

Spring Cleaning in the Garden: Resource List

Planting

- [Guidelines for Planting Trees and Shrubs](#)
Step-by-step instructions for planting trees and shrubs by University of Massachusetts Extension.
- [Horticultural Techniques for Successful Plant Establishment](#)
Concise one-page article by Linda Chalker-Scott, PhD of WSU, on choosing, installing, and caring for plants.

Pruning

- **Brickwell, Christopher and David Joyce. Pruning and Training (2017). Royal Horticultural Society.**
Excellent book on specific pruning techniques for over 800 plants.
- [Garden Tool Care](#)
Article on tool sharpening with text and video by the MG Association of San Diego County.
- [Pruning Trees and Shrubs](#)
OSU Extension 10-Minute University article on the basics of pruning.

Arborist Chips, Mulch, and Covering the Soil

- [Miracle, Myth...Marketing: Wood Chip Mulch: Landscape Boon or Bane?](#)
Article by Linda Chalker-Scott, PhD of WSU, on the benefits of using arborist chips as mulch.
- [Mulching Woody Ornamentals with Organic Materials](#)
OSU Extension Service article on the benefits of using mulch.
- [No-Till Gardening Keeps Soil—and Plants—Healthy](#)
OSU Extension Service article on the benefits of leaving garden soil undisturbed.

Sources for Free Arborist Chips

- [Chip Drop](#)
A website for registering to get free arborist chips delivered to your house. Making a small donation may result in a more speedy delivery of the chips.
- Ask your local arborist to drop chips at your home.

Soil Testing

- [A Guide to Collecting Soil Samples from Farms and Gardens](#)
OSU Extension article on how to collect soil samples specifically for vegetable gardens.
- [How Do I Test My Garden Soil?](#)
OSU Extension article on how to collect soil samples for testing and how to interpret test results.
- [How Do I Collect a Soil Sample for Testing?](#)
OSU Extension Service video on how to collect a soil sample.

Supporting the Garden Ecosystem

- [Backyard Habitat Certification Program](#)
Resource for wildlife stewardship, native plants, and noxious weeds.
- [Buying Bee-Safe Plants](#)
Xerces Society publication on how to identify pesticide-free, pollinator-friendly plants at plant nurseries.
- [Enhancing Urban and Suburban Landscapes to Protect Pollinators](#)
OSU Extension webpage on creating pollinator habitat.
- [How to Create Habitat for Stem Nesting Bees](#)
Xerces Society publication on leaving dead plant stems for over-wintering, cavity-nesting insects.
- [Leave the Leaves](#)
Xerces Society publication on allowing plant debris to decompose in place as habitat for wildlife.

- [Nesting and Overwintering Habitat for Pollinators and Other Beneficial Insects](#)
Xerces Society publication on specific gardening practices for creating nesting and overwintering habitat.
- [For Pollinators' Sakes, Don't Spring into Garden Cleanup Too Soon!](#)
Xerces Society article on timing spring gardening practices so as not to disturb pollinators.
- [Should I Wait to Clean Up the Garden in Order to Help Conserve Insects?](#)
OSU Extension Service article on yard maintenance from the perspective of protecting beneficial insects.

Weeds

- [Weed Identification Guide](#)
Green Street Stewards publication on identifying and removing common weeds.
- Metro Area Soil and Water Conservation Districts web sites have resources related to weed ID, weed control, webinars and workshops and more.
[Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District](#) :Washington County
[Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District](#)
[West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District](#)
[East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District](#)

General Resources

- [10-Minute University Webinars, Clackamas County Master Gardeners](#)
Access to weekly webinars on garden topics.
- [OSU Extension Service Knowledge Base](#)
Access to a broad range of research-based information on ornamental and vegetable gardening.
- [OSU Extension Service Monthly Garden Calendars](#)
Timely reminders for garden chores, such as fertilizing, irrigating, pruning, and mulching.
- [OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Webpage](#)
Resources for answers to gardening questions, becoming a Master Gardener, and educational events.
- [Horticultural Myths](#)
Access to dozens of articles by WSU professor Linda Chalker-Scott on debunking common garden myths.