



## Lawn be Gone (IGS)

October 18, 2025- 10AM-Noon

PCC Rock Creek Campus - Building 4, Room 103

Presented by OSU Extension MG Volunteers: Susan Albright, Lisa Barnhart & Tamara Newton-Baker

- This session covers methods to remove turf and presents ideas of what to do next whether it is installing an Ecolawn, planting drought tolerant plants or moving towards an all-native planting. We briefly touch on topics of soil, irrigation and mulch are introduced. (see the resource list for more information on these). Please visit the [WCMGA Education Garden at PCC Rock Creek](#) and the [WCMGA Learning Garden at Jenkins](#) Estate to see examples of plants and plant groupings.

## RESOURCES

### LAWNS

#### • Lawn Removal Methods

- [How to Get Rid of Your Lawn](#). Linda Chalker-Scott, Washington State University, Dept of Horticulture, Associate Professor and Extension Horticulturist. This lawn removal method uses arborist chips - no cardboard, no herbicides, no sod cutting.
- [The Cardboard Controversy](#). Linda Chalker-Scott, Washington State University, Dept of Horticulture. Short article about the cons of using cardboard in the lawn removal process.
- [When it's time to say goodbye to lawn, uproot it first](#). Alex Kowalewski, OSU Extension, July 10, 2024. Includes overview of 'organic' method using plastic sheeting and chemical method using non-selective herbicide. Methods explained here are for gardeners wanting to rejuvenate an old lawn or replace their lawn with a lawn alternative.
- [Soil Solarization for Gardens & Landscapes](#). University of California IPM. 5/19. This comprehensive publication covers impacts of soil solarization on pests, fungi and bacteria, weeds, beneficial soil microorganisms and more. Also contains a thorough description of the where, when and how of soil solarization method. Refers to California locations but is applicable to our ever-hotter Oregon summers.
- [Soil Solarization](#). The Real Dirt Blog, UC Master Gardeners of Butte County. June 26, 2020. Brief but informative article explaining the how, what and why of soil solarization.
- [From Series on Lawns from National Wildlife Foundation \(NWF\) blog](#)
  - [Why We Have Lawns](#) - Historical background on lawns.
  - [Why We Shouldn't Have Lawns](#) - Useful info when explaining your "no lawn" proposal to neighbors or HOA.

#### • Lawn Alternatives

- [Ecolawn: Less water and work](#). Steve Castignoli, OSU Extension Service, Feb 2013, rev. 2024.
- [Eco-friendly lawns require forethought to attract pollinators](#). Kym Pokorny, OSU Extension, July 2022.
- [Moving Lawns Beyond No Mow May](#). Matthew Shepherd, Director of Education and Outreach, Xerces Society for Conservation of Invertebrates
- [The Potential of Turfgrass to Sequester Carbon and Offset Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#). Madeline Leslie, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Minnesota Turfgrass Science, 2024.

## **SOIL & COMPOST**

- [A & L Western Laboratories](#) Located in Sherwood, this lab provides a variety of soil tests. Contact them to get instructions for collecting soil samples from your home garden, let them know what plants are/will be in that area, and request all calculations relate to sq. ft. (not sq. acres).
- [Healthy Soil](#). Great source from Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District for all things SOIL. Includes soil testing information and assessing your soil texture.
- [How to Use Compost in Gardens and Landscapes](#) OSU Extension Catalog, EM 9308, Feb 2021. Learn how to use compost to improve soil for vegetable gardens, landscape areas and lawns. Learn how to apply the correct amount of compost and how to avoid common compost mistakes.
- [Gardeners Overapply Compost & Fertilizer](#) Read about a study from OSU Garden Ecology Lab concerning the negative effects of overapplication of compost and fertilizers.

## **MULCH**

- [Guide to Mulches](#). Washington State University Extension, CO75. Handy chart with information on different types of mulches, where to use, how to apply, etc.
- [Maddening mulch myths](#). Linda Chalker-Scott, Washington State University, Dept of Horticulture, Associate Professor and Extension Horticulturist. May 21, 2022. Debunking common mulch myths with research-based information.
- [Mulch Fact Sheet](#). Clemson Cooperative Extension - Home and Garden Information Center, 2016. Information and descriptions of both organic and inorganic mulches and their uses. Also includes potential mulch problems.
- [Pick a good mulch groundcover for your yard](#). OSU Extension Service, 2013.

## **PLANTS**

### **• PNW Native Plants**

- [Gardening with Oregon Native Plants West of the Cascades](#). OSU Extension Service, rev October 2022. This downloadable publication discusses where to find and how to choose and care for native plants. Also includes an illustrated list of PNW native plants that are easy to establish and grow and a section on supporting pollinators.
- [King County Native Plant Guide](#). This online guide divides plants into categories according to moisture and light conditions. Each category contains a plant list and a sample planting layout.
- [Native Plant Gardening](#). This page from OSU Extension Service contains links to videos, articles, publications, and website about gardening with natives from a variety of research-based sources in the PNW.
- [Native Plants PNW](#). An encyclopedia of cultural and natural history of northwest native plants.
- [Native Plants for Willamette Valley yards booklet](#). Metro, Jan 2020. This downloadable booklet includes 140 plants primarily native to the Portland metropolitan area. Offers detailed information on sun and moisture requirements, wildlife benefits and native range within northwestern Oregon and southwestern Washington.
- [Oregon Flora](#) Comprehensive guide to the vascular plants of Oregon that grow in the wild without cultivation. Offers tools to choose the right plant for your garden or landscape, identify a plant you've seen in Oregon, find where any Oregon vascular plant lives, explore the collections of the OSU Herbarium.

- [\*Portland Plant List\*](#). Provides a user-friendly guide to plant species found in Portland and the metropolitan region. Reference guide for the Backyard Habitat Certification Program.
- [\*GardenSmart Oregon: a guide to non-invasive plants\*](#). J. Goodridge, M. Bixby, L. Winter-Gorsline, et al. BES WS 0825, 2008. This guide has suggested plants to substitute for invasive plants in the garden. Suggested substitutes include both native and non-native plants.
- [\*Native Cultivars Not Equal to Native Plants in Pollinator Gardens\*](#). OSU Garden Ecology Lab Brief, April 2025. A summary of a three-year study of pollinator visitation to PNW native plants and cultivars to see if pollinators had a preference.

#### • Water-wise

- [\*A Water-wise Home Landscape: A Xeriscape\*](#). OSU Extension, 2018. Links to several resources that will help you design a more water-wise garden that still provides beauty in your landscape.
- [\*Drought Tolerant vs. Drought Resistant Gardens\*](#), Flo Pucci, Master Gardener, San Joaquin County MG Newsletter, June 13, 2022. This short article is a great introduction to terms related to gardening with drought tolerant plants. Includes basic guidelines for a practical and drought-resistant garden.
- [\*Water-wise Plant Profiles\*](#). OSU Extension, June 2018. A gallery of images and plant profiles of some Water-wise plants.
- [\*Water-Efficient Plants for the Willamette Valley\*](#). This guide was created by horticulture and conservation experts as a tool to assist the general gardener in making decisions about how to use water more efficiently in their landscapes.

#### • Pollinator Friendly

- [\*Enhancing Urban and Suburban Landscapes to Protect Pollinators\*](#). OSU Extension, EM9289, June 2020. This guide offers detailed plant lists, garden designs and advice on creating pollinator habitat. Once plants are in the ground, learn to keep them healthy without exposing pollinating insects to pesticides that are toxic to them.
- [\*Establishing Pollinator Meadows from Seed\*](#). Xerces Society, 2013. Guidelines that provide step-by-step instructions for establishing pollinator meadows from seed in areas that range in size from a small backyard garden up to areas around an acre.
- [\*Garden Ecology Lab\*](#). The OSU Agricultural Research Foundation lab studies gardens. In their blog they share research-based information for home and community gardens.
- [\*Native Plant Picks for Bees\*](#). OSU Extension Catalog, EM 9363, Sept 2022.
- [\*Shrubs and Trees for Bees\*](#). OSU Extension, EM 9391, March 2023.
- [\*Layering Garden Plants for Pollinators\*](#) - Learn about recent research from OSU's Garden Ecology Lab about the importance of varying layers of plants for your pollinator garden.

#### **BENEFICIAL INSECTS, GROWING FOOD**

- [\*A Pocket Guide to the Common Natural Enemies of Crop and Garden Pests in the Pacific Northwest\*](#). OSU Extension Catalog, EC 1613, rev March 2021. Learn how to identify some common insects that prey on garden pests, their life stages and how to encourage them in your garden or nursery.
- [\*Beneficial Insects, Spiders and Other Mini-Creatures in Your Garden – who they are and how to get them to stay\*](#). Washington State University Extension, EM067E, 2014. Most of the insects,

spiders and other mini-creatures that pass through or live in your garden or home landscape are beneficial-or do little to no harm to plants.

- [Growing Your Own](#) OSU Extension Catalog, EM 9027, rev Aug 2022. Provides basic advice on a wide range of topics related to vegetable gardening, including composting, container gardens, fall/winter gardens, fertilizing, insect pests, plant diseases, and more.
- [Using Crop Rotation in Home Vegetable Garden](#) University of Wisconsin Extension, rev 2012

## **PESTICIDE USE**

- [Buying Bee-Safe Plants](#) This Xerces publication covers four ways to help you find plants that are safe for bees, and includes tips and questions to use at the nursery.
- [Grow Smart Grow Safe](#) The Grow Smart, Grow Safe® online consumer guide to lawn and garden products is a project of Thurston County Environmental Health in Olympia, Washington. Information is applicable to Oregon gardeners too.
- [Dangers of Lawn Chemicals: Impacts and Alternatives](#) This August 2024 blog from the National Wildlife Foundation includes important information to consider before using lawn chemicals. From Series on Lawns from National Wildlife Foundation (NWF) blog

## **BOOKS**

- [100 Plants to Feed the Bees](#). The Xerces Society. Storey Publishing, 2016. This book contains plants for various regions of the U.S. and Canada. Each plant listed includes, photos, plant characteristics, geographic regions where it will grow and more.
- [Attracting Native Pollinators](#). The Xerces Society Guide to protecting north America's bees and butterflies. Storey Publishing., 2019
- [Bringing Nature Home- How you can sustain Wildlife with Native Plants](#) D. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2007. "A powerful and compelling illustration of how the choices we make as gardeners can profoundly impact the diversity of life in our yards, town and on our planet."
- [Gardening in the Pacific Northwest: The Complete Homeowner's Guide](#). P. Bonine & A. Campion. Timber Press, 2017. Written by regional gardening experts, this book features information on site and plant selection, soil preparation and maintenance, and basic design principles.
- [Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest](#). A. Kruckeberg and L. Chalker-Scott. University of Washington Press, 2019. This book includes over 900 native trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, and annuals - each species carefully selected to be garden-worthy.
- [Nature's Best Hope – a new approach to conservation that starts in your yard](#) D. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2019. In this book, the author "urges home-owners to take environmental action into their own hands, one yard at a time."
- [Real Gardens Grow Natives](#). E. Stark. Skipstone, 2014. Written by a Portland landscape designer and consultant, this book contains detailed profiles of 100 select native plants for the PNW garden. [Real Gardens Grow Natives blog](#)
- [The Pacific Northwest Native Plant Primer: 225 Plants for an Earth-Friendly Garden](#). K. Currin & A. Merritt. Timber Press, 2023. Packed with proven advice that every home gardener can follow. For gardeners in Oregon, Washington, and southern British Columbia.

## **Organizations**

- **[Backyard Habitat Certification Program](#)**. Collaboration between Bird Alliance of Oregon and Columbia Land Trust. A unique program that supports urban gardeners in their efforts to create natural backyard habitats. Available in Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah and Washington Counties.
  - [Naturescaping Designs](#). This is a great source of information for folks who want to research and design a naturescape for their garden or parking strip.
- **[East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District](#)**
  - [Naturescaping](#) - Find information about Naturescaping, free workshops and presentations
  - [Resources - Water Conservation](#). Resources, guides and tools related to Water Conservation
- **[Native Plant Society of Oregon](#)** Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation, and study of Oregon's native plants and habitats.
- **[Regional Water Providers Consortium](#)**
  - [Weekly Watering Number](#). Sign up for this free service and they'll tell you when to start watering and how much to water each week through mid-October.
  - [Water Provide Rebates](#). Check with your water provider to see if they offer rebates.
- **[Sparrowhawk Native Plants](#)** - Online sales, twice yearly. Great information all about native plants.
- **[Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District](#)**
- **[West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District](#)**
- **[Xerces Society for Conservation of Invertebrates](#)**