Good morning and welcome to

Lawn Be Gone!

Please sign the attendance roster in the hallway

We'll begin at 9:03am.

Lawn Be Gone!

Photo: Susan Albright

Oregon State University Extension Service

Susan Albright, Lisa Barnhart, and Tamara Newton-Baker

OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Volunteers

Washington County Master Gardener Association

Hello!

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE
MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS
metro area

Susan Albright

Photo: Sue Ryburn

Lisa Barnhart

Photo: Susan Albright

Tamara Newton-Baker

Photo: Mike Graves/The Oregonian

OSU Extension provides information and expertise to help meet local challenges and help every Oregonian thrive.

Oregon State University
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Extension Service

METRO AREA

Master Gardener™ Program

Washington County Master Gardener Association

Photo: Susan Albright

WCMGA

In support of and in collaboration with the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program

Oregon State University Extension Service

Two WCMGA demonstration gardens

Learning Garden at Jenkins Estate

Education Garden at PCC Rock Creek

Free gardening-related lectures, classes & events

Photo: Jorie Helwig

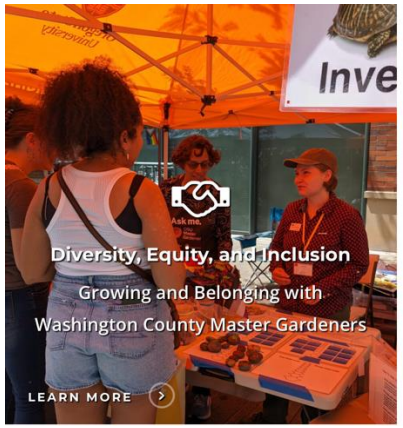

Photo: Susan Albright

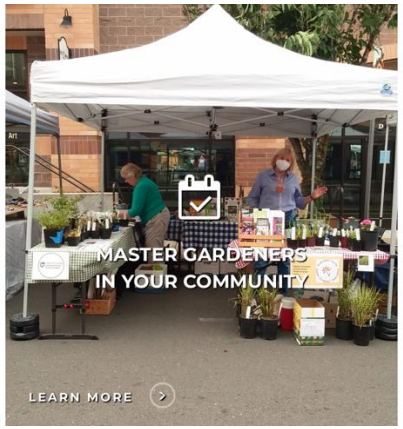
http://washingtoncountymastergardeners.org

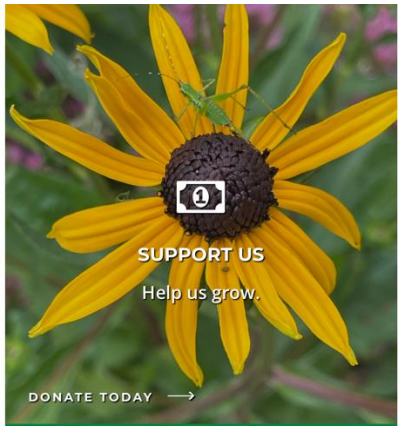
Washington County Master Gardener™ Association

WCMGA

Handy card







Public Events

website

www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org

in cooperation with Oregon State University Extension Service

EDUCATION & RESOURCES

page on our website

- Link to resources from our classes
- Monthly Chapter Speaker recordings
- Helpful links from OSU, Metro and more!

Land Acknowledgement

The Washington County Master Gardener Association acknowledges that the land occupied by our gardens rests on the ancestral lands of the Tualatin band of Kalapuyans, who once lived along the Tualatin River before the forced removal from their land prescribed by the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855.

Members of The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and The Confederated Tribes of Siletz, the Kalapuya people continue to be purposeful stewards of their land by design. They managed a seasonal fire and harvest regimen until the 1840's and are currently involved in efforts to restore native habitat in the Willamette Valley. We seek to educate ourselves about their lifeways and collaborate with them using both traditional and scientific gardening methods.

We further express our gratitude to their descendants for carrying on the traditions and culture of their ancestors. We invite everyone to appreciate and reflect on the resilience and healing power of the land and community of their ancestors.

"We have to raise the bar on our landscapes. In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water."

Douglas W. Tallamy, PhD
Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology - University of Delaware, 2015
Author

- *Bringing Nature Home*
- *Nature's Best Hope*

Today's Session

1. Why reduce or remove your lawn?
2. You need a plan!
3. Turf removal methods
4. What's next?
5. Soil • Irrigation • Mulches
6. A garden over time
7. Resources

1. Why reduce or remove your lawn?

- Save Time – no mowing or edging
- No need for lawn care additives – costly and can be harmful to water supply if not applied carefully
- Conserve water – it is *not* a finite resource
- Provide habitat for wildlife – lawns provide very little for birds, pollinators, other beneficial insects, and spiders
- Concern about polluting waterways

2. You need a plan!

Consider:

- What will you put in to replace your lawn?
- Are there HOA restrictions?
- What is your budget?
  - Will you hire a landscape designer or DIY?
  - How much maintenance are you willing/able to do?
  - What is your current watering system?
- What are the light and moisture conditions in your yard?
- What is your timeframe?
  - When would you like to plant?

3. Turf Removal Methods

Photo: Z. Sasek

Method #1: Cut out live sod

- Machine or hand removal
- Quick and efficient?
- Seed vs sod
- Rent a sod cutter $90-$130
- Disposing of sod

Photos: Sod University

Method #2: Solarization

- Mow grass short. Water to 12” deep
- Clear or Black plastic sheeting (1.5-4mil)
- Apply snugly and bury edges
- 4-6+ weeks (Clear) or 2+ months (Black)
- Works best on hot, sunny days
- Kills most organisms in top 12”
  BUT they quickly recover


Photo: UMN Extension

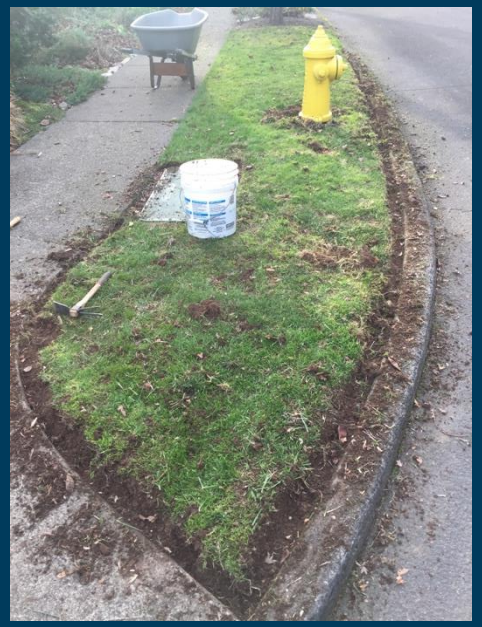

Photo: SDSU Extension

Method #3: Arborist Chips

A process using arborist chips to break down turf

Nov 2017

May 2018


Photos: Susan Albright

Method #4: Chemical

- Uses non-selective herbicide
  - Glyphosate (2-3 weeks)
  - Organic OMRI-listed products containing vinegar/acetic acid

Photo: Lisa Barnhart

- One week after spraying, mow lawn closely and re-spray as needed
- Kills all vegetation - harmful to bees
- **Read and follow label instructions exactly**
- **Avoid windy days and wear proper clothing**

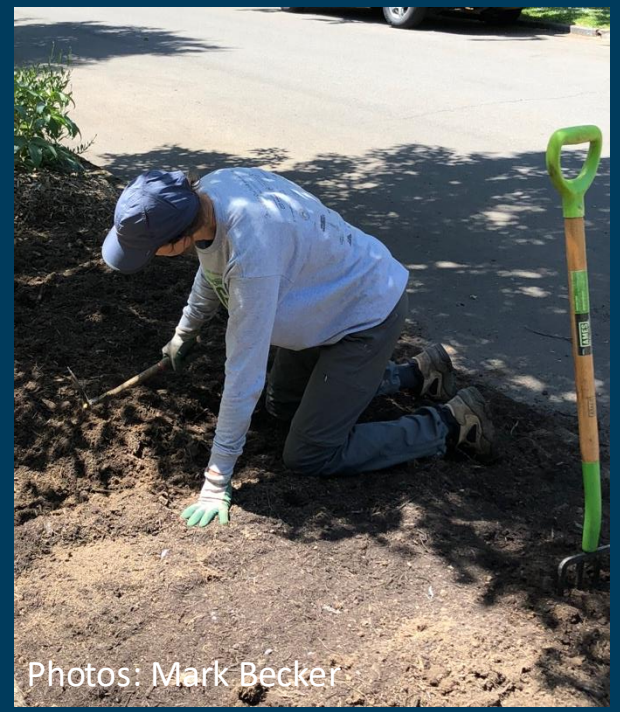
One final step needed? It depends.

Solarization or Chemical Method

Photo: Sod University

Remove dead sod with sod cutter.
Rake up and remove debris.

Sheet Mulch Method



Photos: Mark Becker

If previous lawn was sod with plastic netting, remove this material before planting.

Pros and Cons of Turf Removal Methods

Method	Est. Cost	Tips	Pros	Cons
Sod Removal	Rent sod cutter $130 per day	Should rebuild soil after sod removal with compost	• Quick?	• Could be very labor intensive • Destroys soil structure • How to dispose of sod?
Solarization Clear or Black Plastic Sheeting	$100 per 1,000sf	Use UV protected plastic	• Relatively fast: 3-4 weeks • Minimal labor • Plastic may be reusable	• Requires clear skies, hot sun • Should we be putting plastic on our gardens?
Arborist Chip	Potentially $0 (ChipDrop)	Excellent method to prepare for pollinator, native and waterwise gardens	• Creates great soil! • Accomplished during winter downtime • Inexpensive	• Slow: 6 months or more • Not appropriate for seeding a lawn alternative
Chemical	Herbicide ~$10 Sprayer $10-$150	Products Compatible with Organic Landscape Management	• Relatively fast: 2-4 weeks	• Environmental impacts; pollutes groundwater • Harms/kills pollinators & other beneficial insects • Harmful to animals and humans

4. Your lawn is gone. What's next?

- Ecolawn?
- Pollinator and wildlife habitat?
- Water-wise garden?
- Native plants, non-native or both?
- Growing food?

Ecolawn

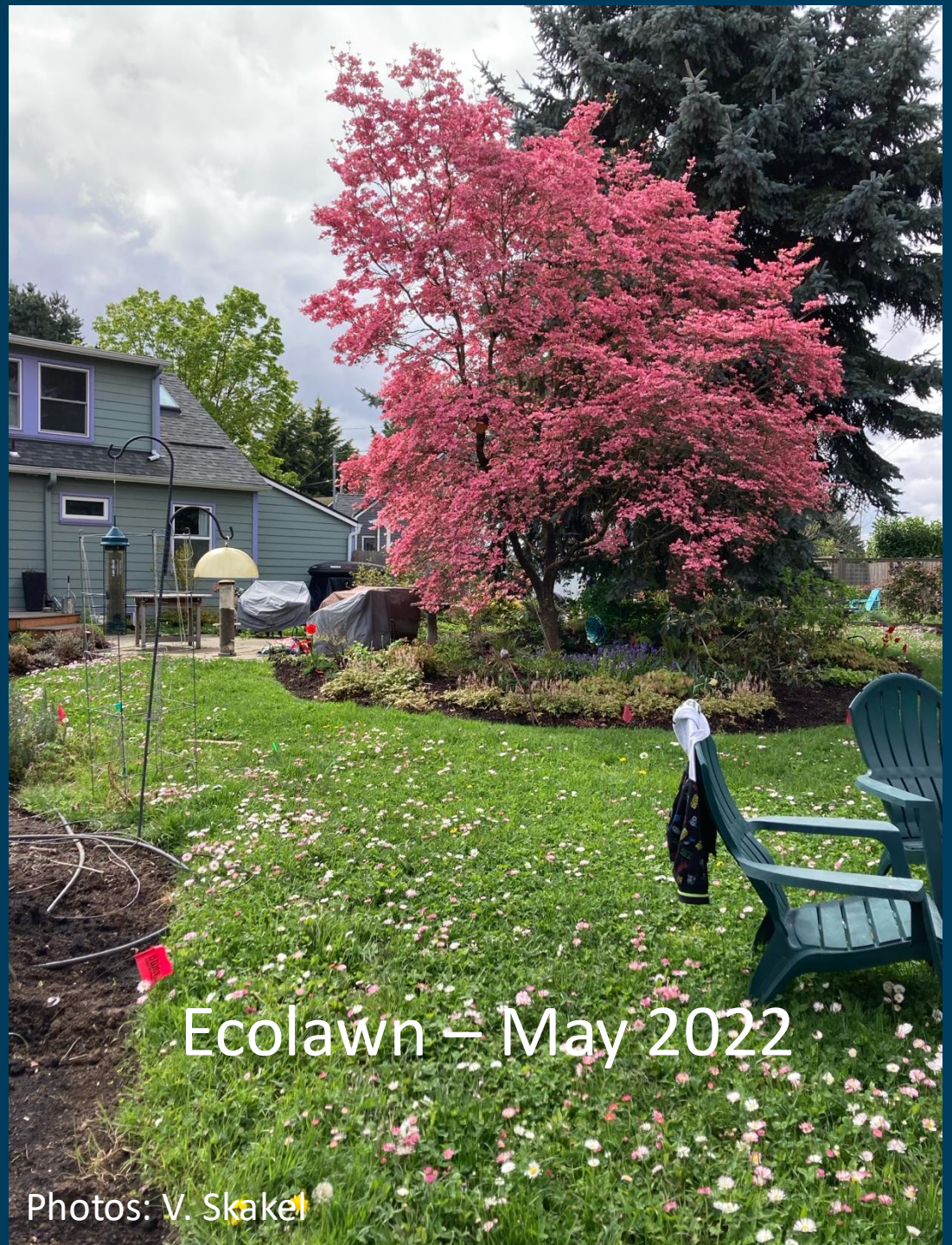
- Consider plants that are walkable
  - Clovers/miniclover
  - Creeping thyme
  - Achillea ‘brass buttons’
  - Sedges and mosses
- Consider Ecolawn seed mixes

Photo Lisa Barnhart, yard in Cedar Mill

One example of an Ecolawn seed mix

Botanical Name	Common Name	% by Weight
Lolium perenne var Celebration	Celebration Perennial Ryegrass	50%
Festuca brevipila var. spartan	Spartan Hard Fescue	17%
Festuca ovina var. azay blue	Azay Blue Sheep Fescue	12%
Trifolium fragiferum	Strawberry Clover	6%
Lobularia maritima	Sweet Alyssum Carpet of Snow	4%
Trifolium repens var Microclover	Microclover	5%
Eschscholzia caespitosa	California Poppy	4%
Silene armeria dwarf	Dwarf Sweet William Silene	1%
Bellis perennis	Lawndaisy	1%

Old lawn - May 2020
(removed and reseeded
Fall 2020)



Ecolawn – May 2022

Photos: V. Skakel

• Plants – So Many Choices!

General Considerations:

- Right plant, right place
- Group plants with like needs
- Varied layers – Low and high
- Consider mature plant size!
- Consider winter structure
- Gardens grow and change
- Maintenance required!

Pollinator and wildlife habitat


Photo: Tamara Newton-Baker

- Trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, groundcovers
- Native and non-native plants
- Spring to Fall blooms
- Diversity in size, shape, color
- Nesting areas for bees
- Eliminate pesticide use

Plant Choices

Purple Coneflower
Echinacea purpurea

Perennial sunflower
Helianthus 'Lemon Queen'

Kunth's Red Rock Penstemon
Penstemon kunthii 'Red Rock'

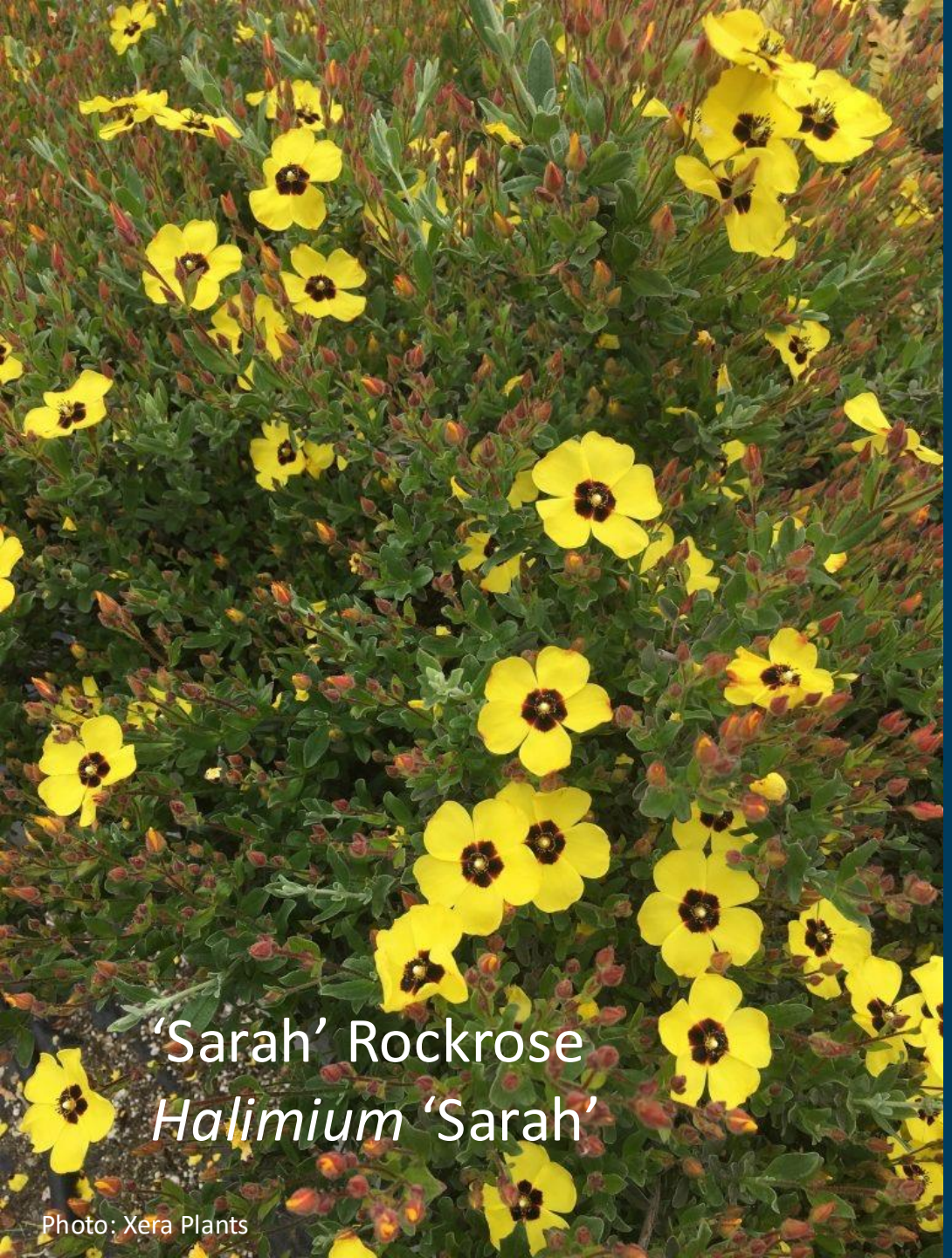
California Poppy
Eschscholzia californica

Threadleaf Coreopsis (Tickseed)
Coreopsis verticillata 'Zagreb'

Water-Wise garden

Water-Wise Garden, WCMGA Education Garden at PCC Rock Creek

- Trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, groundcovers
- Native and non-native plants
- Evergreens for winter structure
- Drought tolerant vs Drought resistant
- Mulch with arborist chips
- Drip irrigation



‘Sarah’ Rockrose
Halimium ‘Sarah’

Photo: Xera Plants

Plant Choices

Feather Reed Grass
Calamagrostis x acutiflora ‘Karl Foerster’

Lamb’s Ear
Stachys byzantine

Manzanita ‘White Lanterns’ (shrub)
Arctostaphylos x hookeri ‘White Lanterns’

Dwarf Russian Sage
Perovskia atriplicifolia ‘Lacey Blue’

‘Dragon’s Blood’ Sedum
Sedum spurium ‘Dragon’s Blood’

PNW Native Plants

- What's in a name?
  Native: *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*
  Cultivar: *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* 'Victoria
- Select native plants that work in your garden setting
- Even native plants need water to get established
- Be patient. First year sleep, second year creep, third year leap

SPARROWHAWK
NATIVE PLANTS

Great information on selecting, planting and caring for native plants.

Red flowering currant (shrub)
Ribes sanguineum

Photo: Susan Albright

Plant Choices

Evergreen huckleberry (shrub)
Vaccinium ovatum

Graceful cinquefoil
Potentilla gracilis

Farewell-to-Spring
Clarkia anoema

Low Oregon grape (shrub)
Mahonia repens

Tall Oregon grape (shrub)
Mahonia aquifolium

Vine Maple (tree)
Acer circinatum

5. Soil • Irrigation • Mulches

• Soil • Irrigation • Mulches

Test your soil

Healthy soil = healthy plants

Soil Analysis

• A & L Western Agricultural Laboratories 503-968-9225

• Cost: $36 for basic results and $57 for more detail

• Online instructions on how to gather your sample

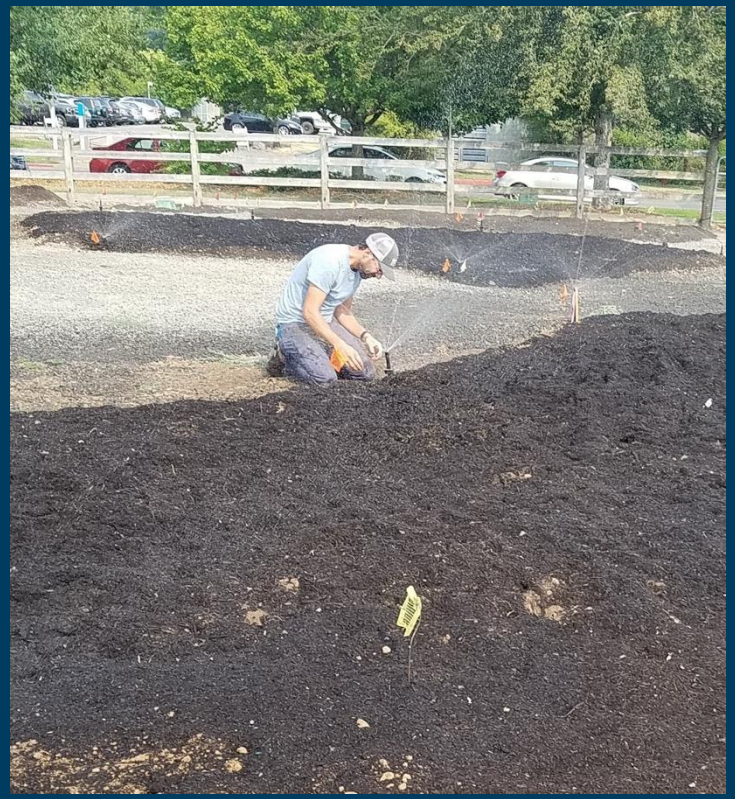
Retest in 2-3 years

• Soil • Irrigation • Mulches

Hose bib with timer?

Drip Irrigation?

Overhead Spray?



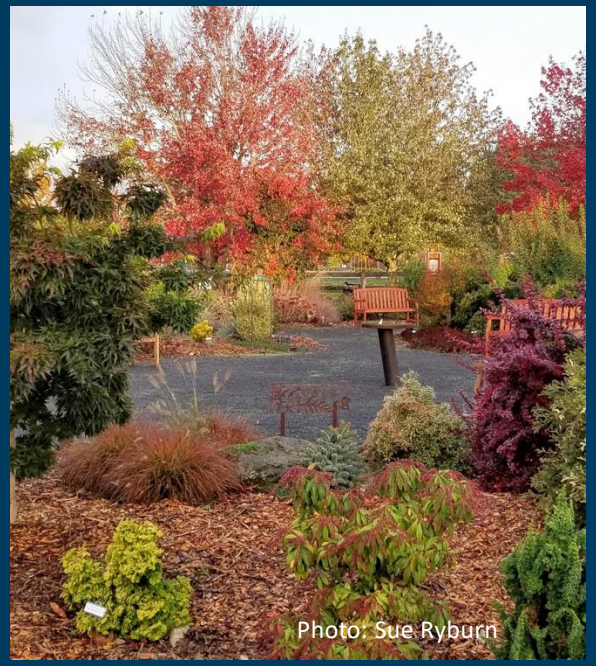
It depends on your time, budget and what you are growing

• Soil • Irrigation • Mulches

Any material applied to the soil surface in sufficient amounts to have a beneficial effect on the soil

Organic

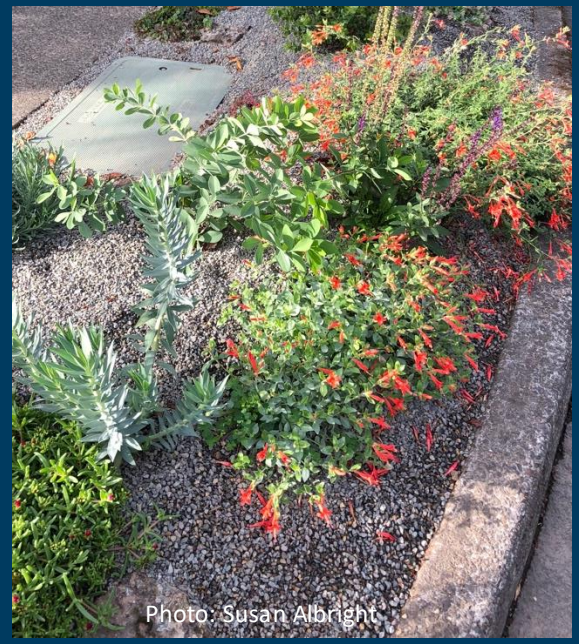
Compost, bark dust, Arborist chips



WCMGA Education Garden at PCC Rock Creek

Inorganic

Landscape fabric, plastic, gravel



6. A garden over time

Photos: S.Albright

Who and what is a garden for?

1986

1994

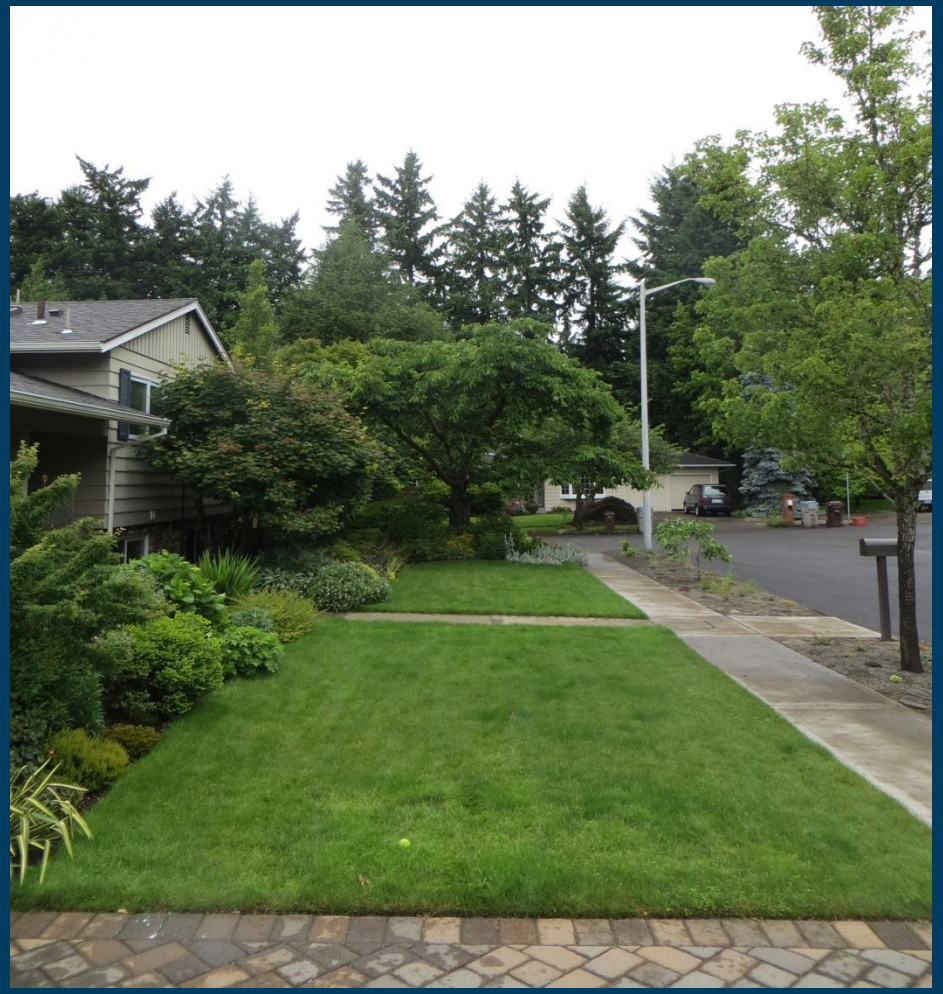
I actually planted ivy!!

2010

2012

Began ivy removal

2013



2018

Hellstrip update: Ivy out. Water-wise in.


Method #3: Arborist Chips
Front Yard - Sept 2019
Photo: Susan Albright

The Process

1 Remove broad-leaf weeds by hand

2 Mow at lowest mower setting

3 Weed whack

4 Cut 6” wide strips of turf along all edges

5 Lay strips upside down on grass area. Water.

6 Cover with cardboard...or not?

Photos: Susan Albright

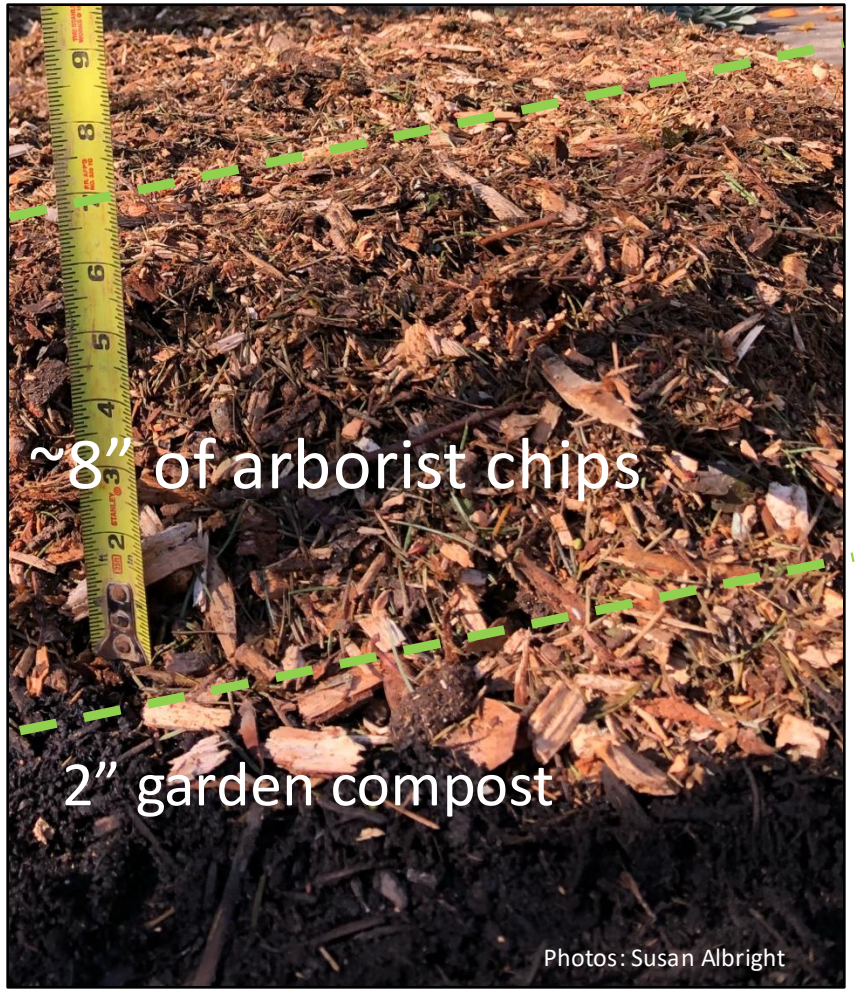
NOTE: If you use cardboard:

- No slick printed images
- Get largest boxes you can find
- Remove all staples and tape

- Overlap edges 6”
- Secure with landscape staples
- Wet with garden hose/sprinkler

Arborist Chips

8-12” layer of arborist chips *or* add a 2” layer of garden compost before adding layer of chips

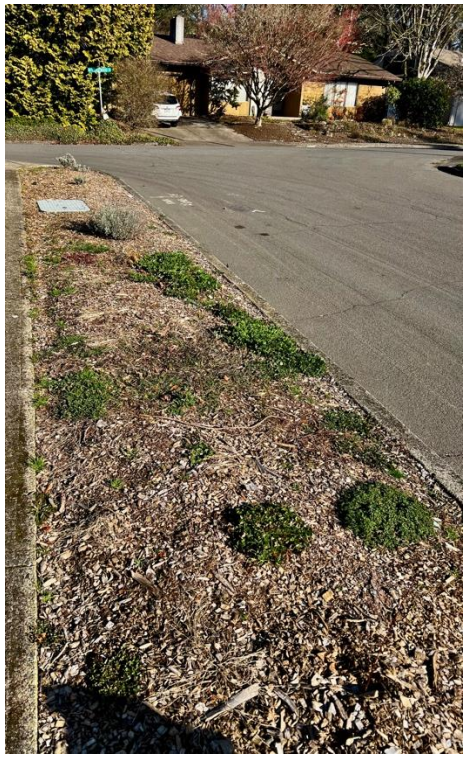


Water as needed

Arborist Chip Method Tips

- Start the process in fall – rain is free
- Free arborist chips: ChipDrop (watch their video), PGE (read their guidelines), look for tree removal crews in your area
- Don’t skimp on the chips! Prep time upfront saves time later

8” layer



4” layer

- For sloped areas, don’t use cardboard. Cut 6” deep trench along base of slope to keep chips in place
- Be patient. It may take 3-12 months before you can plant.

Fall 2019

Spring 2020

Not quite ready for planting...
...more time to plan

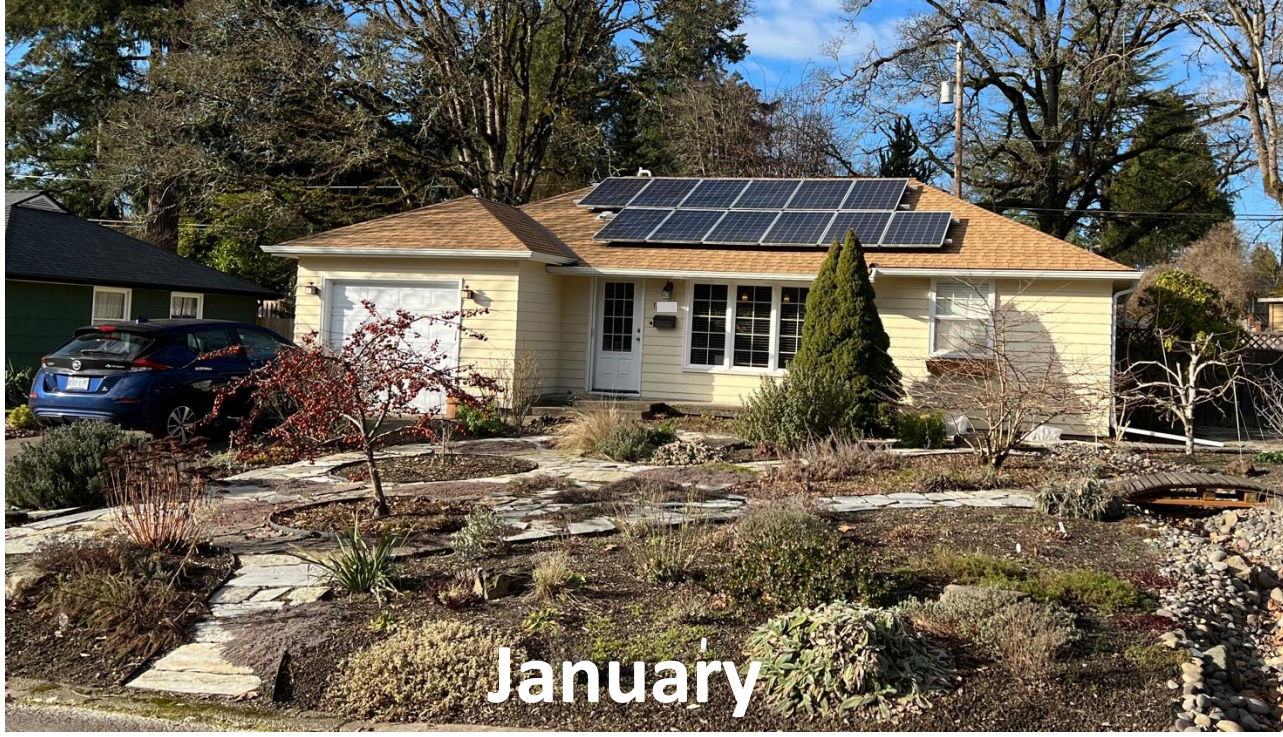
April 2021

- Two mason bee nesting stations added
- Pathways marked
- Plants researched, purchased and planted
- Ready for bees!


July 2022
Douglas aster cultivar
Goldenrod
Goldenrod
Yarrow
Black-eyed Susan
Pollinator Habitat
Farewell-to-spring
Bowle's mauve
Self-heal
Roemer's Fescue

2024


November


January


March


May


November


January


March


May

November

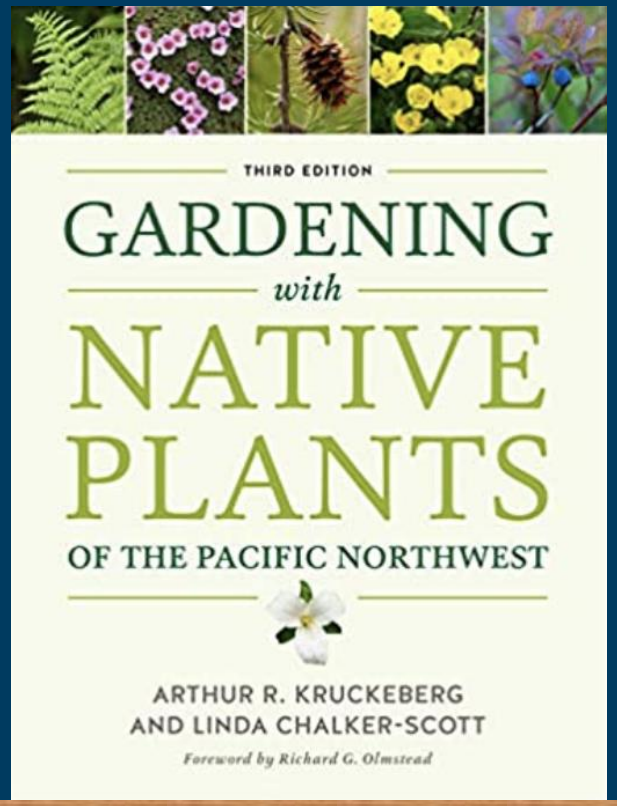
January

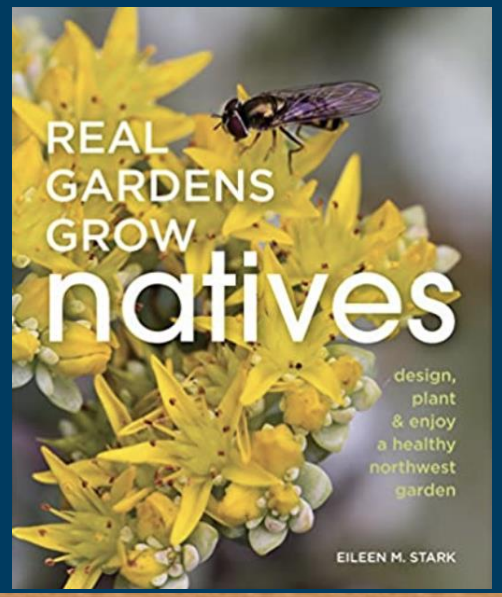
May

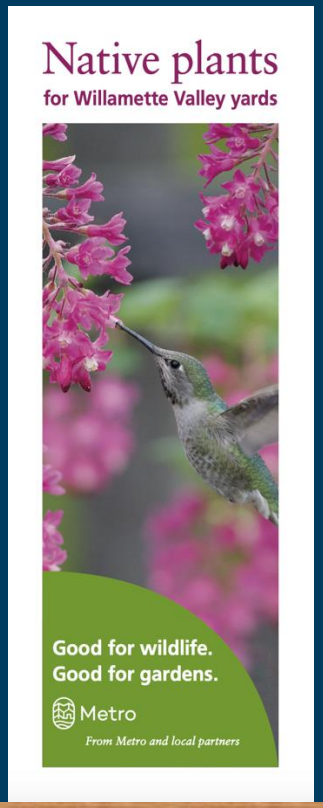
“The beauty of a plant is not just the plant itself, but all of the other organisms it can bring into your garden.”

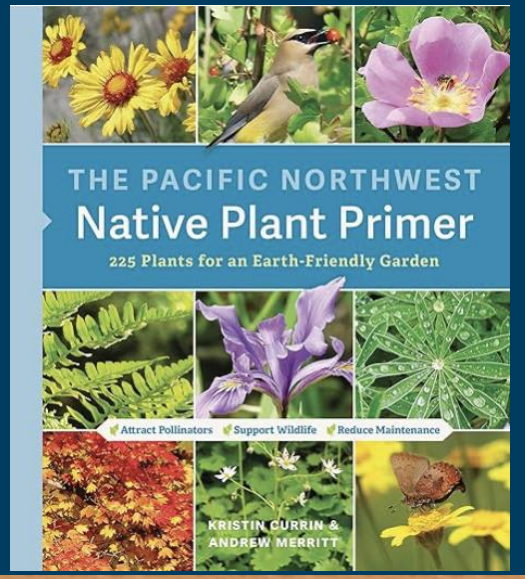
Gail Langellotto, PhD
Professor of Horticulture
Garden Ecology Lab
Oregon State University

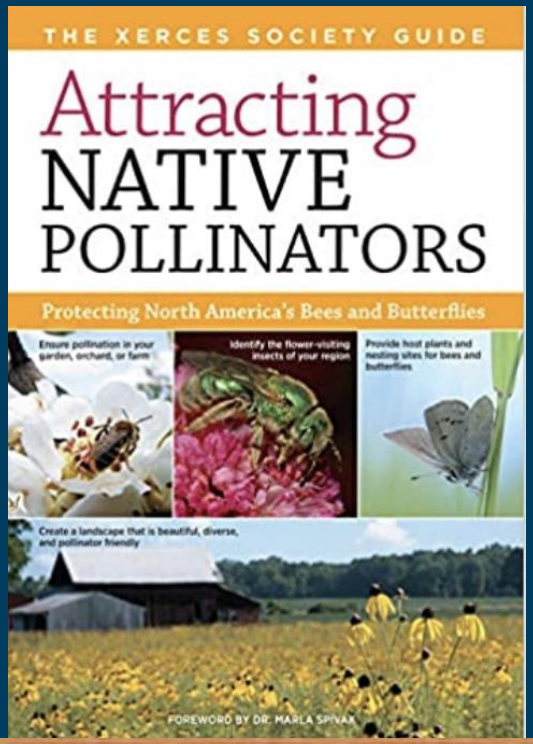
7. Resources Native Plants



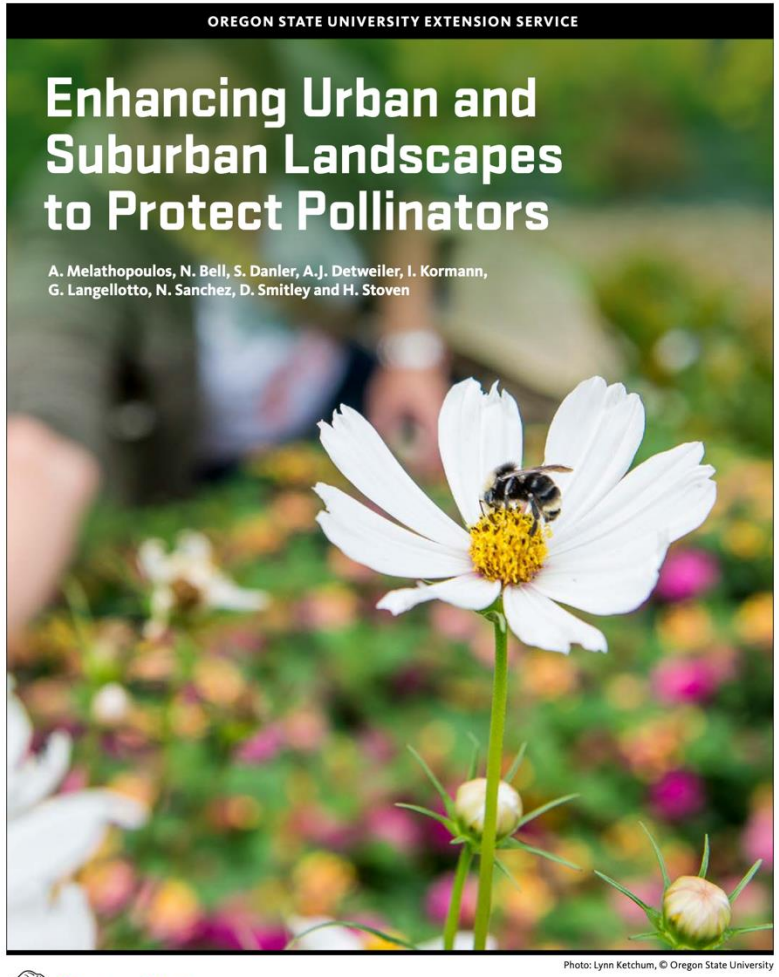


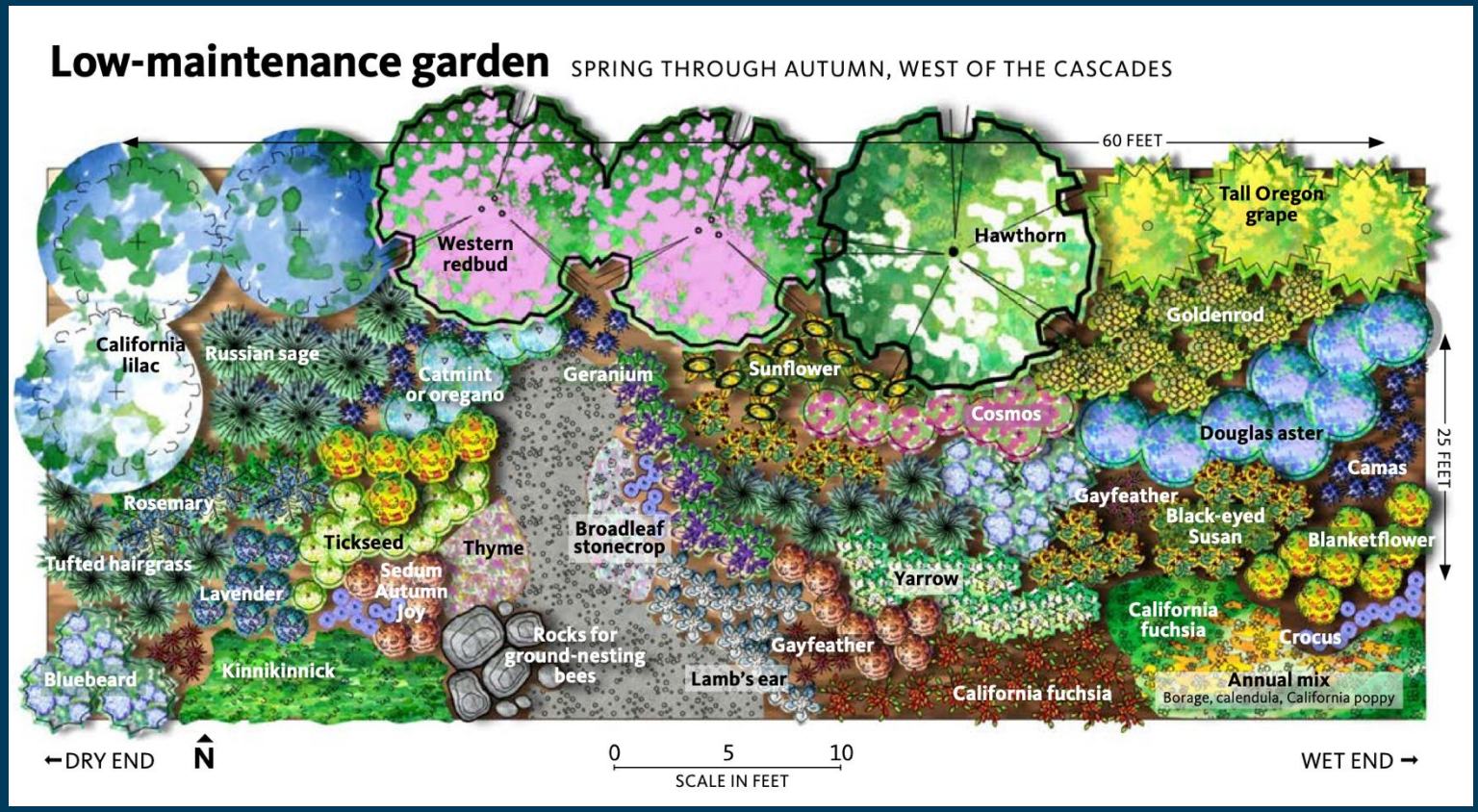






A focus on creating pollinator habitat and reducing pesticide exposure





https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9289

Questions?

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Oregon State University
Extension Service

Ask a Master Gardener™!
via webform or voicemail by visiting our webpage…

www.metromastergardeners.org

Before we head to the garden...

Please take time to fill out the evaluation form.
Your honest feedback helps us improve.

Presenters: Albright, Barnhart & Newton-Baker
Topic: Lawn Be Gone!
Date: Oct 18, 2025

Hand in your completed form on your way out

Thank You!