Master Gardener Newsletter

WSU EXTENSION Cowlitz County

JUNE 2023
304 COWLITZ WAY,
KELSO, WA 98626

WSU Extension Office
Phone: 360-577-3014
Gary Fredricks, WSU Cowlitz County
Extension Director,
360-577-3014 Extension 3
E-mail:
FredricksG@cowlitzwa.gov

Stephanie Bjerke
Administrative Assistant
360-577-3014 Extension 0
Email:
BjerkeS@cowlitzwa.gov

WSU Gardening Websites
mastergardener.wsu.edu/
gardening.wsu.edu
cowlitz.wsu.edu

HortSense Fact Sheets
hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/

PestSense Fact Sheets
pestsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/

WSU Educational Pubs
http://pubs.wsu.edu

WSU Cowlitz Co. MGs
extension.wsu.edu/cowlitz/mg/

Master Gardener Foundation
www.cowlitzcomg.com/

Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact the office at least two weeks prior to the event. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GARDEN

Gary Fredricks

Every Minute Counts

"Someday is not a day of the week." ~ Janet Dailey
By Gary Fredricks

As times goes on, it seems our lives get more hectic. Some days there isn't enough time to fit everything into our schedule. Even those in retirement describe how busy they have become. In the process of trying to get it all done, some things get put off till later. As we prioritize what to get done next, it is easy to put recording MG hours at the bottom of the list. This last week, many attended the MG Potluck, yet only a few have reported the hours. Your thinking, it was only one hour, it won't make a difference. I can confirm every hour reported makes a difference. **So why do we need to do it?**

1. **Until you report service hours, you are not recognized by WSU as a volunteer.** You are considered inactive. For that reason, you are not covered by state insurance for personal injury or liability for a recommendation you provided as a WSU volunteer.
2. **Funding for the WSU Extension office is partially based on your service hours.** Justification for budget support includes showing the impact MG volunteers have on local communities. Your reporting service hours demonstrates the great work the MG program does to help the people of this county. Once budgets are cut, it is very difficult to resurrect them.
3. As a MG volunteer, WSU established the standard that a MG should give at least **25 hours per year to maintain their good standing** as an active volunteer.
4. You will **not be recognized for attainment of any organizational awards or achieving veteran status**.
5. The **longer you wait, the more activities that you forget to report**. Every hour makes a difference.

Starting this year, **MG not reporting any service hours will not be invited back** as a volunteer taking into account special circumstances such as compromised health.

Make it easy on yourself. **Take a calendar and write down the hours as they occur**. Then record them at your convenience**.** I am happy to get you started on-line if you are having trouble, just let me know**.** If that doesn't work, send me your hours by E-mail or just drop them off at the office. **I am happy to record them for you.**

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT, PLEASE DON'T WAIT.

Announcements

Plant and Insect Clinic is open!
In-clinic visits, calls, and emails. In office April-Oct: MWF, Nov-March: Wed. only, 10-noon. 360-577-3014 Ext. 1

All of our workshops-with slides, handouts, and videos: cowlitzcomg.com/workshops-videos

In this issue

If you enjoy the MG articles below, PLEASE LET THE AUTHOR KNOW!

Log your Volunteer Hours

givepulse

wsu.givepulse.com/group/453100-WSU-Cowlitz-County-Master-Gardeners

wsu.givepulse.com/group/453100-WSU-Cowlitz-County-Master-Gardeners

- Article Opportunity -

If you specialize in a specific type of gardening, then why not share your knowledge by writing a short article for the newsletter? It's a great way to contribute, and help inspire fellow gardeners. Not to mention that the time spent writing can be turned in as volunteer hours!

If you have an article you'd like to share, please email them to: Alice Slusher: alslush@gmail.com
Articles for May issue due July 20, 2023

Meetings & Event

Foundation Meeting

June 13, 2023

10 am- ZOOM

MASTER GARDENER CALENDAR

Upcoming Workshops
(Tues. 12 pm on Zoom unless otherwise noted)
cowlitzcomg.com/public-events

6/27	**Protecting Your Plants from Heat**	**Tom Myklebust**
7/11	**Solving Summer Garden Problems**	**Alice Slusher**
7/18	**Summer Watering**	**Art Fuller**
7/25	**Deer and Elk management**	**Chip Bubl**

Master Gardener Directory

On members' page of website

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

DON'T WAIT TO ENTER YOUR HOURS!

You MUST record your service hours to remain a Master Gardener in 2024!

If you need help getting on GivePulse to enter your hours, please contact Alice Slusher—she can give you one-on-one help with it, and you'll be a pro and up to speed in no time!
alslush@gmail.com

The Cowlitz County Fair is July 26-29. The MGs host the Floral Building. Soon we will be setting up signups, so keep an eye on the calendar. This event is a lot of fun for us—you'll have a chance to really get to know other MGs and welcome our visitors (and maybe get some folks for the 2024 MG Training class!). Watch for the signup on our calendar listing.

REMINDER:

If you would like to use the Extension Office Conference Room, you must reserve it ahead of time with the administrative assistant, Stephanie.

The MGs are only one of the Extension groups that use the room. Thanks!

Foundation Announcements

Art Fuller (Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County, President)

2 June was graduation day for our 2023 Master Gardener Training Class. Welcome to the 28 trainees that completed and moved on to the next stage of the program as interns. The graduating day, if you are unfamiliar with it, the trainees give short presentations. It was just amazing listening to all their talks and how unique each presentation was presented and delivered. The new class once again did above and beyond expectations. Congratulations!

One of the presentations keyed my article for this newsletter about bats, and it just so happened the person, Mark Atkinson, who also helped build the bat houses for our plant sale. He just couldn't imagine why anyone would ever want to buy bat houses. Needless to say, we had four bat houses at the plant sale and all four sold before lunch. After telling him about all the benefits of bats such as, they control insect population (1200 insects in a single hour), they are great pollinators, they are immune to many diseases and after talking with our wives, we decided to build a couple for our properties. So, after a few hours of cutting, fitting, gluing, nailing, and VOILA, they were done! Then the hard part was figuring out where to hang the new homes to attract the creatures, which could take up to a year. So they got hung, and the waiting game begins!

My bat story: I was in Okinawa, Japan doing a ship inspection and I decided to walk down to the commissary to get some snacks at just about dusk time. As I was walking the ½ mile to the commissary, I heard the flapping noise of something big. Of course, being in a foreign country, your imagination runs amuck. So, I made it to the commissary and added another item to my list, a flashlight. On my return, of course, I heard the same flapping noise but, unfortunately, the number of noises increased. So, I started shining the newly purchased flashlight and saw what was causing the noise. As I looked at the trees, I saw huge bats flying and landing on the branches of the trees lined along the sidewalk I was walking on. I focused the light on these huge bats as they were landing on the branches of the trees, causing the branches to bow down from their weight. After seeing these huge bats, I decided to quicken the pace back to the room I was staying at and no more night adventures unguided.

When I looked up the info on these bats.
The Ryukyu flying fox or Ryukyu fruit bat (Pteropus dasymallus) is a species of megabat in the family Pteropodidae. It is found in Japan, Taiwan, and the Batanes and Babuyan Islands of the Philippines. Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical dry forests and subtropical or tropical swamps. They can have a wingspan of up to 4 ½ feet and can weigh 2.6 pounds.

Foundation Announcements

Art Fuller (Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County, President)

A short poem about bats to close:
The Case of the Missing Miasma
The attic she said has a smell
Which she couldn't describe very well
I said it could be a dead rat
Or guano from bats
Both can stink like the gasses of H_ _ _!

Bat guano looks much like mouse feces
Depending a bit on the species
She said Aah that's right!
I will seal the place tight
Clean the floor and fill up the creases

But what can be done with the stink?
It's so bad it would make a pig shrink
You can let in some breezes
Or spray with Fabreezes
But be sure you close up every chink.

Another way, since bats like gloom
Add lumens galore to the room
Light during the day
Will keep bats away
No more guano dropped at noon.
Digger Spade

Thank you for all you do,
Art Fuller
Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County, President

Oh NO! Spotted Wing Drosophila by Becky Becker

Drosophila suzukii, also known as Spotted Wing Drosophila or SWD, is a small (2-3 mm) fruit fly, originally from eastern Asia, that has spread to North and South America and Europe. It's been in the Pacific Northwest since 2010.

Its name describes the key identifying feature of the mature male adult, one that is visible to the naked eye, a single dark spot on each of its otherwise translucent wings. The female's claim to fame is her serrated ovipositor. With her saw-like ovipositor, she can lay her eggs in the fruit of soft-skinned developing fruit.Damage caused by the oviposition of eggs and subsequent larval feeding and the mere presence of larvae makes the fruit essentially unmarketable. (Though unappealing, there is no known risk to human health following incidental consumption of SWD.) Berries are high-risk hosts, and grapes, cherries, peaches, plums, figs, or kiwis can also be targets.SWD can survive on non-crop hosts such as honeysuckle, flowering cherry, dogwood, wild roses, etc.

The lifecycle of SWD is 10 days to 3 weeks, producing up to 13 generations in a year. However, in Oregon, several generations are more common.SWD is most active at dawn and dusk, at temperatures between 59 and 70 degrees F. It prefers a shady, cool, moist environment. Populations peak in the fall, usually September through October.SWD overwinters as an adult.

Monitoring:

Fruit inspection may be used to detect the presence of larvae. Look for scarring or a hole in the fruit and for soft, shrunken areas. Tiny larvae may be seen in opened fruit.

Traps can detect (and monitor, if desired) the SWD fly. They are not useful for control.

Place traps at least as soon as the fruit sets. Commercial traps are available, but inexpensive, effective, homemade traps are easily made. Start with a plastic 18-32 oz container with a lid. Place 8-15 holes, 3/16"in diameter, about ½ way up the container but only around 2/3rds to 3/4s of its circumference (so you can pour out the liquid bait without it spilling through your holes). Add string or wire to hang your trap unless your fruit is at ground level. Pour approximately 2 inches of liquid bait into your container, and add one drop of unscented liquid soap or detergent (this helps to drown any visiting insects). Below are some suggested baits:

Apple cider vinegar (Use the real thing, not apple cider flavored vinegar).WSU says this works better at cooler temperatures.

A combination of red wine and apple cider vinegar. Field tests done in northwest Oregon showed more SWD captured with this combination than either alone.

Liquid yeast, using 2 teaspoons bakers yeast + 4 teaspoons sugar + 1.5 cups warm water.

Finally, use a wire to suspend a yellow sticky panel from the lid above your bait. This is not strictly necessary but can make spotting the male SWD fly easier. Place your traps at fruit level on your susceptible plants' shady, cooler side. Check your traps and change your bait weekly. Do not dump used bait near your traps. When looking for SWD, you are primarily looking for the male with his wing spots. High magnification is required to see the female's ovipositor. If you do not identify SWD on your sticky panel or want to monitor your SWD population, inspect the insects in your bait by straining your bait and then spreading the drowned insects on a white surface using tweezers or a small paintbrush (If you use the yeast bait, you will likely have to rinse your strained insects to see them better.). Once you detect SWD, you can stop using your traps.

Taking action

1. Exclusion may be the best single method to minimize fruit infestation, dependent on how thoroughly it is implemented. High tunnels using fine netting (less than 1 mm mesh (35-40 US mesh) (example) or plastic can effectively reduce or

eliminate SWD infestation of fruit. Covering just fruiting clusters (e.g. blueberries) with fine netting has been recommended on a smaller scale. Floating row covers have also been used, but you can expose your fruit to SWD every time you open them. Pollination requirements may need to be considered and addressed if comprehensive exclusion is utilized.

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Cultural methods: There are various adjunctive measures you can use to help to reduce your SWD population and/or fruit infestation:

Good sanitation is very important. This means removing ALL dropped, cracked, diseased, or damaged fruit and disposing of contaminated fruit in sealed plastic bags placed in the trash (Even fruit not normally susceptible can be a host if damaged). DO NOT COMPOST OR BURY CONTAMINATED FRUIT, as this is an unreliable means of destroying SWD.

Use drip irrigation - reduces moisture.

Use weed fabric -This reduces SWD fly habitat and SWD pupae survival in the soil (it can also make clean-up of dropped fruit easier). This is a case where organic mulching is likely counterproductive.

Maintain an open aerated canopy - reduces moisture and raises the temperature.

Select early season cultivars - reduces population pressure.

Harvest promptly and frequently.

Use of DECOY ™. Developed by OSU, this lure is composed of food-grade products that deter SWD from laying eggs on fruit. Instead, the insect lays its eggs on the bait pellet, which then kills the eggs, with a 50% reduction in SWD population. Wet the dispenser every 1-2 days to maintain moisture. Decoy™ can reduce the use of pesticides but is NOT a stand-alone strategy.

In addition to these measures, chilling fruit (<34° F) for 4-8 days immediately after harvest can slow or kill eggs and larvae.

Chemical Management: Chemicals are not considered necessary if the presence of SWD has not been established. Once detected, there is no threshold established for the home gardener to assist in deciding whether to utilize this option. If used, remember that the available products work only on the adult (fly), so you should begin spraying just as your fruit begins to change color and continue to spray at appropriate intervals until harvest is complete. Good coverage of the foliage and ripening fruit is needed. Rotation of products with different active ingredients is important to prevent SWD resistance, as has been observed in some regions with Spinosad. Pesticide families that are useful in the management of SWD and that are available for use by the home gardener include spinosyns, pyrethroids, and essential plant oils (EX-ICUTE/RAPID-O listed for home use in WA). Examples registered in Washington can be found here: Hortsense, PNW Handbooks-Home Use). ALWAYS FOLLOW PACKAGE INSTRUCTIONS. To reduce the risk to pollinators, spray in the evening and do not apply on or near flowering plants.

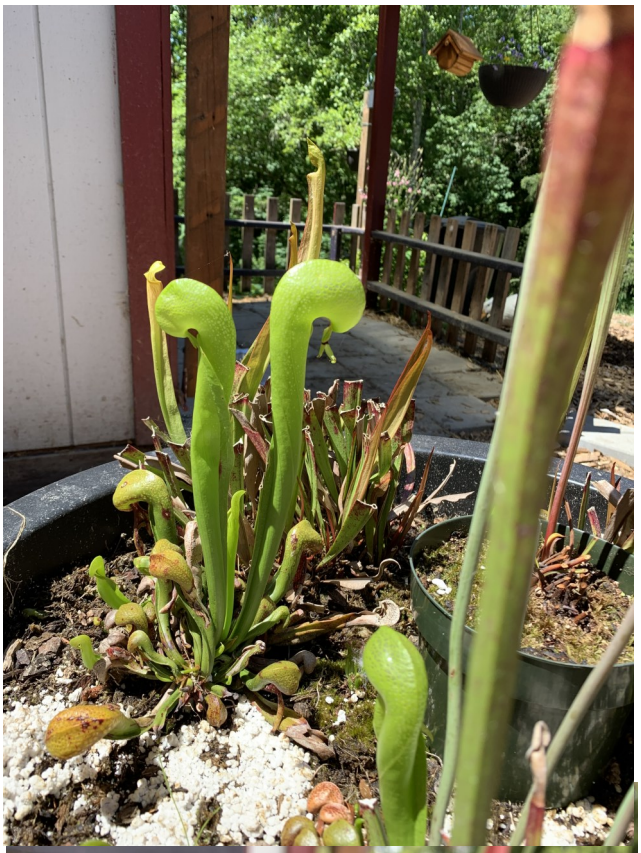
My thanks to Alice Slusher for her extremely valuable assistance.

Resources: -

- ⇒ This a good overall review on SWD.pnwhandbooks.org/node/25691
- ⇒ Hortsense-SWD Management https://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/fact-sheet/blueberry-spotted-wing-drosophila-swd/
- ⇒ PNW Handbooks—SWD management for homeowners- https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/small-fruit/blueberry/blueberry-spotted-wing-drosophila
- ⇒ Three videos on trapping SWD and one on its identification. extension.oregonstate.edu/video/how-make-trap-catch-spotted-wing-drosophila-fly

MGs reporting: Darlingtonia Californica, AKA Cobra Lily

By: Jenny Sorenson



Native to only Northern CA and Southern OR, one of very few native Carnivorous plants on the West Coast. In Oregon, they are typically found in bogs or along wooded water edges (Darlingtonia State Natural Site in Florence, OR, is a great spot to view). In CA, they are found as far as Humboldt County in coastal environments but also found as high as 8,000 feet elevation on Mt Shasta and other mountains.

Carnivorous plants are very unique in acquiring nutrients. Darlingtonias lure insect prey with their flashy "tongue:" This appendage is nectar-filled and often red, attracting prey visually and with scent. Once the prey enters the small hole behind the tongue, it will be trapped. The back of the hood has lighter spots that appear to be openings to the prey. The prey will eventually exhaust itself while trying to escape through these. It drops down into the pitcher where sharp slippery downward-facing hairs prevent escape. The plant releases water to drown its prey. The pitcher contains bacteria and microorganisms that digest the soft parts of the prey.

Prey are usually small insects, but the larger Cobras have been known to eat tree frogs. This plant thrives outdoors in the PNW but must have cooler water during the hot months or shaded water. Upon dissection of pitchers, I have found mine to eat the dreaded Box Elders.

MGs reporting: No-Maintenance Yard

From Trisha Bonapace

Here's my neighbors side yard. She doesn't prune, spray, water, fertilize...or pray. Amazing!

MGs reporting: Pea Weevil Eggs

From Alice Slusher

Pea Weevil eggs! Apparently, this is a "thing" this year! They are the ones who burrow into your peas and leave holes behind. Harvest your beans NOW, when insects are not fully developed, and the harm caused to the pod is minimal. Yes, you can still eat them--Just wash off the eggs. If you harvest before the adults emerge and migrate to hibernation sites, you can reduce the number of pests next year. Pea weevils complete their life cycle within a single year, undergoing development for a period of 7-12 weeks. During winter, adult weevils can be found in seeds, plant remains in the soil, or stored seeds. Once the adults emerge, they can fly up to 4 miles (6.4 km) in search of pea plants. Adult weevils feed on the blossoms' pollen prior to mating. Eggs are laid on pods, and as they hatch, the larvae penetrate the pods and consume the growing peas. If you unknowingly save infested seeds, you will be surprised by adult weevils when you open the container!

Skipping a year is a good strategy to break the cycle. Since there is only one generation yearly, adult weevils can overwinter in the soil and lay their eggs on waiting plants in the spring. Since you didn't plant this year, you did not provide breakfast--they flew off to someone else's garden and won't be lurking in your soil next spring.

Good sanitation practices are important, such as the removal of crop residues, prevention of shattering during harvest, elimination of volunteer plants, and the use of uncontaminated seeds for planting. Only sow seeds from a trusted source--Territorial Seeds is one that is fastidious. It is advisable to plant and harvest crops at an early stage to minimize further infestation. Use hot (122 to 131 F) and cold (1.4 F) treatment during seed storage.

There has been some research that suggests that small beetles prey on the weevils' eggs, and our black ground beetles will eat the adult weevils. These and other beneficial insects like to hide in wood mulch and leaf duff, so be sure to make a home for them. You can also scout for the weevils in the duff and dispatch them.

If you determine that chemical control is necessary, you have the option of using insecticides to eliminate adult insects before they have a chance to lay eggs. As a result, it is advisable to **apply insecticide once the pods first become visible and prior to egg-laying. Never use pesticides on flowering plants!**

The following pesticides are registered in WA for homeowner use for the management of this insect. **ALL of these pesticides are harmful to bees and other beneficial insects. Be sure to spot spray only and follow the directions on the labels** to minimize harm to our friendly insects, humans, pets, wildlife, and aquatic creatures.

acetamiprid (E.g.,Ortho Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Insect Killer)
bifenthrin (usually as a mix with zeta-cypermethrin) (E.g., Ortho Bug B Gone)
carbaryl (E.g., Gardentech Sevin)
pyrethrins-Some formulations are OMRI-listed for organic use. (Organic example-Bug Buster-O)
zeta-cypermethrin (Gardenteck Seven Insect Killer)

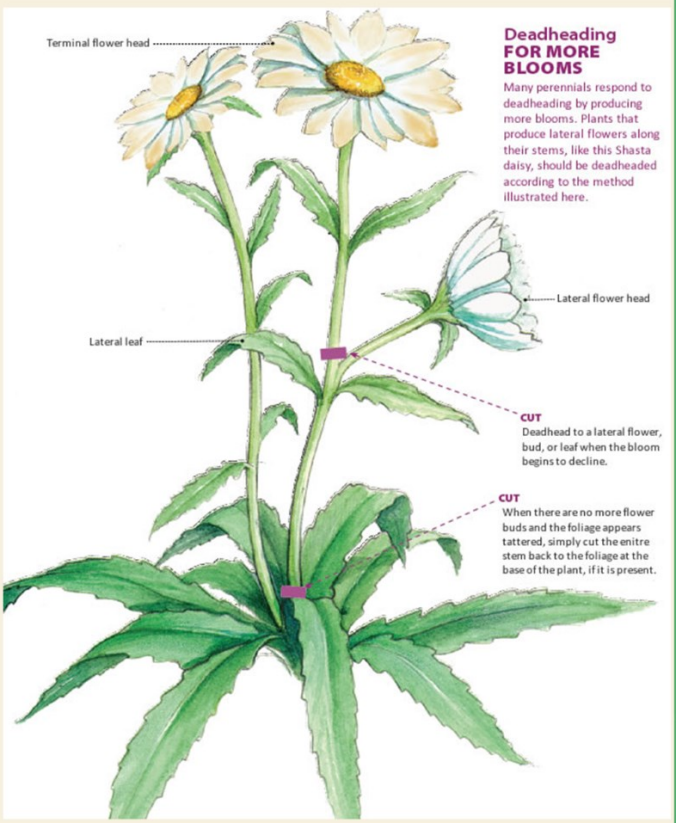
https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/vegetable/vegetable-pests/hosts-pests/pea-green-dry-pea-weevil

MGs reporting: Flower care in summer

FLOWERING PLANTS-HANGING BASKETS

- Deadheading will encourage your flowers to re-bloom, and tidies up the appearance. Here's how to do it.
- For a list of plants that may bloom after deadheading (and which plants do not!), see

https://www.finegardening.com/article/off-with-their-heads-deadheading-perennials



FLOWERING PLANTS-HANGING BASKETS

Hanging baskets—keeping them lush and beautiful

- **They will need to be fertilized and watered regularly--** water soluble fertilizer with the NPK numbers (Nitrogen/Phosphorus/Potassium) as close as possible to this ratio: 20-10-20.
- **Feed them *every time you water* with ¼ - ½ strength solution of fertilizer**.
- **Water early in the morning**, if possible, and don't let your plant dry out—the roots will be damaged. You may be able to keep the plants alive, but they will never reach their full potential.
- If you find that you're needing to water 2-3 times a day, only use the feeding solution the first time.
- Water when the top of the soil feels dry. With experience, you can tell by the weight of the basket if it's running low on water.
- Apply more time release fertilizer to the top of the soil in mid-July for an extra boost.
- Give them adequate sun and protect them from strong winds.
- If they droop in the hot afternoon sun and the soil is moist, the plants are just protecting themselves from excessive water loss from the leaves. Chances are they will perk up by morning.

MGs reporting: Annuals and perennials

FLOWERING PLANTS-ANNUAL BEDDING FLOWERS

- When planting, add good quality compost and granular, time release flowering plant fertilizer to the hole. Follow label directions.
- Keep the soil evenly moist. Using drip irrigation is best, but if you don't use that, try not to get the leaves wet, or water early in the morning so leaves can dry out. Don't overwater!
- Mulch around the plants with an inch of mulch to moderate soil temperatures and help to keep the soil moist.
- Great reference for annuals flowers and their care

  - Fertilization
  - Grooming
  - Mulching
  - Soil Preparation
  - Watering
  - Weeding

PRUNE SPRING-FLOWERING SHRUBS

NOT ALL SHRUBS WILL NEED PRUNING, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO PRUNE, TO IT BY THE END OF JUNE AT THE LATEST!

Akebia	Azalea	Weigela	Choisya--Mexican Orange	Daphne	Deutzia
Elaeagnus-Russian Olive	Silverberry	Escallonia	Euphorbia-Spurge	Forsythia	Helianthemum-Sunrose
Hibiscus	Hydrangea Lacecap/ mophead	Jasminum-Jasmine	Kerria	Kolkwitzia Beauty bush	Lonicera japonica-Honeysuckle
Magnolia	Mahonia-Oregon Grape	Passiflora-Passionflower	Philadelphus-Mock Orange	Pieris	Rhododendron
Ribes-Currant	Rosemary	Schizophragma-Climbing Hydrangea	Syringa-Lilac	Viburnum-has specific pruning requirements	Wisteria

Portland Nursery Pruning Calendar https://portlandnursery.com/docs/trees/Pruning_Calendar.pdf

July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Cowlitz County Master Gardener 2023 Foundation Board

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Art Fuller

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1) MG Training 2) Facilitation 3) Volunteer hours 4) Program oversight

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Junior Gardening –**Patricia Bosh,**
Grape Pruning –**Art Fuller**
Tree Pruning - **Art Fuller**
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Soil Class – **Art Fuller**

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Nancy Andrews
Awards - **Gary Fredricks**
Website: **Alice Slusher**
Facebook: **Cindy Castillo, Sara Birch**
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