

June 2021



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**Table of Contents**

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Calendar</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Fairy slipper</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>What's in a name?</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Project Updates</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Plant of the Month</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Lowdown from the board</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Companion Planting</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Plant Clinic Questions</b>	<b>9</b>

## President's message



Sometimes, this past year, most of us wished we could return to the care-free days of our childhood when the grown-ups took care of the problems and our biggest worry was getting called up to the board during math class. But Life got really serious in 2020 and we've had to bear the weight of this very adult world.

Besides the support family and friends have given me when the days were especially difficult, I've found that an old "friend", Charles Schulz, has given me a brighter view of some of the heaviest of life's troubles.

In his own words:

*"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."* With maybe a small glass of wine?

*"Learn from yesterday, live for today, look to tomorrow, rest this afternoon."* I've also found a little quiet, thoughtful weeding is a great way to unwind before that nap.

*"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It is already tomorrow in Australia."* Get a good night's sleep and solve the problems once you've rested.

*"Sometimes I lie awake at night and I ask, 'Is life a multiple-choice test or is it a true or false test?' ...Then a voice comes to me out of the dark and says, 'We hate to tell you this but life is a thousand-word essay.'" But with time, a sharp pencil and enough blank paper, you should be able to come up with some really good answers.*

*"Life is like a ten-speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use."* And many of us discovered some surprising (and useful) new ones in 2020.

*"In life, it's not where you go, it's who you travel with."* This has been proven true so many times recently. And I'm deeply grateful that you all have been on this journey with me, albeit at a safe distance. Thank you.



## ***COMGA Calendar*** ***for contact persons go to [gocomga.com](http://gocomga.com)***

### **June**

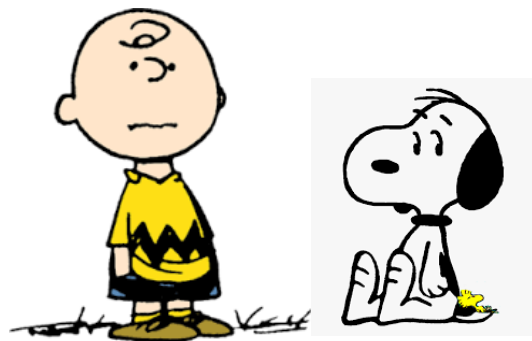
- 1 OSU Demo & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 1 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Making Gardening Easier
- 3 Board meeting, Zoom, 10:00am
- 12 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 12 COMGA Plant Sale pick up, 9:00am
- 15 OSU Demo & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 15 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Bug Trivia
- 17 Discovery Park Community Garden workday, 9:00am
- 24 Hollingshead CG volunteer meeting, 10:00am
- 28 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 29 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Small Space Gardens

### **July**

- 1 Board meeting, Zoom, 10am
- 6 OSU & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 6 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Fire-wise Landscaping
- 10 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 15 Discovery Park Community Garden workday, 9:00am
- 16 OMGA Virtual Mini-College
- 17 OMGA Virtual Mini-College
- 20 OSU Demo & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 20 KPOV radio 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Clematis
- 22 Hollinshead CG volunteers meeting, 10:00am
- 24 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

### **August**

- 3 OSU & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 3 KPOV radio, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Season Extension
- 5 Board meeting, OSU Extension Service, Redmond, 10:00am
- 14 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 17 OSU & AAS Garden workday, 9:00am
- 17 KPOV radio, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Spiders
- 19 Discovery Park, Community Garden workday, 9:00am
- 26 Hollinshead CG volunteers meeting, 10:00am
- 28 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 31 KPOV radio, 88.9 FM, 9-9:30am, Roses in C. O.



## A magical find at Marion Forks Fish Hatchery

by Judy Shearer

We had stopped to take a break and a short walk on the grounds of the hatchery on a recent drive over the Cascades. What a surprise when we encountered a profusion of fairyslipper orchids in full bloom. So small, these beauties could be easily overlooked as the population we were looking at reached barely 6" high among the dense foliage on the forest floor. Being a monocot the flower has 3 sepals and 3 petals which are pink to a rose purple in color. One petal is highly modified into a labellum or the sac like "slipper" which is matted with purple dots. Above this petal is a hood-like structure that cloaks the one stamen and three styles. A single ovate leaf 1-2.5 " across arises from the root crown in late summer, persists through the winter and withers in the spring. The species is circumboreal in distribution and in the U.S. is restricted to northernmost states except in the west where it is found south to AZ. In Oregon it is found east of the Cascades and in the Willows. In Deschutes county it is restricted to the northwest corner up around Suttle Lake. Members of the Orchidaceae are known for deceit when it comes to pollination. *C. bulbosa* is no exception and attracts inexperienced young bees to the flower by it's sweet scent suggesting a nectar source, but are duped because the flower produces no nectar but in the search pollination is accomplished. The species, the only one in the genus Calypso, is named for the sea nymph Kalypso from Greek mythology.



Photo by Samantha Shearer

References:

Meyers S.C., Jaster, T., Mitchell, K. E., and L. K. Hardison (Eds.). 2015. Flora of Oregon Volume 1: Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, and Monocots. Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press. Fort Worth, TX.

Turner, M., and P. Gustafson. 2006. Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest. Timber Press Inc., Portland Oregon.

Oregon Wildflower APP



Central Oregon Master Gardener Association's annual version of CSI is back and we're looking for a few good "inspectors".

From our Policies & Procedures, Project Review: "COMGA seeks to provide the highest quality programs that meet community needs in the best way possible. One way to meet that goal is to conduct a continuous quality improvement process on our programs...and reinforce what we are doing well in addition to identifying areas for improvement."

If you would like to work with two or three Master Gardeners (trainees welcome!) to investigate this year's chosen Chapter project, you can read the suggested steps listed in our Policies & Procedures: <https://www.gocomga.com/policies> (password Pollin8ors) and find Project Review Procedure in the list.

This year the project that will be reviewed before the 2022 budget is assembled in September, is the KPOV Radio Project, Gardening: Get Good at It. If you'd like to read one of the scripts or hear an audio of one of the 4-minute segments, go to [www.gocomga.com/gardening-get-good-at-it](http://www.gocomga.com/gardening-get-good-at-it).

If this sounds like a committee you'd like to join for a few months, please email me at [nglick@bendcable.com](mailto:nglick@bendcable.com). I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have about the procedure and I can put you in touch with the others on the committee.

## IT'S KPOV TIME GARDENING: GET GOOD AT IT

Tune in to The Point on KPOV 88.9 FM, Tuesdays  
between 9:00 and 9:30 AM.

Here is our lineup of upcoming  
Gardening: Get Good At It segments.

June 1 Making Gardening Easier  
June 15 Bug Trivia  
June 29 Small Space Gardens

**Newsletter Notes: Deadline for submission of material to the HoeDown is 1st Friday after the board meeting. All articles, notices and other journalistic efforts are welcome and appreciated.** All information provided by the "HoeDown" is believed to be accurate but readers must assume all responsibility for their own actions based on this information.

Occasionally a product or company may be named in an article but this does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of said product.

**Published by : COMGA** Send ideas & articles to:  
**HoeDown** Rocky Bessette, 8200 NW Yucca Ave., Redmond,  
OR 97756 or [rockyb820@gmail.com](mailto:rockyb820@gmail.com)

## What's in a Name?

by Patsy Kestner

Plants have long names, mostly in a foreign language, so we give them common names in English. Unfortunately, common names rarely convey any real information about the plant, and sometimes that information is crucial for gardeners to know in order to grow a plant successfully. For example, In the HWG there are six Coneflowers (common name), all in the same horticultural family, Asteroides. A plant family is a group of plants with similar characteristics. They are also all in the same Genus, Echinacea. A Genus is a group of plants which is closely related. Six plants in the same Family and Genus, may be expected to be alike. One would expect that those six plants in the same soil, light, climate conditions would behave similarly. We have been able to test these expectations in the Hollinshead Water-wise garden, and they have proved to be only partially met. To understand why, one needs one more name: the Species.

We can test the expectation that plants in the same Family and Genus will be the same, because HWG was established with plants purposely expected to do well in the Central Oregon climate with low water. One of the missions of the demonstration garden is to keep records of how the plants actually grow and prosper, or not. Of the six Coneflowers, some thrived better than others, and a clue to why may be in the last name: Species. Species is more difficult to define, and can only give us hints about the plant such as size, color, origin, or may commemorate a place or person (*Philadelphus lewisii*, Wild Mockorange)

Patented hybrids, however, give us no hints. Hybrids are closely related but distinct species that are interbred. The Genus, Echinacea, has ten species that range from moist to dry prairies and open woodlands, purpurea is one of those species that do well here and are doing better overall at HWG. In HWG, there are also patented hybrids, Patented means the species that are interbred are secret. Without knowing the species involved, it's hard to predict a plant's characteristics. The patented hybrids, Echinacea 'Cheyenne Spirit' and 'Green Jewel' have performed differently in HWG since 2018; the former thrived, the latter became weak and prone to pests. Generally, the single species plants, Echinacea purpurea, are doing better overall, and gardeners in this area should look for these names on the tags of Coneflowers..

Other examples of what's in a name are two Hydrangeas that have thrived in HWG and require pruning. It turns out they are both Hydrangea 'paniculata'. This is very important to know to answer the question of when to prune, fall or spring? 'Paniculata' species flower on new growth, therefore they would not be pruned in the spring when new growth occurs; otherwise, the flowers would be cut off. As it happens, another species not at HWG, Hydrangea 'macrophylla', flowers on old growth, which would indicate a different pruning. So, when to prune a Hydrangea depends entirely on its name. And this is why

it's important for gardeners to know a plant's name and what it means, so they will never prune off the flowers!

Source: Plant classification definitions from Amy Jo's class on Plant Identification.

## Hollinshead Community Garden

by Kirsten Hinton

Did you hear about the two flowers who went on a date?

Hollinshead Community Garden is growing walls of water, trellises, stakes, not to mention veggies and flowers. A board has been added to the NeighborImpact farm stand to post information pertinent to the garden. Irrigation was started May 14th. Ten new gardeners are with us this season including a young family whose two little girls have their own garden tools. How sweet is that? Mentors are still needed. Please consider volunteering.

Answer: It's a budding romance



## COMGE PLANT SALE

Support your local COMGA and BUY SOME PLANTS! Lots of tomatoes not purchased yet!

Even if you are volunteering on June 12th for the COMGA Plant Sale, you can still pre-order plants and pick them up that day and go through the customer pick-up line in your vehicle just like the general public customers.

Forward the attached flyer to your gardening friends and neighbors.

Hope to see you on June 12th at the COMGA Plant Sale

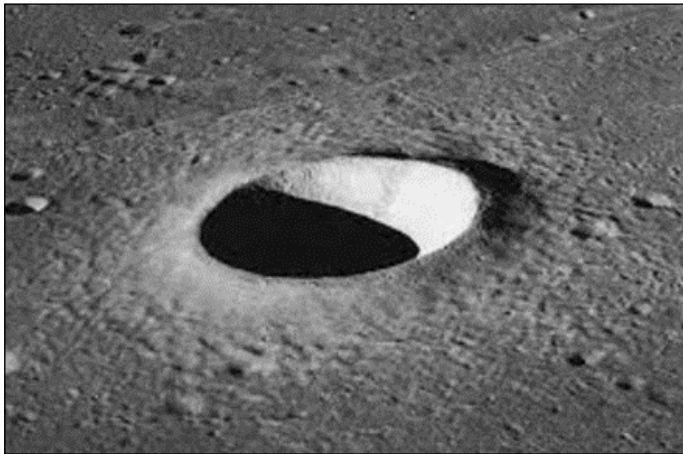
Vicky Kemp, COMGA Plant Sale Coordinator

## OSU Extension Demo Garden

We've had our 5th workday at the OSU Demo Garden and all is going good. The transplanted elderberry has survived in its new spot out front. Thank you to our 5 volunteers last Tuesday, Alice Spencer, Linda Gregory, Jill Kendall, Vicky Kemp and myself. We pulled weeds, watered, and shaped perennials. We have started planting the All American section with corn, coleus and pumpkin. Come by and see how they're growing! Our next workday will be June 15th, 9am - noon. Sign up via the link. We look forward to seeing you there!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/136UN9EGFVBjXkSPITSwVdBTMQb5fRRQ/view?usp=sharing>

Vicky Kemp & Karen Simonet



## YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE MOON TO MAKE AN IMPACT!

WHEN WE HOLD THE ANNUAL COMGA ELECTIONS THIS SUMMER, **YOUR NAME** COULD BE ON THE BALLOT FOR ONE OF THE OPEN POSITIONS.

ARE YOU AN ORGANIZER? DO YOU PLAY WELL IN GROUPS? ARE YOU AN EMAIL WIZARD? YES??? THEN YOU'LL LOVE BEING ON THE COMGA BOARD!

IF YOU'D LIKE MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT NANCY [nlick@bendcable.com](mailto:nlick@bendcable.com)  
OR 541-668-0224.

I CAN'T WAIT TO WORK WITH **YOU** ON THE BOARD!

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Lisa Nakadate and Julie Hill

### Featured Plant - Blue Flax

Linum perenne 'Lewisii'

Height: 12 - 20"

Spread: 12 - 14"

Flower: Light blue, white

Bloom time: May - June



Why Should I Plant Blue Flax in My Garden? • A native, self-sowing wildflower with delicate leaves and stems. • Excellent in mass plantings or meadows. • Blue flax seeds survive in areas where soil has been disturbed so it is useful in erosion control. Buff-colored seed pods develop after flowers fade, yet the same plant keeps producing new flowers, and a mature plant will have dozens of blossoms open daily throughout the summer.

### Information Sources

Water-wise Gardening in Central Oregon: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9136>

Colorado State University Extension: <https://gilpin.extension.colostate.edu/programs/mtn-hort/blue-flax/>



## Mini-College 2021

July 16 and 17, 2021

Experience and participate in a dynamic program of interactive educational classes and workshops

**Keynote presentations by:**

**Robert Michael Pyle and Gail Langellotto**

Watch for details when our website goes live at:

[mastergardenerminicollege.org](http://mastergardenerminicollege.org)

**Registration is open now**

## LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

June 3, 2021, Via Zoom Online

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Nancy Glick (President), Jan Even (Past-President), Liz Anderson (VP-MG Education), Vickie Minor (Secretary), Tim Schindele (Treasurer), Mimi Thomas (Historian), Rocky Bessette (Communications Liaison), Jolene Dodge (Membership Coordinator), Beckie Moran, Carroll Minium, Kate Applegate, Kirsten Hinton, Vicky Kemp, Karen Simonet, Amy Jo Detweiler, Nancy Crossan, Ruth Mulligan, Pat Kolling, Chris Miao and Curt Millington.

The meeting started at 10:00 AM and adjourned at 11:34 AM. The board discussed the following items:

### Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by Rocky Bessette, seconded by Jan Even, and approved by the board, with no objections.

### OSU Report

Amy Jo reported on the email that was sent to all master gardeners last week about recertification requirements. Anyone who was recertified in 2020, will continue to be recertified through 2022. Amy Jo suggests that people continue to volunteer to keep involved and to maintain skills. Plant clinic is not required this year but it will be open this summer for all who want to work. Amy Jo and Toni have enlisted "coaches" to help anyone wanting to work in plant clinic. There will be one shift per day, 9AM-1PM. The in-person shift will be in Redmond and there is a possibility that a shift could be opened in Prineville. Amy Jo thinks there could be a hybrid approach where some plant clinics are worked in person and others are worked remotely – she will confirm soon. There are no firm requirements for volunteer hours this year. There will be MG training in 2022 but how it will be done and what it will look like has not been finalized. Carrie Sether is leaving extension and her last day is June 23. The transition is in process but there could be bumps in the road once she leaves, until she is replaced. The goal is to get someone hired by the end of the summer.

### Treasurer's Report

Tim noted that the report for May took longer to produce because we have expanded the items for which we use PayPal for payment. The list includes COMGA dues, community garden plot rental fees and items in the Plant Sale, including plants, row cover and soil thermometers. As of June 1, there is \$1,299.89 in the PayPal account to be transferred to the checking account. That amount is growing daily as Plant Sale sales are still coming in.

We also received our first quarter rebate (\$8.28) from the Amazon Smiles program; we have not received our Fred Meyer rebate yet. Expenses included our usual \$75 donation to KPOV, \$434 for OMGA dues for 62 members at \$7 each and a contribution of \$250 for the mini-college silent auction. There were also expenses for the June Garden Fair-Plant Sale for potting soil, replacement plants and new signage for the Water-wise Garden, and PayPal fees for the month. Tim reported that we should have more than \$46,000 in the bank after the conclusion of the plant sale.

### Membership Report

Jolene reported there is one new member and we now

have a total of 62 certified MGs and 3 associate members. Discussion followed on the pros and cons of suspending the 2022 dues for COMGA. The topic will be tabled until later in the year, after OMGA decides what they'll be doing. Discussion followed on how to reach more MGs about becoming members of COMGA. One suggestion was to send everyone, even non-paying members, a copy of the HoeDown. There was no agreement on that and the consensus was that Jolene should send an email letter to MGs who have not joined/paid dues.

### OMGA Rep Report

Janet was traveling but reported that the 2nd Quarter OMGA Executive Committee Meeting was held via zoom on May 14. The meeting was dedicated to mini-college. To date, there have been 100 registrations; OMGA is hoping for 500, and the event is open to the public, not just master gardeners. The link to register is [www.mastergardenerminicollege.org](http://www.mastergardenerminicollege.org). The workshops are almost full, and 12 Chapters have donated between \$150 - \$250, which will be used for Mini-college. The 2nd Quarter Board Meeting will be June 4, 2021.

### Community Education

Elizabeth was absent but Vickie reported that there will be another Vegetable Gardening in Central Oregon webinar on June 7 from 6:30-8:00. Pat Kolling and Jan Even are the panelists, Vickie is hosting, with Nathalie Smith.

### COMGA Election

Lizzy asked that this be put over to the July meeting. The VP for Community Education will be open and Nancy would like to step down as President since she has been in that position for four years. Several people noted that they are willing to continue serving, and one COMGA member asked that we make sure there is an open ballot so anyone could write in a candidate for a board position.

### ACTION ITEMS:

#### 2021 Project Review

Our policies require a project review each year and Nancy summarized which projects have already been reviewed and which ones have not. After a full discussion, we agreed that KPOV should be reviewed since it has been a project for more than 8 years and has never been reviewed. Carroll Minium agreed to help on the committee but he does not want to head it. Nancy will put a call out for volunteers in the HoeDown.

#### Carrie Sether

Carrie is leaving Extension and will be going to the Equine Center in Bend; her last day is June 23, 2021. COMGA would like to acknowledge her assistance to us over the years as her help has been invaluable to many of our projects. After discussion, Rocky Bessette moved to approve \$150 for a visa debit card, which was seconded by Lizzy Anderson and approved by the board without objection. Vicky Kemp will coordinate the presentation, which we hope to do June 15 at the next demo garden work day.

Continued on page 7

**LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD** continued**PROJECT STATUS REPORTS:****Water-wise Garden**

Pat Kolling and Chris Miao reported that they had to replace a few plants that did not survive in the native beds but overall, things did better than they expected. They are continuing to do maintenance but critters are starting to appear. They will try using a vibrator repellent to see if that helps deter the critters. Pat also reported that Bend Parks & Rec, and Doug Voderberg with the City of Bend, have approached us to participate in an event they have planned at the barn on June 27. It would be limited to 65 people both outdoors and in the barn; masks would be required inside. After discussion, Amy Jo said that this would be OK if the MG volunteers were outside. We should proceed with planning and Amy Jo will confirm that it is an approved event within the scope of the OSU restrictions. Pat will get more information from Doug Voderberg and forward it to Amy Jo.

**Plant Sale**

Vicky reported that there are still a lot of plants available for sale. She hopes people will add on plants to their orders and she has enough volunteers to manage the work if this occurs. The tomatoes will be delivered June 9, so only two days of hand watering will be required. Nancy has extended pre-orders through June 9. Vicky will make arrangements to deliver or water plants that are being held in the greenhouse.

**OSU Demo Garden**

Karen Simonet reported that five volunteers helped at the last work day (June 1) and they are caught up on basic tasks in the garden. The All-American Garden planting was started (corn, pumpkins, and coleus). The next work day is June 15, sign-up sheets can be accessed at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/136UN9EGFVBjJxkSPITSwVdBTMQb5fRRQ/view?usp=sharing> or contact Karen Simonet at [emsnurse1923@gmail.com](mailto:emsnurse1923@gmail.com). Under the current OSU guidelines, we are allowed to have up to 20 volunteers working in the garden now.

**Hollinshead Garden**

Kirsten reported things are moving along at the garden, two gardeners left and were replaced by two new people. She has had some issues with the gate padlock and may need to purchase a new one. She also sent an email to all the gardeners about OMGA mini-college since it is open to the public.

**Discovery Park Garden**

There was no report this month.

**Open Forum**

Amy Jo reported that after a lot of consideration and because of the challenges still posed by the pandemic, the High Desert Garden Tour is canceled again this year.

Curt Millington reported on the status of the row cover and his research on purchasing more. Our current row cover is DeWitt, which we get through the Greenhouse Mega Store. A 6' x 1000' roll now costs \$289 with delivery, which is an increase from \$199 in 2020 for the

same product. We have been cutting and selling 6' x 25' pieces for \$10 per piece. A 1000' roll yields approximately 39 pieces plus a scrap piece, which brings in \$395 in sales, with a profit of \$106. Curt researched other products, including AgFabric on Amazon (a 6' x 25' piece of .9 oz fabric selling for \$13). He also found a cheaper supplier for DeWitt 1 oz. row cover - tunnelvisionhoops.com. Two rolls cost \$334.82 plus shipping (\$119.51) so each roll would end up costing \$227.17. Discussion followed on how to proceed. We agreed DeWitt is a good product and Curt should go with the vendor that has the best price. We also agreed to shorten the pieces to 20', which would give us more product from each roll and allow us to keep the price at \$10. Carroll Minium noted that he was part of project review on row cover, he had a chance to look at what was available at one of the box stores and the quality was very inferior to what we were selling.

Beckie Moran shared that Doug Tallamy, the author of *The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees*, is doing a free Zoom talk sponsored by the High Desert Museum on the essential roles insects play, and the simple changes we must make to keep insects on the ground, in the air and on our plants. The talk is June 9, 2021, from 12:00-1:30 PM and although there is no charge, pre-registration is required and can be done through the following link: <https://highdesertmuseum.org/events/natures-best-hope/>.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Minor, Secretary



Supreme Sultan

## Understanding Companion Planting

by Betty Fallner

Companion plantings seem to be a widely accepted practice, but are all the implied benefits supported by sound science?

By definition, companion planting is the practice of planting different crops in close proximity to each other in order to influence their:

Nutrient uptake

Pest control

Pollination and

Crop productivity

Some gardeners have determined compatible companion plants through their own observations. Some companion planting principles make sense intuitively, but others seem to be a mystery or quite possibly a myth.

It is important to know that many online guides and publications to companion planting may not be research-based. Most of the guides are not intended to solve garden problems. Your own experimenting and observations will help you gain new insight for your specific garden.

Plants are very active in ways that are not so obvious to the casual observer. For example, plants change the chemistry of the soil, and influence the types of microorganisms that grow there. They actively compete with other plants for space. Some will poison their neighbor's offspring to maintain a competitive advantage, while others change the environment in ways that benefit other species.

So, how can we, as gardeners, use companion planting to help us garden more effectively?

First, plant a diversified home garden.

Avoid monoculture in terms of space and time. A 20 foot long row of broccoli presents a large target for a cabbage moth flying by, but the same number of cabbage plants scattered over a large area and inter-planted with other crops, is less obvious and attractive to the insect.

Secondly, destructive insects often locate their food by smell.

Many plants, especially culinary herbs, produce strong scents which may confuse insect pests looking for a host to feed on. Also, herbs are often considered nursery plants for the good insects providing shelter, nectar, pollen, and even dark, cool moist spots for lacewings, lady beetles, parasitic flies, and wasps.

Next, learn to recognize beneficial insects as well as the pests – Less than 1% of insects are garden pests.

It's important to note that sometimes plants may be helpful to one another only at a certain stage of their growth. The number and ratio of different plants growing together is often a factor in their compatibility, and sometimes plants make good companions for no apparent reason.

Experience shows us that using companion planting throughout the landscape is an important part of integrated pest management which reduces the use of garden chemicals.

Companion planting produces variable and subtle effects and it may take several seasons to find a plan that works for your garden.

So How Does Companion Planting work?

Companions help each other grow - Tall plants, for example, provide shade for sun-sensitive shorter plants.

Companions use garden space efficiently - Vining plants cover the ground, upright plants grow up. Two plants in one patch.

Companions prevent pest problems - Plants like onions repel some pests. Other plants can lure pests away from more desirable plants.

Companions attract beneficial insects - Every successful garden needs plants that attract the predators of pests.

In essence companion planting helps bring a balanced eco-system to your landscape, allowing nature to do it's job. Nature integrates a diversity of plants, insects, animals, and other organisms into every ecosystem so there is no waste. In other words, a diverse mix of plants makes for a healthy, fragrant and beautiful garden.

Here are a few examples of companion plants:

Roses and chives

Tomatoes and cabbage

Cucumbers and nasturtiums

Peppers and pigweed or ragweed

Cabbage and dill

Corn and beans

Lettuce and nicotiana or cleome

Radishes and spinach

Cauliflower and dwarf zinnias

Collards and catnip

Strawberries and love-in-a-mist

Marigolds and melons





## Plant Clinic Questions – Butterflies, Watering, Pear Slug

by Toni Stephan

During the Central Oregon growing season, OSU Extension Service maintains a free clinic in each county, staffed with volunteer Master Gardeners who answer garden questions from the public. We have collected some questions that are asked every June:

**Is it good that there are so many Butterflies and moths in my garden?** You may see the effects of butterfly and moth larvae during the late spring and summer as they might be feeding on leaves ornamental and shade trees or shrubs in the landscape. The adults quite often do not eat plants, instead may use them to lay eggs upon and also as nectar sources. While sipping nectar they may help spread pollen from plant to plant. One butterfly larva in particular you may notice is the Western Tiger Swallowtail. The larva of this butterfly feed on leaves of poplar, willow, alder, maple and choke cherry in late spring through mid summer. It may be first noticed looking like a blob of bird poop on the leaf, black on both ends with an off white patch in the middle. As the larva grows it turns candy apple green with what looks like two eye spots on top, later it will turn purplish-brown before pupation. The head is actually seemingly bent underneath the portion of the larva that you observe when you see it on the leaf. To the casual observer the Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtail is very similar in both larval and adult stages. It has two tails instead of one like the Western Tiger Swallowtail.

While it is true that these larvae eat the leaves of some ornamental trees this generally will not harm the tree unless it is very young or very stressed. These are beneficial insects and often important as pollinators. They serve as food for many birds and other predators and are lovely to look at. Hopefully, tolerance of their short-term damage can be practiced. If it is determined that they do need to be controlled Btk or Bta can be applied to the tree or shrub. Please read and follow label instructions. For more information about butterflies check out the links on our website.

**How much Watering do I need to do for healthy plants?** The amount of water a lawn needs changes as the temperature does. Rather than watering every day it is better to water once or twice per week. In spring, when temperatures are low, say 75 degrees or less, turf needs 1-1.5" of water per week, this drives the water at least 6-12 inches deep. As temperatures rise you will need to increase watering to 2.5-3" per week at peak heat levels. Adjust your watering as the temperature changes.

Ornamental trees and shrubs need a different watering regime than turf. They need to be deeply soaked 1 to 3 times per month, again temperature dependent. In the spring, usually once per month will be adequate but in the heat of summer you may find every other week is necessary. Be sure to soak trees and shrubs at their drip line, where the branches end in order to get water to the

roots that are actively taking it up. If you have an automatic sprinkler system, check to make sure the water is not being delivered at the trunk but rather at the drip line. You may need to increase the number of emitters to get water to all the drip line area. Trees and shrubs need more water delivered at one time than lawn does. They need the water to soak in 12-18" deep. So, you may need to use a soaker hose or make a deep ring around the tree in order to get enough water to soak deeply. Check with a shovel or soil probe a few hours after watering to make sure the water got 12-18" deep or more.

Perennials need a little more frequent watering but not as deep as trees and shrubs. Moisture should go down at least 8-15" and should be replenished when the top few inches dries out. Like trees and shrubs perennials are better off with deeper watering than most lawn systems deliver. Slow water delivery is better than a fast sprinkle.

Annuals will be fine watered like turf but when first planted will require more frequent watering until the roots move into the soil. Our website has links to several helpful OSU publications.

**I've noticed a sort of shiny, greenish, sluggy looking thing on tree leaves, what is it?** Pear slug: In mid July you may notice the leaves of plum trees, chokecherry trees and shrubs like chokeberry looking as if they have had the top layer of their leaves scraped off, leaving a rather skeletonized look. Most likely these are the larvae of a nonstinging wasp called a sawfly. The adult deposits eggs into leaf tissue and in a little more than a week the eggs hatch, then the young larvae begin to eat leaf tissue. The larvae feed for about 3 weeks to a month then drop to the soil to pupate. The first generation is usually small in numbers and may go unnoticed. In Central Oregon, there is a second generation in late August to September which is usually more damaging due to the increase in numbers. Most trees can withstand the damage but young or stressed trees will suffer more. Generally, the damage is more aesthetic than anything else. Go to our website for more information including control techniques.

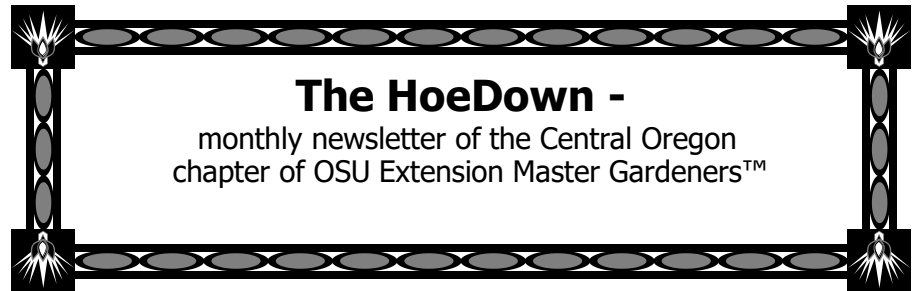


Pear and cherry slug

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Crook  
Deschutes &  
Jefferson Counties



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