanie has donated many quilts to raise funds for charitable causes.

Clatsop County Master Gardener Assoc. has been gifted with Joanie's gardening skills and knowledge since 2007. Joanie has been an active supporter volunteering as a CCMGA board member and also participating at the state level of Oregon Master Gardeners Assoc.; she has developed the CCMGA "Winterizing Your Garden" annual event; and has developed field trips for Master Gardeners to experience other gardening triumphs across Oregon. BRAVO! JOANIE CHAPEL

by Janet Willoughby

INTO THE GARDEN SHED

by Janet Willoughby



Welcome to **"Into the Garden Shed!"** Think garden "stuff" required to make your job fun and easier. Future articles are meant to support the "calendar to do" garden list found in the newsletter.

There will be future testimonials of Pacific Northwest gardeners' experiences as to what works best for them and what favorite garden equipment they keep in their garden sheds. Also, the plan is to cameo local garden sheds: "what would you do differently AND what features are *right on?*" There is so much interest in green houses. Future articles will include interviews with gardeners with a "ground-up" custom green house. Look for a series of updates as a NEW custom green house is constructed.

We are looking for HELPFUL HINTS: ie, you're headed out weeding. Tired of dirty fingernails? Keep a bar of soft hand soap (such as Ivory) in the shed. Prior to pulling on your favorite gloves rake your nails of the bar of soap a few times. Time for clean up - just use a nail brush for a light scrub and, voila, CLEAN nails!

Trade-name products and services are mentioned as illustrations only. This does not mean that the CCMGA endorses these products and services or intends to discriminate against products and services not mentioned.

CHECKLIST

Does your winter time Garden Shed inventory include:

Soil prep: soil pH test kit, soil temp. gage, moisture gage

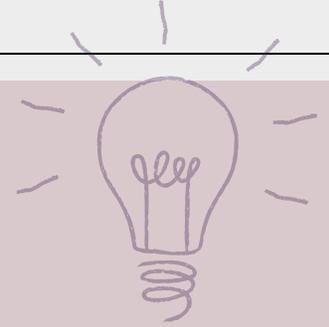
Fertilizers: appropriate for your spring garden needs; replacement for older products, were products properly stored for both heat/cold sensitive products or possibly damaged due to moisture.

Pest Management: think ahead for spraying early spring fruit trees; check your spraying equipment for damage or replacement; replace products effected by moisture during storage; don't forget slug season is just around the corner - early detection and preparedness can get you ahead of the game! Step up by having your products and equipment ready.

Use the links in the To Do Calendar to access in depth printable OSU articles to support your winter gardening adventure.

Send any *helpful hints* you may have to be included for future **"Into The Garden Shed"** columns!

FEBRUARY GARDEN TIPS



Planning

- Tune up your lawn mower and garden equipment before the busy season begins.
- Have soil tested to determine its nutrient needs.
- Select and store healthy scion wood for grafting fruit and nut trees. Wrap in damp cloth and place in plastic bag. Store in cool place.
- Plan an herb bed for cooking and creating an interesting landscape. For example, choose parsley, sage, chives, and lavender. Choose a sunny spot and plant seeds or transplants once the danger of frost has passed (late-April or early-May in the central Coast)
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers to your flowering landscape this spring. Try some drought-tolerant perennials to save money.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Repair winter damage to trees and shrubs.
- Make a cold frame or hotbed to start early vegetables or flowers.
- Fertilize rhubarb with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Incorporate cover crops or other organic matter into soil.
- Prune and train grapes; make cuttings.
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries, deciduous summer-blooming shrubs and trees, prune and train trailing blackberries (if not done the prior August); prune back raspberries, fall-bearing raspberries (in late-February or early-March), prune clematis, Virginia creeper, and other vining ornamentals.

Planting/Propagation

- Plant windowsill container garden of herbs like chives, cilantro and parsley.
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers this spring: astilbe, candytuft, peony, and anemone.
- Plant fruit trees and deciduous shrubs. Replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with resistant cultivars.
- Plant asparagus if the ground is warm enough.
- Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts), indoors or in a greenhouse.
- Where soil is dry enough and workable, plant garden peas and sweet peas. Suggested varieties of garden peas include: Corvallis, Dark Green Perfection, Green Arrow, Oregon Sugar Pod, Snappy, Knight, Sugar Snap, Oregon Trail, and Oregon Sugar Pod II.
- Good time to plant new roses.

Pest Monitoring and Management

Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. First consider cultural, then physical and biological controls. Choose the least-toxic options (insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides — when used judiciously).

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Use delayed-dormant sprays of lime sulfur for fruit and deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose, bacterial canker of stone fruit and Eastern filbert blight. Sterilize tools before each new cut.
- Control moles and gophers with traps.
- Western Oregon: Elm leaf beetles and box-elder bugs are emerging from hibernation and may be seen indoors. They are not harmful, but can be a nuisance. Remove them with a vacuum or broom and dustpan.
- Western Oregon: Monitor for European crane fly and treat lawns if damage has been verified.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Make your own potting soil for starting seedlings in pots or flats, or use clean sterile commercial mixes.

MARCH GARDEN TIPS

Planning

- Plan your vegetable garden carefully for spring, summer and fall vegetables that can be eaten fresh or preserved. If you lack in-ground gardening space, plan an outdoor container garden.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. Some cool season crops (onions, kale, lettuce and spinach) can be planted when the soil is consistently at or above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Maintenance and cleanup

- Lawn mowing: Set blade at 0.75–1 inch for bentgrass lawns; 1.5–2.5 inches for bluegrasses, fine fescues and ryegrasses.
- Compost grass clippings and yard waste, except for clippings from lawns where weed-and-feed products or weed killers have been used.
- Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.
- Prune gooseberries and currants; fertilize with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees if needed. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- If needed, fertilize rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blossoms fade.
- Fertilize caneberries using band fertilizer, broadcast fertilizer, a complete fertilizer or manure.

Planting and propagation

- Divide hosta, daylilies and mums.
- Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
- Plant insectary plants such as alyssum, phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow and dill to attract beneficial insects to the garden. For more information, see Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden.
- If soil is dry enough, prepare vegetable garden and plant early cool-season crops (carrots, beets, broccoli, leeks, parsley, chives, rhubarb, peas and radishes). Plant onions outdoors as soon as the soil is dry enough to work.
- Plant berry crops (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries and other berry-producing crop plants). See OSU Extension publications for berry varieties.

Pest monitoring and management

Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after studying the pesticide label. First consider cultural, then physical and biological controls. Choose the least-toxic options, and use them judiciously. Some examples include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides and organic and synthetic pesticides.

- Spray trees and shrubs for webworms and leafrollers, if present.
- Protect new plant growth from slugs. Least toxic management options include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; use with caution around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits or any other chemical control.
- Learn to identify the predatory insects that can help keep aphids and other pests under control.
- Spray to control leaf and twig fungus diseases in dogwood, sycamore, hawthorn and willow trees.
- Prune ornamentals for air circulation and to help prevent fungus diseases.
- Start rose blackspot control tactics at budbreak. Control rose diseases such as black spot. Remove infected leaves. Spray as necessary with a registered fungicide.
- Monitor for European crane fly and treat lawns if damage has been verified.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.

Indoor gardening

- Start tuberous begonias indoors. Take geraniums, begonias and fuchsias from storage. Water and fertilize. Cut back if necessary. Move outdoors next month.

PRUNING CLASS

We had a great time learning about pruning from Nicole at Dennis' 7 Dees Seaside Garden Center! Thank you, Nicole and to the entire team at Dennis' 7 Dees for hosting us! If you missed the class you can find the basics on their worksheet below!





Dennis' 7 Dees

THE PRUNING BASICS



WHAT'S YOUR GOAL?

- Direct growth
- Limit size
- Achieve artificial form
- Promote plant health
- Prevent/repair damage
- Maintain safety
- Alter or rejuvenate
- Remove undesirable growth
- Emphasize attractive feature
- Push flower/fruit production



BASIC TOOLS

Hand pruners (bypass/anvil): For cuts 3/4 to 1-inch diameter. Many pros use Felco brand for its high quality, replaceable parts, and specialty styles (left-handed, small hands).

Loppers (bypass/anvil): Large hand pruners with long handles; for branches up to 2 or 3 inches diameter. Long handles reach higher into trees or deeper into dense shrubs.

Pruning Saw (folding): Powerful tool for cutting thicker, harder wood. Slightly bowed with sharp teeth on both sides; quickly cuts while moving both forward and backward.

PRUNING "BUDGET"

Most plants can only afford to lose **25–30% of their growth** at one time. Continuously "balance your budget" by evaluating how much of the plant has been removed—stand back, assess often, and snap a photo before and after.

TERMS & TECHNIQUES

Terminal & Lateral Buds: The terminal bud grows at the tip of a shoot, making that shoot longer over time. Lateral buds grow along the sides of the shoot where leaves attach, producing sideways growth and creating density. Until the shoot grows long enough, lateral buds stay dormant under the influence of hormones sent out by the terminal bud.

Lateral Pruning (Heading Back): Removing the terminal bud on a branch or stem to stimulate growth of lateral buds below the cut, resulting in clusters of shoots; helps change direction of branch growth. **Pinching** refers to removing shoots with shears or forefinger and thumb on soft, new growth.

- *Flat cut stimulates two new shoots to grow below the cut.*
- *Diagonal cut produces one shoot from high end of the cut.*

Shearing: Cutting all branches to one desired length, creating an even surface, as in a hedge.

Thinning: Cutting a limb or branch back to where it begins (trunk) or to its junction with another branch; encourages growth on remaining parts of the plant and aids in circulation. When a plant sends up stems directly from the ground (suckers), the cut should occur at ground level.

Dead, Damaged, Diseased & Dysfunctional Growth (4 Ds): Scrape bark for signs of life. Remove dead/diseased parts immediately. Sterilize tools with disinfectant between each cut to prevent spreading of disease. Identify suckers and water sprouts as dysfunctional growth; learn how to manage. Deadwood removal does not count against pruning budget.

PRUNING CALENDAR

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

JANUARY TO MARCH:

- Young or weak trees and shrubs
- Summer blooming shrubs (e.g. roses)
- Damaged branches from winter
- Blueberries at least 3 years old

MARCH TO MID-APRIL:

- Non-blooming broadleaf evergreens
- Evergreen/deciduous hedge plants
- Trim winter dormant grasses
- Check for new buds on hardy fuchsias—prune back to green shoots when they appear

APRIL TO MAY:

- Shear back broad-leafed/needled evergreens
- After bloom, prune spring-flowering trees and shrubs (e.g. azaleas, camellias, daphne, forsythia, lilac, rhodios, cherries, plums, deciduous magnolias, crabapples)

JUNE TO AUGUST:

- Shear back broad-leafed/needled evergreens
- Trim overgrown or neglected deciduous trees and shrubs
- Remove suckers, water sprouts, and spent blooms on flowering plants (wait until hydrangeas are done blooming)
- Late-summer pruning of Japanese maples can help shape/train, but may be easier if done in late winter while leafless
- Avoid pruning Japanese maples in early spring (sap)

SEPTEMBER TO MID-DECEMBER:

- Winter prep for safety and branches vulnerable to damage

LATE DECEMBER TO MID-FEBRUARY (IF ABOVE 20°F):

- Perennials/shrubs that die back over winter
- Fruit trees in dormancy and blueberries
- Deciduous non-blooming trees
- Many summer-blooming clematis

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