KPOV – *The Point*

Gardening: Get Good at It

“Sustainable Gardening”

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The dictionary defines Sustainability as the capacity to endure. In the 21st century, it refers to the ability of Earth's biosphere and human civilization to coexist. But how does that apply to the humble home garden? Well, it depends upon your own skills, knowledge and experience.

At Oregon State University, students focusing on [Sustainable Horticultural Production](https://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/agricultural-sciences/horticulture/horticulture-bs-hbs/sustainable-horticultural-production-option/) learn how to manage integrated and organic fruit, berry, vegetable, nursery and/or greenhouse production systems. They are taught how integrated pest management (IPM), plant propagation, plant nutrition, soil science, ecology, economics and business interact. The students will become plant breeders, small farm owners and crop advisors, managing retail gardens and nurseries.

The Master Gardeners offer home gardeners information on planting pollinator-friendly gardens and using IPM techniques to encourage the bio-diversity our environment needs to be sustainable. Today we’ll explain how you can expand your knowledge with links in the transcript on our website to publications you can read.

The OSU catalog has a publication that describes [how to choose hardscape materials](https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1535) for patios, decks, walkways, and driveways for sustainability and environmental impact. You’ll learn about materials such as porous paving, soil cement, plastic lumber and ornamental plants as living fences.

Some homeowners use electric insect ‘zappers’, but indiscriminate methods can kill more than the target insects. With so many misconceptions as to what they will and will not do, Cornell University published a [fact sheet](https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/5284/Insect_Traps_and_Barriers.pdf?1418849937) which will help you decide if a trap or barrier will be right for your garden. You’ll learn about mechanical (or sticky) traps, visual (or colored) lures, chemical lures or bait traps using pheromones and feeding attractants, and barriers such as cutworm collars and row cover.

The earth beneath our feet is vital and yet frequently ignored. Soil is a living ecosystem that includes minerals, air, water, habitat for creatures and the creatures themselves. Soil provides plants with nutrients, water, physical support and air for roots. It houses macro- and microorganisms - nature’s prime recyclers. [The OSU Soil booklet](https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9304) will help you steward your soil.

## Living in Central Oregon, we all have regular deer visitors but what about the rest of the wildlife with whom we share the earth? If you manage your land to promote a diverse native habitat and support natural ecological systems, many species benefit. You can learn to nurture a [diverse mix of flora and fauna](https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9250/html), identify what wildlife you have and what you want, how to be a citizen scientist, how to provide food, shelter and space, and how to discourage invasive species and support the native ones.

Insects aren’t always known as other insect’s worst enemy but ‘natural enemies’ help control destructive insects and other organisms. Once you know the beneficial insects, you’ll appreciate how much help you might expect from the natural world. [Cornell University has a great publication](https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/5281/Natural_Enemies_Natures_Pest_Control.pdf?1418849809) that lists – with photos! – the best insects to delight the child in all of us.

But what is needed for a sustainable landscape in Central Oregon - a landscape that is a thoughtful balance between resources used and results gained. [The steps for basic design concepts for a sustainable landscape](https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/ec1533.pdf) are listed in an OSU brochure – go to our website, [www.gocomga.com](http://www.gocomga.com) and click on the KPOV tab on the orange bar for today’s transcript with links to all the resources.

For information on your garden questions, call the Master Gardeners at 541-548-6088. This has been Gardening: Get Good at It on KPOV’s The Point.

Resources:

OSU catalog: <https://catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/agricultural-sciences/horticulture/horticulture-bs-hbs/sustainable-horticultural-production-option/>

Getting Started with Sustainable Gardening: <https://onlinepublichealth.gwu.edu/resources/getting-started-sustainable-gardening/>

Publication: Hardscapes for Sustainable Landscapes <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1535>

Publication: Insect Traps and Barriers <https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/5284/Insect_Traps_and_Barriers.pdf?1418849937>

Soil, the Dirty Secrets of a Living Landscape: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9304>

Wildlife Habitat: Nurturing a Diverse Mix of Flora and Fauna: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9250/html>

Natural Enemies: Nature's Pest Control: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/5281/Natural_Enemies_Natures_Pest_Control.pdf?1418849809>

Basic Design Concepts for Sustainable Landscapes: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/ec1533.pdf>