



OSU Master Gardeners Association Classes

Tuesday, August 9

Growing Cane Berries

George Tiger, retired Extension Agent
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5/MG free

Basic management practices for cane berries will be discussed including best cultivars for the Rogue Valley, soil preparation, fertilization, irrigation, why and when to trellis, plant growth, and fruiting cycle.

Thursday, August 25

Winter Veggie Gardens

Janet Rodkey, Master Gardener
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5/MG free

What can grow outdoors in winter months? Garden maintenance, seed starting, frost protection, varieties of vegetables and herbs that will grow all winter in our region will be covered. Ornamentals will also be addressed.

Thursday, September 8

Invincible Irises

Marjorie Neal, Master Gardener
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5/MG free

Irises can be the pot of gold in a garden. A brief catalog of the large varied Iris family, followed by a discussion of cultural needs, including division will be presented. Focus will be bearded iris and the varied water-loving iris.

Wednesday and Thursday

September 14 & 15

Beginning Home Winemaking
Linda Donovan, Pallet Wine Co.

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Cost: TBA

Learn to make your own wine. This class will take you through the complete process from harvest to bottle with the goal of learning how to make ten gallons of "drinkable" wine. This is a two-evening class.

Tuesday, September 20

Trees and Shrubs for the Rogue Valley

Christie Mackison,
Shooting Star Nursery

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5/MG free

The Rogue Valley has its own microclimate, differing from the Willamette Valley or California. The most successful trees and shrubs for our climate and how to get them off a good start will be shared.

Wednesday & Thursday

September 28 & 29

Advanced Home Winemaking
Linda Donovan, Pallet Wine Co.

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Cost: TBA

Expand your knowledge of wine chemistry and sensory evaluation by exploring the higher chemistry and microbiology of winemaking. This is a two-evening class. Prerequisite: Beginning Home Winemaking or its equivalent.

Thursday, October 6

Designing a Flower Bed

Bonnie Bayard, Landscape Architect
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5/MG free

Design considerations putting plants together for a pleasing and effective design will be discussed using the *Sunset Western Garden Book*. Bring a copy of the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, if you have one.

Tuesday, October 18

Caring for Fruit Trees in the Rogue Valley

Rick Hilton, OSU Extension Researcher
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5/MG free

Learn to select, maintain and care for fruit trees under our local conditions with proper horticultural techniques, such as pruning, fruit thinning and pest management, emphasized. The Unmanaged Apple and Pear Tree Outreach Program (UAPTOP), addressing issues arising when backyard orchards are in the vicinity of commercial pear orchards, will be discussed.

There is a fee of \$10.00 per Saturday class and a \$5.00 per Weekday class (unless indicated otherwise). Master Gardeners wearing their badges are admitted free (materials fees still apply). The classes are held at the OSU Extension Center located at 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, Oregon. For questions and/or registration, please call 541-776-7371.

To learn more about J.C.M.G.A. go to: <http://extension.orst.edu/sorec/gardening>.

The Master Gardener Program educates local gardeners on the art and science of growing and caring for plants. Trained Master Gardener volunteers extend sustainable gardening information to their communities through educational outreach programs.

MOTH

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want to start building a reputation for being lazy, but the do-nothing strategy is very valid in this case. Aggregations of tiger moth larvae usually feed on a single branch. Your tree can tolerate this minimal damage, as unsightly as it may appear. If you can't tolerate it, go ahead and prune out the infested branch. Make sure you dispose of the branch in a way that avoids re-infestation (in other words, do not lay the pruned branch underneath the tree!). Rarely do silver-spotted tiger moths kill trees but

we have seen pictures this year showing an unnerving amount of damage to small arborvitae hedges.

Silver-spotted tiger moth larvae have a multitude of natural enemies. Many parasitic flies and wasps attack these larvae and their pupae. Small birds, like chickadees and sparrows, love to feast on the easy prey. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (commonly known as *Bt*) is another good natural control for silver-spotted tiger moths.

Remember that caterpillar outside my window I was talking to you about? Well, it's been quite a few days since I first noticed it and it hasn't moved since. It is sitting at the very tip of the new growth of our fir tree fully exposed to its natural enemies and no one has touched it! Upon close inspection, this caterpillar is a black, mushy-gushy, oozy mess because it

is infected by a naturally occurring *Bt*. Caterpillars, when infected by *Bt*, commonly head up to the tips of plants when they first become sick. Why? Because the *Bt* bacteria makes the caterpillar do this. Pretty creepy, huh? I bet you didn't know that not only is *Bt* a good natural product for killing bugs but it is also good at caterpillar mind control. *Bacillus thuringiensis* enters the caterpillar through the mouth during feeding. A toxin produced by *Bt* reacts with the caterpillar's gut

lining, allowing the bacteria access to the caterpillar's body cavity. Once inside the blood, the *Bt* bacteria reproduce rapidly and turn that poor caterpillar into mush. Before the caterpillar turns to mush, somehow the bacteria influences the caterpillar to seek out the higher parts of the plant. When this happens and the caterpillar is liquefied, the juices ooze out of the caterpillar and down to lower leaves and stems. Along with the putrid ooze are the bacteria and they hope that another caterpillar will come along and chew the foliage that they just dripped onto! This is one of the ways *Bt* naturally disperses. Pretty smart for a single cell.

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How to keep your hanging baskets blooming into the fall

BY JUDY SCOTT

Summer is the time to enjoy hanging baskets of flowers. Fuchsias, geraniums, petunias, impatiens and tuberous begonias grow beautifully in hanging baskets and graciously spill their color over the sides.

With a little care, they'll bloom for you all through the summer and into the fall, according to Ross Penhallegon, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

"Remember that plants in hanging baskets depend totally on you to give them what they need to grow and to stay healthy," Penhallegon said.

First, hang them in the right place. Fuchsias and tuberous begonias like shade, or partial shade. Petunias and geraniums flourish in full sun, and impatiens prefer a cool, partially sunlit location.

"Then make sure they are out of the wind and that the baskets are on a watering schedule so they will not dry out," Penhallegon recommends. "Remember to feed and water the baskets regularly." It is best to water at least once a day during most of the growing season, and perhaps twice during the hottest days.

Check moisture in the hanging basket simply by poking your finger deep into the middle of the pot. If the soil feels dry, add enough water to dampen all the soil and drip out of the

bottom of the basket.

Add any well-balanced soluble fertilizer, such as 5-10-5, or a good organic fertilizer, such as compost tea, at least once a week to the water to keep new flowers and foliage coming.

To increase the life and blooming time of your hanging plants, remove blooms after they begin to fade. If you prune the vine, the cut will create a new vine or branch to grow and produce flowers. With care and good pruning, baskets will produce flowers until frost.

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About Garden News from OSU Extension Service: The Extension Service Gardening web page, <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/>, links to a broad spectrum of information on Oregon gardening, such as tips, monthly calendars, how-to publications, audio programs, the Master Gardener program and "Northwest Gardeners e-News."

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