

March 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



What fills you with awe? I was recently asked this question. I was reminded of backpacking in the High Sierras ten years ago. It was after a particular rainy season and the mosquitoes were huge, hungry and plentiful. We hiked along a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail where the wildflowers were higher than my six-foot tall husband. Enfolded in thick green stems bearing flowers of yellow, pink, purple, red and blue, we could barely see the trail. We heard the bees buzzing and the fresh snowmelt trickling through streams.

What also fills me with awe? Springtime when our plants burst forth from winter. I left eighteen inches of growth for the insects this year, the dried stems and flowers giving contrast to the blanket of snow. Starting in March, I peek at each plant to see if green is emerging. Not yet. But I know it's coming and it will fill me with awe.

The daffodils were in full bloom as I left Raleigh, NC in late February. My six-year-old grandson was more impressed with the dandelions. We had collected them on a visit last summer, so he was happy to see them re-emerge. But for me, it's always the daffodils.

What fills you with awe?

Janet Dart, President

### PLANT OF THE MONTH

by Lisa Nakadate and Julie Hill

#### Featured Plant - Dwarf Mugo Pine

*Pinus mugo*  
'Pumillo'



Height: 3 - 5'  
Spread: 6 - 10'

#### Why Should I Plant Dwarf Mugo Pine in My Garden?

It is a popular dwarf conifer displaying dark green needles on dense branches.

It is often grown for its beautiful foliage.

A very useful, slow growing evergreen for rock gardens, mass plantings, and in mixed groupings with broadleaf plants.

Makes a great container specimen.

Bird friendly and year-round interest.

#### Information Sources

North Carolina State Extension: <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/pinus-mugo-var-pumilio/>  
Monrovia: <https://www.monrovia.com/plant-catalog/plants/1975/dwarf-mugo-pine/>

## COMGA Calendar

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

### March

- 1 Hollinshead Garden lottery opens
- 2 Board meeting, 10:00 am
- 4 Seed Sowing &\* Transplanting class, 10:00am
- 6 Training for Zoom hosting, 3:00pm
- 11 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 11 Growing Vegetables class, Prineville 10:00am
- 11 Growing Vegetables class, Redmond 2:00pm
- 14 MG Training class, 10:00am
- 18 Growing Vegetable class, 10:00am
- 21 MG Training class, 10:00am
- 23 Discovery Park Mentor meeting
- 25 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 25 Growing Vegetables class, 10:00am
- 26 Discovery Park Returning gardeners
- 31 Hollinshead Garden Lottery closes

### April

- 1 Spring Seminar webinar, 10:00am
- 1 Spring Seminar webinar, 1:00pm
- 1 Discovery Park Lottery closes
- 4 OSU Extension Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
- 8 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 8 Spring Seminar class, 10:00am
- 8 Spring Seminar class, 1:00pm
- 12 Discovery Park Volunteer workday, 6:00pm
- 15 Discovery Park Community Garden opens
- 15 Spring Seminar class, 10:00am
- 15 Spring Seminar class, 1:00pm
- 16 Hollinshead Garden Opens
- 18 OSU Extension Demo garden workday, 9:00am
- 22 Discovery Park Volunteer workday, 6:00pm
- 22 Spring Seminar class, 10:00am
- 22 Spring Seminar class, 1:00pm
- 29 Growing Vegetables class, 10:00am

### May

- 2 OSU Extension Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
- 13 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon
- 16 OSU Extension Demo Garden workday, 9:00am
- 18 Discovery Park CG Volunteer workday, 6:00pm
- 27 Blog: Gardening in Central Oregon



## Discovery Park Community Garden 2023 Information

**About the Garden:** • Discovery Park Community Garden (DPCG) (formerly known as NorthWest Crossing Community Garden) is located on Discovery Park Drive near the dog park on the north side of Discovery Park in Bend. The Garden is located on property owned by Bend Park & Recreation District, and is managed by OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers. • The cost of a raised bed for the season is \$35. • Each 4' x 10' raised bed is equipped with micro sprayers for irrigation. The automatic watering system is centrally adjusted during the season to compensate for weather and the watering needs of garden plants. • OSU Master Gardener Volunteers are available to be a gardening resource and to assist gardeners. Gardening classes are held throughout the growing season. See the [COMGA](#) or [OSU/Deschutes County Extension website](#) for information and the schedule for 2023.

**About Getting a Garden Plot at Discovery Park Community Garden:** Renting an available garden bed at DPCG will be done by lottery. All wishing to participate in the lottery must register by email to:

[discovery@gocomga.com](mailto:discovery@gocomga.com). Please provide your full name, phone number and email address, and type "DPCG" in the subject line of the email. Returning gardeners in good standing will keep the plots they rented the previous year

**LOTTERY opens March 1st and closes April 1st** The lottery drawing will be held on April 3rd and winners will be notified via email. Lottery winners will receive their raised bed assignment with the completion of registration. • Remaining lottery applicants will be placed on a waiting list and notified by email of their status on the list.

**DPCG Registration Process for 2023 and Gardening Opening on April 15th** Registration will be available on-line approximately 1 week before the garden opens. • Gardeners will register and pay the rental fee of \$35. • Payment may be made on-line (link to be provided during registration) or by mailed check.

**DPCG CLOSING DAY: Sunday, OCTOBER 15, 2022** This will be the last day to work in the garden before it is closed for the season \*Garden operations protocols for 2023 have not been finalized as of this writing (Feb 20). It is possible the above listed calendar dates may be modified. Please check back at <http://www.gocomga.com/gardening-news> for the most up to date information about community garden operations.

Contact: Gary Weber [discovery@gocomga.com](mailto:discovery@gocomga.com)



## Master Gardener Advanced Training Opportunities – March 2023

By Tim Schindele

If you're looking for available opportunities to get in your 10 hours minimum of advanced training/continuing education to remain certified, listed below are options to consider. The list 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 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 events and take part as they occur, or go in later to view them. The next live Level Up program is on March 14:

### [Put It to the Test: Improving Garden Fertility with Soil Analysis, Soil Regions, and Microclimates](#)

A COMGA general membership meeting is scheduled for March 30 from 11 to 1:30 in the Building 3 classroom. The purpose of the meeting is to watch together the Level Up recording *Adapting Your Garden and Landscape for Climate Change* (2021 series). Following the recording there will be discussion. We'll also have time for project updates and other news of interest to Master Gardeners. Trainees are welcome and encouraged to attend. This will be a pot luck lunch so bring something to share. COMGA will provide coffee, tea, cocoa and sodas. An email will be sent about this when we get closer to the date.

All on-line modules designated for the new MG training class are available for you to view for credit. With the last class for new MG Trainees on March 21, all nine modules will have been released for viewing. Modules are: Soils, Botany Basics, Pesticide Safety, Integrated Pest Management, Lawn Care, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Native Plants, Using ECCO, and Plant Identification. You need access to Canvas to view these modules. See the instructions sent by Rachel Humpert for Amy Jo and Lisa in an email on January 18 which had the subject line "OSU Master Gardener Recertification Requirements for 2023." Call Lisa or Rachel at the Extension office for help. Hours of credit vary.

There's lots of time to register for Spring Seminar classes, which begin on April 1. All 8 classes count for continuing education credit hours. You can view recordings of any of the classes later, if you register and pay the fees. Go to the COMGA website, scroll to the bottom of the Home page and find the class registration link. The cost is \$5.00 per class.

## Beaver Day of Giving.

To show my support and love for the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program, my husband and I have decided to put forth a challenge gift of \$1,000, as part of the 2023 Beaver Day of Giving, April 26, 2023. I have also invited a few other folks to join me in supporting the MG Program with a challenge gift, and am happy to say that Sue Nesbitt will be joining me with another challenge gift of \$1,000. Because 2023 is the 50th anniversary of the MG Program in the United States, we have talked about having our gifts kick in when 50 donors give \$50 or more, but we haven't settled on anything specific. I have also asked the OMGA to consider joining me with a \$500 or \$1,000 challenge gift, and hope that you might consider this ask at Friday's meeting. If you are personally interested in providing a challenge gift for the 2023 Beaver Day of Giving, I invite you to reach out to me as soon as possible. Challenge gifts need to be finalized by March 9th, in order to go live for the Beaver Day of Giving. We are also looking for Beaver Day of Giving Ambassadors. These are folks who can help spread the word about the Beaver Day of Giving, via social media. If you manage a MG social media account, or if you wanted to share the word as an individual Master Gardener volunteer, please reach out to me. I can share information about the challenge gifts, and/or the ambassadors. (As a reminder, gail.langello@oregonstate.edu). Even if you are not interested in putting forth a challenge gift or serving as an ambassador, I hope that you might consider a gift in support of the Master Gardener Program, on the Day of Giving. Your gift will be put to great use, supporting OSU's ability to provide gardening advice, supports, and education to gardeners across the state. Gifts can be made for as little as \$5.

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## Hollinshead Water-wise Garden

by Pat Kolling

The days are getting longer and we are looking forward to getting back in the Hollinshead Water-wise Garden. We have held one Zoom planning meeting with the team, and have another scheduled on Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. We will be beginning our work day schedule now– the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Depending on the weather, we're hoping to get into the garden by the end of March to assess what needs to be done. There are many end of winter, early spring tasks to perform as well as clean up from a long winter. Many of our long time volunteers are returning, as well as newly certified master gardeners. We have a group of new trainees who approached us at the Project Fair, and are interested in volunteering in the garden. We're excited to get to know these new volunteers and to have them be a part of the team. We will be partnering with the City of Bend for the third annual "Field Day" June 4<sup>th</sup>. We are also discussing our community education offerings for the season – more to come on that. If you're interested in volunteering at the water-wise garden, contact either Pat Kolling or Chris Miao. There's lots happening in our now mature garden!



**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](mailto:rockyb820@gmail.com)

## Dogbane

by Judy Shearer

Dogbane is a plant that lives up to its name because it is toxic to humans and dogs while still being a beautiful shrub that has desirable qualities. Spreading dogbane as its name implies is a plant that spreads from underground rhizomes. *Apocynum androsaemifolium* is a member of the Dogbane family, Apocynaceae. Its upright stems are red in color and when broken contain a milky sticky sap. The opposite dark green leaves are oval with rounded tips and lighter undersides. The flowers are found in terminal clusters arranged in cymes containing small white to light pink bell shaped corollas that have distinctive pink striped interiors (see picture below). The calyx is light green with 5 teeth. Five stamens and 2 pistils complete the flower, the stamens forming a cone over the merged stigmas of the pistils. The blooming period occurs during summer for 1-2 months. There is a sweet floral fragrance to the flowers that you can detect by just walking by. The shrub prefers partial sun and somewhat barren rocky or sandy soil. It also tends to be common in areas burned by wildfires. The flowers are pollinated by small bees and flies. Other insects feed on the foliage and plant juices including moths and butterflies among them monarchs. The milky sap contains cardiac glycosides that are toxic to humans. The roots contain the cardiac stimulant, cymarin. These toxins prevent grazing by animals. Native Americans used tough root fibers to make thread and cord. Dogbane is found throughout the state and over much of North America.



Photograph by Samantha Shearer

### References

Fagan, D. 2019. Wildflowers of Oregon. Falcon Guides, Guilford, Connecticut.  
 Turner, M, and P Gustafson. 2006. Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest. Timber Press Field Guide, Portland Oregon.  
 Oregon Wildflower App.  
 U.S. Forest Service Web site: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/apocynum\\_androsaemifolium.shtml](https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/apocynum_androsaemifolium.shtml)

## LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD

March 2, 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom and in-person.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Janet Dart, President; 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; Deborah Goodall, Membership; Nancy Glick, Past President; Lisa Cowen, Jan Even, Pat Kolling, Chris Miao, Amy Jo Detweiler. Toni Stephan

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. The board discussed the following:

**The minutes** of the meeting held February 2, 2022, were approved, upon motion by Deb Goodall and seconded by Kris Knoernschild this motion was passed by the board.

**OSU Report:** Amy Jo reported that local MG training has 2 weeks left.

Survey is going out today to recertified volunteers regarding plant clinic operations. This is for recertified volunteers only, not for trainees.

Amy Jo is currently scheduling meetings with project coordinators.

Requests for speakers coming in from organizations within the community. Amy Jo will be going to an online request system. Working to create prepared presentations that can be used for these requests from the community. Kris Knoernschild volunteered to do a class for native plants. Since we have so many requests coming in, we may need to take requests for a certain number and then schedule the overflow for next year.

Amy Jo is working on improvements to ECCO. She may need to find a way to fund improves [improvements](#) to ECCO in the future. Considering options for funding, including request for subscription from counties that are using ECCO.

### BOARD REPORTS:

**President's Report:** Janet D asked if we would like to return to having summer board meetings at member homes. After a discussion, it was decided that summer board meetings would be held in the evening with a potluck.

Project Fair preparation needs to start in January next year. Vicki M. has done presentation in the past. There was a discussion about what slide show or PowerPoint could be used. Was decided this could be decided next January when preparing for the Project Fair.

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**LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD** Continued

Janet D. prepared an advocacy letter from the board as a group, and this was approved by all. Pat K. reported 50 advocacy letters were sent from individuals. A request will be put in the HoeDown again, requesting letters from members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marilyn C. requested a vote to reinvest funds from a CD that is currently at First Interstate Bank. Motion made by Marilyn C. to initiate a new 13 month CD at First Interstate for \$6000 to earn 3.5%. After a second by Tim S. the motion was passed by the board.

Income for the month includes contributions of \$75.98 (Fred Meyer-\$49, Amazon smiles-\$15, Renee's Garden Seeds-\$9 and Stephen Wainwright-\$3.) Most notable are the early sales of Row Cover \$450 and Soil thermometers \$200 following the Seed Sowing and Transplanting seminars. Spring seminar sponsorships include Whistle Stop Farms, Empire Stone and Instant Landscaping, and early class registrations of \$390, even though it was only made available Feb 24<sup>th</sup>.

Notable expenses included \$197 for Sisters School District to rent a lecture room for March 25<sup>th</sup> class, and \$152 for Pamplin Media ads for Prineville and Madras veggie classes. Tech committee \$120 is for the DigiSigner license.

Year-end financial report submitted to OMGA.

Janet D., Tammara W. and Marilyn C. to sign bank documents transferring signatory to them on Monday.

**Membership Report:** Deb G. Thank you to people who made donation to the trainee breakfast.

Sixty-seven members have enrolled and paid this year. At this time last year there were 55 members.

Deb G. is reviewing the Skills Assessment questionnaires and will discuss next month. A discussion was had about using Survey Monkey to do the surveys in the future.

**MG Advanced Training:** Tim S. proposed a quarterly meeting March 30 that includes an advanced training for members. He proposed a potluck and a viewing of the level up training, Adapting your Garden and Landscape for Climate Change, with discussion to follow. It was decided that the meeting would be on March 30 and would be a potluck/brownbag lunch. Tim S. will send notification to Rocky for the HoeDown. In the future, consider doing the quarterly meeting after a demo-garden day.

Community Education: Cher H. reported that classes have started, and the first three are done. There were a large number of people on the wait lists. Next year we will need to plan for larger rooms. New teacher aids are being trained now to help spread out the teaching workload. There were a few issues with the EventBrite

registration, but these have been resolved. Next year we will be able to do some of the classes via Zoom as well.

Soil thermometer and row cover demonstration increased sales of both.

Evaluations done by class participants and a summary will be prepared. Use Survey Monkey in the future to do surveys.

Social media has been very useful in getting the word out to the public.

Online classes will be offered to the waitlist. It's easy to pull information from EventBrite to send email notifications to registrants. Janet D. to look into how many people can be and how to accommodate participants on Zoom.

**Historian Report:** Kris K. is getting pictures and creating sheets with pictures of the new trainees.

**OMGA Representative Report:** Karen S. reported there is a quarterly OMGA meeting March 3.

At the next Joy of Gardening Mini-college, July 7-8, OMGA will be presenting awards for 20 years of service. Please consider attending if you have 20 years of service.

OMGA will be sending MG discount membership cards to presidents for disbursement to membership who have paid and are in good standing. Twenty cards were requested by Janet D. for COMGA.

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

**ACTION/INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**Logo Update:** Jan Even discussed updates to COMGA logo. Original logo and updates done by Kate Miller, who donated her time to do this for COMGA. Kate M. created an additional new logo to be square rather than rectangular, allowing for easier use on shirts and other projects. The new logo, along with an instruction document for usage, will be placed in the library on the shared server.

**Soil thermometers:** Last years supply and newly ordered thermometers are almost gone. A discussion was had regarding how many additional thermometers should be ordered to get the discount and meet the demand that has increased. Kris K motioned to approve another \$600 to purchase 200 thermometers at \$2.95 each. After a second by Cher H the motion was passed by the board.

Marilyn C. suggested selling thermometers and row cover at the Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson County fair. Amy Jo said it would be reasonable to have representation from M.G.s for one day at each of the county fairs. Amy Jo to meet with the fair committee this week and will discuss M.G. involvement.

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**LOWDOWN FROM THE BOARD** Continued

**Discovery Park Update:** Gary Weber, as current Project Coordinator, will be transitioning out of the role during this gardening season.

Currently there hasn't been a straight-up replacement identified for the role, however, Nancy Glick has volunteered to handle the lottery and registration process.

Also, Ed Rinker (2022), who volunteered at the garden last year, has volunteered to take on a larger role this year.

Long time M.G. garden volunteers, Becky McKee and Lisa Kieraldo will continue to volunteer. They also have garden plots, which facilitates that.

2022 Trainees, Mary Biehn and Owyhee Weikel-Magden have indicated their interest in volunteering.

18 Trainees signed up at the Project Fair creating a good-sized volunteer pool.

Gary W. will continue to have a raised bed and will volunteer at a lesser level in the future, not including transition activities this year.

Gary W. will continue to coordinate activities among volunteers with a goal of shifting responsibilities to them.

Hopes are that a Project Coordinator, or very workably, Project Coordinators with an "S", can be IDed this season.

**Open Forum:**

Janet D. reported we are donating 5 sets of tickets for Spring Seminar to the Morning Star School basket silent auction. Tim S. has a contribution for the basket as well.

Janet D. reported Curt has ordered 2 sections of 60 feet by 1000 feet of row cover. Should be here within a couple of weeks.

Nancy G., Marilyn C. and Tim S. to work together on the Policies and Procedures for scholarships and will bring them to the board next month for approval.

Nancy G. discussed the Beaver Day of Giving, April 26. Gail L. sent email with challenge gift of \$1000. Gail L. suggested 50 people give \$50, as well as donations from each MG chapter in Oregon. She is also looking for Day of Giving ambassadors and would like it posted to social media. Your gift will be put to great use, supporting OSU's ability to provide gardening advice, supports, and education to gardeners across the state. Gifts can be made for as little as \$5.

Email [gail.langello@oregonstate.edu](mailto:gail.langello@oregonstate.edu)

Amy Jo presented that she is exploring another volunteer reporting system, Volgistics, that would allow for volunteer opportunities and reporting to be in one application. This change will take place in March.

**To Be discussed in April:**

E&O Insurance

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Tammara Waterman

**Advocacy Task Force Update**

March 2023



COMGA members have sent 50 letters to their legislators during the month of February – great job!! If you haven't contacted your representatives yet there is still time to do your part! Every letter helps build support.

We will send out another email to all members with an updated letter for you to use. The letter includes the bill number -SB 458- that has been assigned to the OSU budget request. The email will also include some talking points if you want to contact your legislator by phone. Remember you can ask family and friends to also send letters. Just adapt the personalized section to reflect their relationship to the MG program or how they have benefitted from the program. The Senate Education Committee held a public meeting on March 2 and SB 458 was on the agenda. The Ways and Means Committee will also be meeting soon and we may be asked to send letters to them. We will keep you informed as this progresses. Thank you again to all who sent letters – you can make a difference!

## Potatoes on St. Patrick's Day

by Kris Knoernschild

Today is a day to celebrate Irish heritage. Even if you don't have Irish blood in your veins, you probably know about the dark days in the mid-1800's in Ireland. The Irish Potato Famine was caused by a fungus, *Phytophthora infestans*. The potato crops in Ireland were devastated since they were made up of one susceptible type, the Irish Lumper. Thankfully, now we have much better research to help us avoid potato problems.

Here in Central Oregon we are fortunate to be able to grow wonderful potatoes – and pretty easily, too. Even Eagle Crest Resort used to be a potato farm. In the home garden, potatoes emerge quickly and grow rapidly. You can get a large crop under most soil and growing conditions and potatoes can be stored for long periods without canning, drying, or freezing.

So here's how to get started growing your own potatoes. Selecting the proper variety is important. There are white, red, or russet kinds plus gourmet varieties that come in many colors and tuber shapes. So choose a few types to plant so you can see which you like best.

Look at maturity dates of different varieties. Early-maturing varieties are a better choice for "new" potatoes, but late-maturing varieties store better because they resist sprouting and shriveling in storage. Descriptions of many potato varieties, and ones best suited to Central Oregon, are listed below.

Potatoes do best on fertile, well drained loamy or sandy soils but can be grown in virtually any soil. Use a location where you can add soil around the plants as they grow. "Hilling" around the base of the plants keeps the tubers out of sunlight, so they don't turn green. The chlorophyll that causes the green color is not poisonous, but solanine increases with chlorophyll. If you ate an enormous amount of green potatoes the solanine in it could be harmful to you.

In Central Oregon it's best to plant seed potatoes from late April through May.

Work the soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches before planting. The seedbed doesn't have to be perfectly smooth, like with small seeded crops. And don't overdo turning the soil. That can cause the soil to seal over, and suffocate your growing potatoes.

Fertilizers normally are applied at planting or shortly before. It's really helpful to do a soil test first to see how much is needed. Never place fertilizer on or directly above the seed pieces; the fertilizer salt can damage or kill the developing roots and shoots. Lots of undecayed organic matter can promote scab on some potato varieties. So don't use uncomposted manure. Scab doesn't affect eating quality or storability but the skin lesions don't look good.

Whenever possible, plant only certified seed potatoes. Most garden centers stock certified seed of several common varieties, but you might have to get gourmet potatoes by mail-order.

Cut large seed tubers into several pieces. The ideal seed piece is blocky in shape, has as few cut surfaces as possible and has two or more "eyes" or buds.

Plant in warm, moist soil immediately after cutting if possible. Space rows about 3 feet apart for easy cultivation and hilling. Space seed pieces 10 to 12 inches apart in furrows and cover with about 4 inches of soil.

So good luck with planting your potato crop this year.

### Potato Varieties Good for Central Oregon

(red) Red Pontiac, Norland, Red La Soda, Cranberry Red.

(white) Russet Burbank, Superior, Goldrush, Kennebec, Butte.

(yellow) Yellow Finn, Yukon Gold, Bintje, Desiree, Carola

(red skin, yellow flesh) Red Gold

(fingerling) French Fingerling

This website will tell you everything about growing potatoes!

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/sites/default/files/ec1004.pdf>





## Spring Flowering Bulbs

by Nancy Glick

Are you ready for Spring? Are you ready for some bright yellow daffodils, a few cheerful purple crocus, or a brilliant red tulip standing bravely in the cold, early Spring of Central Oregon? Me, too.

If you planted Spring Flowering Bulbs last fall, you might be seeing the tips of leaf buds poking through the soil now. Once the leaves are above ground and the first thaw has begun, it's a good time to put some balanced 10-10-10 fertilizer on the bed. The flowers are ready and waiting inside the bulbs, poised for the first warm sunshine to bloom and that first fertilizer, scratched into the soil around the new growth, will strengthen the stems and help prolong the bloom.

Since our favorite Spring bulbs originated in the deserts of Turkey, they don't mind dry soil – don't water the bulbs unless it's been dry for a month or more. Overwatering will cause the bulbs to rot in the ground and they'll just disappear before next Spring. Deadheading the blooms as they fade will keep everything looking good. Cut a few blooms to enjoy indoors but cutting too many could reduce the bulb's ability to produce blooms next year.

When the blooms are done, don't remove or tie up the leaves until they're no longer green. The leaves are building up reserves in the bulb to produce next year's flower – damage the leaves now and you may not get any bloom! I like to plant annuals around the fading leaves to keep the garden beds looking their best. Some gardeners plant their bulbs around perennials. The bulbs will shine before the perennials are awake and when they begin to grow, the new leaves will hide the fading bulb leaves in late spring and summer.

That's it – all you need to do for the best Spring Bulbs is lightly fertilize and don't overwater. One more application of a balanced fertilizer after the blooms fade and you're done. You can understand why I plant hundreds of bulbs every fall – that's the hardest I have to work for a beautiful display every Spring.

So now that my daffodils, scilla and alliums are blooming, how does my garden look? Hmmm, maybe not as good as it could. Time to get out my camera and my garden journal.

O dear, the allium looks a little skimpy – I must make a note in my journal to divide it this fall. When I planted the daffodils five years ago, that conifer wasn't so big – the flowers are now underneath the branches! The blue scilla is stunning but it would be a better display if I plant some more this fall. The new fence looks really good – wouldn't some red tulips look incredible against the white wood? The little blue muscari are multiplying like crazy – maybe the bulbs would be a great Easter gift if I divide and pot them up. I can tell from my annual digital photos that the daffodil bed is improving but some double bloom daffodils or some white cupped

narcissus would really make the area more spectacular.

There's lots of work to be done next fall!

My notes will also help me know what color, size and bloom time I want and where. Next August and September, I'll have an easy shopping list when it's time to order my bulbs.

A little planning in your early Spring Garden will make your garden the beautiful vision you dreamed of all winter long.

Cornell University "Caring for Bulbs", <http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/sceneceeb.html>

Colorado State University Extension Service "Fall Planted Bulbs and Corms", <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/07410.html>

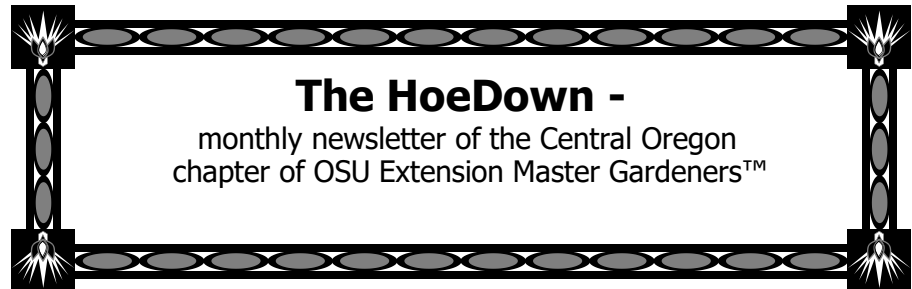
University of Illinois Extension "Bulbs and More – Landscaping with Bulbs", <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/bulbs/landscaping.cfm>



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