KPOV – *The Point*

Gardening: Get Good at It

“OSU Demonstration Gardens in Central Oregon”

January 19, 2021

Did you know that Central Oregon is home to 2 Demonstration Gardens which are open to the public year round? Both gardens highlight plants best suited to our high desert environment and both use a water smart approach for efficient irrigation techniques suited for the Central Oregon Landscape.

The OSU Demonstration Garden, located on the Deschutes County fairgrounds (at 3800 SW Airport Way) in Redmond, contains hundreds of annuals, vegetables, perennials, trees, and shrubs for you to enjoy and learn about. Each plant is labeled with its name, cultural requirements, and other fun facts. The goal of this garden is to demonstrate plants that are adaptable to Central Oregon and showcase their water use and fire-resistance. The garden uses a water smart irrigation controller on site. It operates using satellite-based weather information.

The garden features**:**

* A Native Plant Garden – with grasses, perennials, and shrubs native to Central Oregon. These plants are drought tolerant and can also tolerate strong winds.
* A Natural Forest Area of Native trees, shrubs, and grasses demonstrates a naturalized landscape. A favorite in this garden is the Rocky Mountain Maple.
* Along the building, the Shade Garden showcases plants that thrive in the shade and require more moisture and protection from the wind.
* A vegetable garden features vegetables successfully grown in our region, some of which were developed at Oregon State University. These are recommended for their ability to mature in our short growing season.
* You will also find different kinds of vines that help provide breaks from our frequent strong winds, drought tolerant turf (a blended mix of Kentucky blue grass, fescue, and perennial rye), examples of large shade trees, fruit trees, and many ornamental plants and perennials adapted to the high desert.

The OSU Demonstration Garden is a participant in the All-America Selections Display Gardens - Each year, AAS tests new seeds for home gardens on a national level. The winning seeds are then displayed in our garden for you to enjoy. Seeds selected include high quality annuals, vegetables, and perennials.

The garden is open to the public and can be viewed freely during the hours the gates of the Deschutes County fairgrounds are open.

In 2017, Oregon State University Extension Service and Central Oregon Master Gardeners partnered with the City of Bend and Bend Parks and Recreation District to construct a water conscious demonstration garden at Hollinshead Park. Located at 1237 NE Jones Street in Bend, this collaborative effort provides an opportunity for everyone to experience a local garden which demonstrates research-based gardening techniques for irrigation, plant selection, and plant placement. The garden features plants that conserve water but still beautify the landscape.

The irrigation system showcases 4 different techniques: inline drip irrigation, point source irrigation with drip emitters, pressure regulating tree bubblers, and an overhead application with high efficiency sprinkler nozzles.

The Hollinshead Waterwise garden features native plants, ornamental perennials and grasses, deciduous and flowering shrubs, and trees and dwarf conifers adapted to grow sustainably in our arid region. Each plant, shrub, and tree is labelled with its common and scientific name.

Plan your visit to the gardens throughout the year to see how plants look like throughout the seasons before deciding to incorporate them in your landscape. On our website, I will provide resources for waterwise gardening, including a guide to plants best suited for Central Oregon.

For answers to all your gardening questions, please visit our website: gocomga.com and click on the KPOV tab on the orange bar. This has been Gardening: Get Good at It on KPOV’s The Point.

Resources:

Waterwise gardening in Central Oregon (OSU publication EM9136): <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9136>

Waterwise Guides offered by the city of Bend: <https://www.bendoregon.gov/government/departments/utilities/conservation/waterwise-guides>

All American Selection Organization: <https://all-americaselections.org/>

The OSU Demonstration Garden is located on the Deschutes County Fairgrounds at: 3800 SW Airport Way, in Redmond

The Hollinshead Waterwise garden is located at: 1237 NE Jones Street, in Bend.