

August 2023



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Board members 2023

President: Janet Dart, 818-486-1583, janetdart@gmail.com

Vice Pres: Cher Hinerman, 503-750-7168, cahinerman@icloud.com

Vice Pres: Tim Schindele, 541-526-1490, TJSFishes@bendbroadband.com

Secretary: Tammara Waterman, 541-280-5913, waterman2712@gmail.com

Treasurer: Marilyn Clark, 541-419-4625, piperdoug64@yahoo.com

State Rep: Karen Simonet, 661-713-5694, emsnurse1923@gmail.com

Alt. State Rep:

Historian: Kris Knoernschild, 541-410-2795, oaktree2448@gmail.com

Membership Coordinator: Deb Goodall, 816-885-5466, debgoodall48@gmail.com

Communication Liaison: Rocky Bessette, 541-420-8817, rockyb820@gmail.com

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President's message



My garden is one big Plant Clinic. Two years ago, we killed our lawn in our small backyard by covering it with cardboard and mulch. We now have luscious soil. I made planter beds and filled them with donated plants, sprinkled seeds. We splurged on flagstone and made a curving path through the garden. The garden bloomed from spring to fall with dahlias, solomon, bluebells, hardy geranium and aster. Poppies and nasturtium, hollyhock, blanket flower and black-eyed susan were also blooming. Lovely, but lots of bare soil around the path. Of course, creeping thyme would be the perfect filler for the flagstone. Having neither patience nor unlimited funds, I had the brilliant idea of planting clover, planning to use my weed wacker trimmer to keep it under control. What do they say about best laid plans? We ended up spending the summer in Raleigh, NC to assist our family. We ran hoses and sprinklers throughout the garden and put them on timers so that my 90 plants wouldn't die. I came back in November to a jungle. I knew there was a path in there somewhere, but it was covered in foot high clover. The clover grew into the flower beds, intertwining with the creeping buttercups and hardy geranium that also decided to spread. Thistles were six feet tall and Mareetail. Every weed of Central Oregon was in my backyard. And then winter happened. And then spring came. And still, I pull weeds. Welcome to gardening in Central Oregon. The bees and butterflies are happy.



Photo by Janet Dart

COMGA Calendar for contact persons go to gocomga.com

August

- 1 Redmond Demo garden workday, 9:00am
- 2 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 10:00am
- 3 Board meeting, potluck, 5:00pm
- 12 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 15 Redmond Demo garden workday, 9:00am
- 16 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 10:00am
- 17 Hollinshead CG volunteer meeting, 10:00am
- 17 Discovery Park CG volunteer workday, 6:00pm
- 26 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

September

- 5 Redmond Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 6 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 7 Board meeting, OSU Extension, bldg. #3, 10:00am
- 9 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 19 Redmond Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 20 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 9am
- 21 Hollinshead CG volunteer meeting, 10:00am
- 21 Discovery CG volunteer workday, 6:00pm
- 23 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon

October

- 3 Redmond Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
- 4 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
- 7 Hollinshead Community garden closes
- 8 Hollinshead Community garden closes
- 14 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 15 Hollinshead Community Garden closes
- 15 Discovery Park Community garden closes, 6:00pm
- 17 Redmond Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
- 18 Alpenglow Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
- 19 Hollinshead CG volunteer meeting, 10:00am
- 19 Discovery Park CG volunteer workday, 5:00pm
- 28 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon



Photo taken at one of the Garden Tour homes by
Kris Knoernschild

HOLLINSHEAD WATER-WISE GARDEN Hollinshead Community Garden

Open Garden Day – August 19th – 9-12

The Community Garden and the Water-wise Garden at Hollinshead Park are holding an Open Garden Day on Saturday August 19, from 9-12. The Community Garden will be open to the public and gardeners will be available to answer questions about vegetable gardening and their plots. The Water-wise Garden will also have volunteers in the garden answering the public’s questions about water-wise plants and techniques. The City of Bend will be there with information regarding water conservation and their rebate programs. Master Gardener volunteers will be present at tables with information about growing vegetables, water-wise gardening, and other publications and brochures of interest on gardening successfully in Central Oregon. There will also be an insect and pollinator table with information and experts available. This table is always a big hit with kids as well as adults. And come learn about preserving your harvest and food safety at the Master Food Preservers booth and display. It will be a fun Saturday morning and you’ll be impressed with how both the gardens look now! Keep your fingers crossed that the smoke and the high heat stay away.

Pat Kolling, Chris Miao and Kirsten Hinton



Rocky, Rachel, Jessica and Lisa hanging out at the Billings Garden

OMGA Report

by Karen Simonet

OMGA Rep Update:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the search for the Statewide Master Gardener Program Manager. Unfortunately, we had what is called a ‘failed search’ - the position was offered but the candidate declined (for personal reasons).

So, what happens next? Sam Angima (Associate Dean – Extension, OSU College of Agricultural Sciences) is rebuilding the search committee. The committee will include Master Gardeners along with program staff and others. The plan is to move forward as soon as possible. The process will restart with the position being reposted, an application window, and the interview process. There will be opportunities to engage with the new set of candidates. We don’t have a timeline just yet but will communicate as we move forward.

Silent Auction Items

Central Oregon’s donations averaged 62% of retail value, which is the typical average that we expect. We usually expect to see 63% of retail value. This statistic has held true over the years. Your yard art was very popular. The numbers columns show retail value, winning bid, bidder number, and percentage of the bid versus the retail value.



“Miniature” Radish.

They grow them big at HHCG

OSU Demo Garden

Thank you to all who have been coming to work in the Demo Garden. It has been fun and the work is getting done fast.

The next workday is August 15.

Hope to see you there.

Master Gardener Advanced Training Opportunities and Upcoming COMGA Activities

If you're looking for available opportunities to get in your 10 hours minimum of advanced training/continuing education to remain certified or to further your knowledge of this fascinating and boundless subject matter, listed below are some options to consider. Also listed are upcoming COMGA activities that you can put on your calendar. Dates are subject to change. This will be updated monthly.

- OSU Extension has the 2021 and 2022 Level Up Series presentations available to view at your convenience:
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2023>
- These are approved for advanced training and most are about an hour in length. Click the buttons on the lefthand side of the page and you'll be able to see the list of presentations for 2021 and 2022. You can register for 2023 classes and take part as they occur, or go in later to view them. The next class is August 8 entitled Savoring Summer: Safely Preserving Your Harvest.
- Field Trip to see conversions of lawn landscaping to water-wise landscaping at the homes of Master Gardeners Lisa Nakadate and Lisa Kieraldo in Bend's Northwest Crossing neighborhood. August 22, 2023 at 10:00 am. More information to follow. Not for advanced training hours.
- COMGA Summer Picnic at Kris Knoernschild's home on Thursday, August 24. More information to follow. Not for advanced training hours.
- Tour of US Forest Service Seed Extractory facility in Bend in September/October. Date and time to be determined. USFS won't schedule a date until after roadwork in the area is completed.
- COMGA quarterly membership meeting and MG Fruit & Vegetable contest Sept. 7 after the COMGA Board meeting. More information to follow soon so you can be thinking about what produce to enter. Not for advanced training hours.
- COMGA annual membership meeting on October 5 following COMGA board meeting; election of officers and

board members for 2024 and 2024 budget vote. Not for advanced training hours. More information to follow.

Tim Schindele VP Master Gardener Education

Problem Insects

by Nancy Glick

I think of insects like the relatives who come to Thanksgiving dinner. Some are welcome guests and some are annoying pests. But, like our relatives, if we look carefully, we often find that they play a larger role in our natural world.

In August, we avoid mosquitoes and wasps in the yard. We see earwigs eating our corn and hornworms destroying our tomato plants. But, like that mooching relative, they can be a great asset. Hornworms are a bird's favorite food, full of protein and the mosquitoes nourish birds and bats. Earwigs eat corn but also the aphids on so many plants. And those pesky wasps are one of the pollinators we need to produce our food and flowers.

So, what is a Problem Insect? If we look at the plants in our August garden, what will we see?

The fading lupines seem almost alive with thousands of small green insects – APHIDS! They're sitting so close together, I can't even see the stem! What can I do?

If my grandson was near, I would ask his help squishing them – a very satisfying method of destroying the insect trying to ruin my pretty garden. Or I might buy some lady bugs or praying mantids to enjoy a very nice feast. While I'm waiting for my grandson or my praying mantids to arrive, I'll use the garden hose to blast the aphids off the plant. Once they're on the soil, the local predator insects like the earwigs will eat many of them.

Across the yard, the lilac bushes look like someone has used a paper punch to make a pattern around the edge of each leaf. I know that leaf cutter bees will use leaves like this to make nests but this doesn't look like their neat spiral circles in the middle of the leaf. This is definitely a paper punch!

But I know that my plants actually have root weevil. Adult Root weevil damage is aesthetic and doesn't seriously impair a plant's health. But you may not like the disfiguring look. Root weevils can be active as early as April but generally they emerge in June or July and some of the weevils will remain until November. Control measures are best directed at the adults before they lay eggs 3 to 4 weeks after emerging. Once the adults are first noticed, the gardener has about three weeks to take action.

On a warm evening, check your plants with a flashlight. If you see any weevils, lay a white cloth beneath the plant and shake the stems. The root weevils will drop onto the fabric and you can then dunk them into a bucket of soapy water.

Continued on page 9

Mariposa Lily

by Judy Shearer

Mariposa lilies are only found in Western North America and Central America. There are 18 species of mariposa lilies in Oregon and we found 2 of them at Hollinshead Park last July. Cascades or subalpine mariposa, *Calochortus subalpinus*, and sagebrush mariposa, *Calochortus macrocarpus*, are summer flowering species in our area. I am only going to concentrate on *C. subalpinus* because I have already written about *C. macrocarpus* for the Hoedown a few years ago. Cascades mariposa is a perennial herb with an unbranched stem up to 15" tall arising from a bulb. The flat basal leaves are grasslike and equal the stem in length. The inflorescence is cup shaped with 3 sepals and 3 petals. The petals are obovate, white to yellowish cream. The inner surface is hairy throughout (see photos below), the white hairs grading into yellow hairs near the nectary. The fruits are 3 winged nodding capsules. All the bulbs in the genus are edible and were regularly harvested by Native Americans. It is pollinated by various insects including bees, wasps, flies, and beetles.



Photos by Samantha Shearer

References

Fagan D. 2019. Wildflowers of Oregon. Falcon Guides, Guilford, Connecticut.
 Meyers, S.C., T. Jaster, K.E. Mitchell & L.K. Hardison. 2015. Flora of Oregon, Volume 1: Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, and Monocots. Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.
 Turner, M., and P. Gustafson. 2006. Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest. Timber Press Field Guide, Portland, Oregon.

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

August 3, 2023

The meeting was held in person at the home of Jan Even

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Schindele, VP Master Gardener Education; Cheryl Hinerman, VP Community Education; Marilyn Clark, Treasurer; Tammara Waterman, Secretary; Rocky Bessette, Communications Liaison; Karen Simonet, OMGA Representative; Kris Knoernschild, Historian, Past President, Nancy Glick, Jan Even, Lisa Cowen, Lea Dahlen, Toni Stephan, Liz Leeburg, Patty DeGaetano, Mike Reed, Bonnie O'Hern, Pat Kolling, Joan Sciacca, JoAnne Abbott, Carolyn Fauerso, Shawna Larson, Toni Stephan, Phil Paterno.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. The board discussed the following:

The minutes of the meeting held June 1, 2023, were approved, upon motion by Rocky B. and seconded by Nancy G.

The minutes of the meeting held July 6, 2023, were approved, upon motion by Nancy G. and seconded by Marilyn C.

OSU Report:

Lisa C. reported that the OMGA mini conference covered a lot of great information and recommends it for next year.

BOARD REPORTS:

Presidents Report: Tim S., standing in for Janet D., reported that there are openings to be filled on next year's board for the position of Historian and Alternate COMGA Representative. The annual membership meeting and vote will be held October 6, following the COMGA board meeting. Anyone interested in applying for board positions can contact the person currently holding that position or any other board member.

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn C. reported on July income and expenses.

It's a simple month. Highlights include:

Income - \$737.00 (so far) for Tee shirts, sweatshirts, and hats. Rocky still has more coming.

Expenses - \$292.95 for Tech Soup (\$274.95 for annual Zoom 500 webinar, and \$18 for Tech Soup annual maintenance.

The only PayPal transaction was to transfer money to our First Interstate Checking account. There were no other transactions.

Marilyn requested budget committee volunteers. Rocky B., Patty D., Bonnie O. and Cher H. volunteered to work with Marilyn on the committee. Continued on page 6

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD Continued

MG Advanced Training: Tim S. reported on advanced training opportunities and upcoming COMGA activities.

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2023 These are approved for advanced training, and most are about an hour in length. Click the buttons on the left-hand side of the page and you'll be able to see the list of presentations for 2021 and 2022. You can register for 2023 classes and take part as they occur or go in later to view them. The next class is August 8 entitled Savoring Summer: Safely Preserving Your Harvest.

2. Field Trip to see conversions of lawn landscaping to water-wise landscaping at the homes of Master Gardeners Lisa Nakadate and Lisa Kieraldo in Bend's Northwest Crossing neighborhood. August 22, 2023, at 10:00 am. More information will be sent by email next week. This is not for continuing education credit.

3. COMGA Summer Picnic at Kris Knoernschild's home on Thursday, August 24 at 5pm. Invitation and more information to follow.

4. Tour of US Forest Service Seed Extractor facility in Bend in September. Date and time to be determined. USFS won't schedule a date until roadwork in the area is completed.

5. Garden Vegetable contest after COMGA board meeting on September 7. More information to follow soon so you can be thinking about what produce to enter.

6. COMGA annual membership meeting on October 5 following COMGA board meeting: election of officers for 2024 and 2024 budget vote. This is not for continuing education credit.

Community Education: Cher H. reported the following:

July 1 was The Garlic Guru class at Discovery Park Community Garden with gardener - teacher Jerry Marcyk. We had 16 attendees filling out 9 Evals with an overall average rating of 5 out of 5. The handout Jerry provided is very informative and the class demonstrated the real skills to success.

The Community Ed work in progress includes being a worker bee supporting the grounds keeping at the Demo Gardens, taking a shift at the High Desert Garden Tour,

and doing Plant Clinic. A small team is developing a Seed Saving Skills Demonstration Class we hope to complete and get approved in time for September. The class is planned to be a 'Bookend' to the Seed Sowing and Transplanting Skills Class we offered in late winter. The Rough Draft Lesson Plan Outline and resource list is complete. We plan a dry run & edit session soon. The team includes Liz Douville, Terri Logan, and Shawna Larson.

Hollinshead will host an Open Garden Day Aug 19th. Our Education plans are in place to have a variety of topics on multiple display tables, a sales table for row cover and soil thermometers, and a Mobile Plant Clinic desk. The gardens look beautiful! Kudos to all the workers!

An Alpenglow Open Garden will be planned as the grounds there continue to develop. There are no plans for an Open Garden Day at the Redmond Demo Garden. The big annual event at Redmond is the June Garden Fair and Plant Sale.

Historian Report: Kris Knoernschild asked that everyone continue to take pictures and please send them to her.

OMGA Representative Report: Karen Simonet reported on the June 2, quarterly meeting.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the search for the Statewide Master Gardener Program Manager. Unfortunately, we had what is called a 'failed search,' as the position was offered but the candidate declined for personal reasons.

So, what happens next? Sam Angima, Associate Dean – Extension, OSU College of Agricultural Sciences, is rebuilding the search committee. The committee will include Master Gardeners along with program staff and others.

The plan is to move forward as soon as possible. The process will restart with the position being reposted, an application window, and the interview process. There will be opportunities to engage with the new set of candidates. We don't have a timeline just yet but will communicate as we move forward.

Central Oregon's silent auction donations averaged 62% of retail value, which is the typical average that we expect. We usually expect to see 63% of retail value.

This statistic has held true over the years. The donated yard art was very popular. Approximately \$600 was raised from donations made by the COMGA.

Communications Report: Rocky requested items for the HoeDown by Friday, Saturday at the very latest.

ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

Continued on page 7

LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD Continued**Vice President Position:**

Nancy G. believes the Vice President for Master Gardener Education job description should be rewritten and will work on this with Tim S.

High Desert Garden Tour:

Toni S. reported that the garden tour had a wonderful turnout. 672 tickets were sold for the event. Post-event surveys were done through Qualtrics. The two biggest complaints included directions to events and parking. Amy Jo would like to have this event in Crook County next year. Please pass on any recommendations for gardens to Amy Jo and Rachel.

Water-wise garden:

Please come visit us during our open garden event on August 19.

Redmond Demo Garden: Karen S. reported:

We have had an amazing number of volunteers this year that have made the season a lot of fun. The fruit trees and flowers are all blooming. Come check us out.

Inventory Committee:

Karen S. and Natalie S. are working on streamlining the inventory process and policy.

Nancy G. will work with them to possibly rewrite the policy. Alpenglow will be receiving new items that will need to be included in their inventory.

Discovery Park:

Amy Jo has offered an 8'x8' previously used shed that is available to be repurposed.

Gary W. has found a company that will move this shed for approximately \$650 and will use the previously approved funds to move and buy paint for the shed.

Rocky B. made a motion to reallocate previously approved funds to pay to move and paint this shed. After a second by Nancy G. the board voted to authorize the reallocation of the \$750 for the shed.

Open Forum:

JoAnne Abbott is looking into getting a bronze plaque for the HHCG and will bring a proposal to the board when she has additional information.

Toni asked to please be on the lookout for Donkey Tail. It is a noxious weed that needs to be eradicated. Do not share or transplant this weed.

Jan E. had a drawing for a shrub she was giving away. Carolyn Fauerso was the lucky winner.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Tammara Waterman

Getting Wild

by Betty Faller

Now that I have your interest, I'd like to share a terrific topic, discussed in detail, from a very informative Level-Up series. The full title is Getting Wild: Using Native Plants to Restore Biodiversity. Some of you may have seen this presentation by Lynn Kunstman but it is available to everyone at this link:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2023>.

The topic was presented on July 11th.

Did you know that there are two types of Keystone Plants? First, there is the host plant that feeds young caterpillars of approximately 90 percent of butterflies and moths. Second, are the plants that feed specialists bees who only eat pollen from specific plants. We all are familiar with the association between the Monarch butterfly and the Milkweed plant. Keystone plants for native bees feed both specialists and generalist bees. Be sure to check out the pdf file under resources that lists keystone plant genera for the top 30 butterfly and moth caterpillar host plants and host plants for pollen for bees.

The above introduction leads to the core of Lynn's presentation which faces the fact that insects are in decline, why we should care and what is driving this massive loss. It's not all negative because we can all support insects no matter where we live.

At this point, Lynn refers to Doug Tallamy's (renown entomologist and wildlife ecologist), challenge to us who says "like it or not, gardeners have become important players in the management of our nations wildlife." Tallamy's new book, Nature's Best Hope, outlines his vision for a grassroots approach to conservation. Based on Tallamy's information and Lynn's position at the Southern Research Station and Extension Center (native plant nursery), the rest of Lynn's presentation covers the 7-steps to achieve conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats.

Because this Power Point presentation is filled with beautiful examples of butterflies and moths, birds, bees, and their habitats, I am simply going to list the 7-steps so you access the link to finish this remarkable story.

- Remove at least half of your lawn
- Remove as much as possible nonnative and invasive plants
- Plant native plants
- Avoid or minimize the use of herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides.
- Build a pollinator garden knowing who uses it
- Leave the leaves
- Turn out the lights

I encourage each of you to watch this July 11th 2023 Level-up series. No matter if your garden is on multiple acres or simply plants on your patio, all gardeners can become part of nature's best hope.



Wild thing,
I think you
moo me.

Late Season Tomato Care

by Chris Miao

We have had great tomato growing weather so far this summer and now it's time to help your tomato plants ripen all that fruit. Your objective so far in the season has been to get your tomato plants to set fruit. As the late part of the season approaches, your objective changes to protecting the tomatoes already set and encouraging the fruit to ripen. Generally this shift occurs about mid-August but as always it depends on what the season is like in Central Oregon. So be flexible.

We can usually expect hot weather into September and often even in October. That means that you have to continue to deeply water your tomatoes as you have all season. The organic mulch you applied earlier will still serve you well in keeping your tomato plant's roots evenly moist. This will prevent some growth problems and provide enough water to support ripening. As the average high temperatures begin to drop in September gradually reduce the amount of water you are putting on your plants.

Even though it is still warm, mid to late August is the time to stop fertilizing so your plant will stop setting blooms and devote its energy to maturing the fruit.

If you haven't been pruning your tomatoes during the summer, now is a good time to prune. Clip off any branches that are shaded and don't have any blossoms on them. Also pinch out the side shoots that grow in the "V" between the main stem and the leaf stem all the way up to the top of the plant.

In mid to late August, nip off the main stem above the top of the highest flower cluster. This will stop the production of new blossoms and the plant can focus on ripening existing fruit.

You may see some problems with the tomatoes as they grow to full size. Fruit cracking and blossom end rot are due to inconsistent watering practices during the season so there isn't anything you can do about that now. Except learn a lesson for next year.

Catfacing, which is misshaped fruit, is often common here. It is caused by cold weather at the time of blossom set, so once again you can't fix that now.

One thing you can do something about during the mid and latter part of the season is an infestation of the tomato hornworm. These are those big, fat, ugly green worms up to about 5" long with diagonal white stripes and a black horn on the rear. They suddenly appear on your plants and can denude it in a matter of hours. So keep a close watch and pick them off as soon as you can. Don't be squeamish – get your gloves on, pull the worms off and squish those buggers.

Finally, be prepared to protect your plants from mid August until the end of the season. We typically have

warm days and cool to cold nights and you need to keep your plants as warm as possible. Plant protection will enable you to keep tomatoes ripening on the vine into October so it is well worth the effort.

You want to have all your tomatoes picked, including the green ones, before they get any frost damage. We'll have a talk in September on what to do with all those green tomatoes that didn't have a chance to ripen, so don't despair about missing part of your crop.



Photo from the August board meeting at Jan Even's home by Kris Knoernschild



Photo submitted by Patsy Kestmer

Look for your
emailed invitation to our
annual COMGA picnic coming
up on August 24th!

Please RSVP by August 20th.

Can We Save Oregon?

by Toni Stephan

Euphorbia myrsinites, Myrtle Spurge aka Donkey Tail, Graveyard Grass and other names is showing up more and more in Central Oregon. When I first started working at Eagle Crest Resort in 2000, this plant was in just a few places on some common areas. Now it is spread throughout the resort, in common areas, on private home sites and even in some of the natural areas. I hate to admit that I am part of the reason this plant spread. As part of the landscape maintenance crew, I and many others told folks it was fine to take a piece of the plant and add it to their own landscape. Oh, how wrong we were! Now, years later we are learning just how bad a plant this really is. Not only is it bad on an environmental and conservation aspect but it has a latex sap that can create significant pain and injury if handled incorrectly.

Read this for a real glimpse of what can happen to natural areas with this weed.

<https://nhmu.utah.edu/articles/2023/05/curious-case-myrtle-spurge>

Amy Jo did an interview on Myrtle Spurge and some of the negatives to this plant on May 18, 2023

<https://ktvz.com/news/deschutes-county/2023/05/18/invasive-noxious-weed-popping-up-in-c-oregon-gardens-prompts-warning-handle-myrtle-spurge-with-caution/>

Myrtle Spurge is banned from being sold in Oregon and is on the Deschutes County Noxious Weed B list.

Here is a list of plants that could be planted in place of this invasive and potentially dangerous plant.

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/1/landscapingwithnatives.pdf>

I would also suggest Hairy Golden Aster, *Heterotheca villosa*, as a native plant substitute. It is low growing, grows with little to no water, has a yellow daisy flower which blooms most of the summer and gently reseeds.

Bottom line, if you have this plant don't share it, in fact, strongly think about the consequences it will create and get rid of it. Do we need another Scotch Broom or Cheatgrass problem? If you don't have it, don't accept it from anyone. Perhaps you might share the negative impacts this plant will have on our environment with the person doing the sharing instead. Maybe they will get rid of their *Euphorbia myrsinites* and that will be one less patch to spread its seed or be shared with others.

Physical control: small infestations can be controlled by digging up at least 4" of the root. Be careful not to get the milky sap on your skin as it will cause blistering. Best time to dig it is in the spring when the soil is moist prior to seed production. Dispose of all plant parts in the garbage not the compost pile. Put in plastic bag and tie it closed.

Chemical control: Can be effectively controlled with products containing 2,4-D and dicamba (i.e. Weed B Gon) applied in late fall.

There is currently no known biological control.



Myrtle Spurge, aka donkey tail, graveyard grass



Heterotheca villosa

Problem Insects, continued

If you suspect root damage, dig down 1/2 inch around the trunk. If you see girdling of the stem with a sawdusty look, apply beneficial nematodes, a safe biological control. These nematodes are microscopic worms that inject bacteria into the larvae which kills most insects quickly. They need moist, warm soil so apply the nematodes according to the label directions. They're sensitive to ultra-violet light, so treatment is done at dawn or after sunset.

Neem, a botanical pesticide, will also control root weevil larvae. Treatment can begin in April or May and the warmer the temperatures, the more effective it will be.

Prevent adult root weevil damage by applying sticky barriers to the trunks of susceptible plants. If a sticky 3" band of Tanglefoot or Stick-Em is present, root weevils become trapped and will not cross the barrier. Sticky barriers should be checked twice monthly and removed before winter.

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, rockyb820@gmail.com