



GROUNDED

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It's Not Too Late to Put Your Yard and Garden to Rest for the Winter . . . *Ideas adapted from the Spokane Master Gardeners*

Take advantage of the weather before winter sets in and get a head start on spring chores by cleaning up your garden. Here are some tips to consider:

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For Your Garden:

- Prepare the vegetable garden for winter by tilling crop debris into the garden or putting it in the compost pile. Dispose of diseased plant material unless the compost pile is hot enough to kill disease organisms. Fall tilling or plowing in the organic matter can benefit the garden by improving soil structure. It also disrupts the life cycle of many pests, exposing larvae and pupae to winter cold.
- Add "green manure" to your garden. It may be too late this year to plant a cover crop such as winter rye, vetch, or Austrian peas to add organic matter to the garden and to reduce winter and spring weeds. But put it on your to-do list next year to improve your soil. You will need to till fall planted cover crops under in the spring before any of the plants start to flower. Likewise, cover crops can be planted in spring or summer including buckwheat, sudangrass, mustard, or others.

For Your Fruit Trees:

- Adopt good orchard practices, even if you have only a few fruit trees in your yard. A good control program will include the destruction of harboring places for insects and diseases.
 - Remove and destroy all dropped fruit.
 - Rake and dispose of apple and cherry leaves.
 - Prune and destroy all dead or diseased limbs, branches, and twigs.
- Remove mulch and tall weeds near fruit trees and woody shrubs to discourage mice from hiding there and eating the bark. Mice damage can cause branches or entire plants to die the following summer.

For Your Trees and Shrubs:

- Protect branches on loosely branched evergreen shrubs such as arborvitae and yews from heavy snow and ice build-up. Tie the branches up with twine.
- Give extra water to evergreen shrubs and trees before the ground freezes to prevent winter burn.

For your Lawn Mower:

- Don't forget to winterize lawn mowers by scraping off all dirt, rust, and accumulated grass.
- Remove the sparkplug and drain out excess oil and gasoline.
- Replace the oil and store lawn mower in a dry place.

Other Tasks:

- Clean, oil, and mend all hand tools. Sand if necessary and repaint handles or identification marks that have faded over the summer. Sharpen all blades and remove any rust.
- Drain, coil, tie, and store hoses in a basement or cellar out of freezing temperatures. Scrub clay pots, birdbaths and other portable garden ornaments with a 10% bleach solution, dry and store inside.

Editor's Note: The following guidelines are based on the identified author's many years as a skillful gardener and multiple years as a WSU Master Gardener. Many of the principles have been garnered from various WSU publications though your own situation will vary. This list is cited as one example of how a local Moses Lake resident shuts the garden down for the winter.

Local Tips on Winterizing My Garden . . . By Barbara Guillard

Here's my list:

- Put seeded weeds in the yard waste can and fallen leaves in the compost barrel and the flower and garden beds.
- Rake the lawn to remove leaves and dry grass and cut it for one last time while it's still warm enough during the day.
- Clean off the cobwebs and dirt under the steps and behind the boxwood hedge under the front window. Dust the dirt and cobwebs off the house and choose a warm day to wash the windows. Check the gutters for leaves and dirt and clean them out. Paint the trim around the front door. Decide whether to paint the bench on the front porch this fall or wait until spring.
- After one last watering, pull up some of the soaker hoses, especially the ones that will probably need to be moved anyway because plants have grown or been removed. Put away most of the regular hoses and nozzles, but leave at least one in a handy place for those spots that get no moisture during the winter.
- Look around for stray tools and the metal clamps for the soaker hoses. See that they all get cleaned off and stored together so that you can find them in the spring. I always leave out one clipper and shovel for emergencies.
- Empty the ceramic pots so that they won't freeze and break. Move the strawberries growing in the pots into the flower bed.
- Prune and stake the flowering prune. It gets the full force of the winter wind and leans heavily. It took many tries and a great deal of reading to get the proper staking so it wouldn't do more harm than good.

- Put new mulch around the roses and the flowering trees. Prune back some of the errant branches on the rambler roses. Wait for the first good hard frost before mulching around the roses so that I don't encourage more new growth than they can handle. Bring in the last buds from the "Purple Tiger" rose, which finally give off their beautiful citrusy scent in this cool weather.
- Prune back the clematis that takes fall pruning. I have three that do, two that don't. Mulch their roots with manure compost. Make sure to add composted manure to the rhubarb bed. The garlic has been planted.
- Since October is the best month to divide perennials, I'll wait until next year to divide peonies and bulbs. However, I bought a hellebore this month and planted it in a well protected corner. I mulched it and covered it lightly with leaves.
- Wait another month (unless there's snow and really cold weather) before cutting back the raspberries. Mine are everbearing, so I cut them down to about 8 inches when they have lost their leaves and cut out the dead canes. Then I'll dress with composted manure.
- I lay plastic fencing on the vegetable bed and boxes to keep the cats from using them during the winter. They've been dug up and composted.
- I begin dreaming about what I'm going to do in the garden next year. I've moved some of the herbs again, decided to grow the tomatoes in a separate bed, and tried to decide where to put the bird feeders when they're needed.

What pleasurable decisions, what a pleasurable life.

Master Gardeners Recognized at October Foundation Meeting



Three Master Gardeners in the Grant-Adams Foundation received recognition at the October Foundation meeting for their contributions over the past year and were awarded plaques uniquely designed by the ArtGarden for all their efforts.

Jean Anderson was honored by the group as **2013 Master Gardener of the Year**. Jean served as Foundation Treasurer for 4 years and as the Grant County Fair Building Superintendent for 5 years. She began her training in the Master Gardener program 10 years ago in Grant County, doggedly traveling over mountain passes from Marysville, Washington, to Moses Lake to attend each class before her move to this area was finalized.

Jean thoroughly enjoys doing gardening research, and for the past several years, she has prepared in-depth information to display at the Grant County Fair's Plant section. Last year the emphasis was on native grasses and drought-tolerant plants that grow in the Columbia Basin, and her latest display at the 2013 fair "Hortus Mustus" included plants you should have in your garden because they look good and survive well in this area. Jean did extensive research for a public educational outreach program on ecologically friendly plants for shoreline management and prepared a fair poster summarizing the highlights of what Master Gardeners have done in Grant-Adams counties.



Jean has played a pivotal role behind the scenes including lining up volunteers to staff and judge the plant section at the Grant County Fair every year, helping set up the spring plant sale, and hosting pumpkin decorating at her house as part of another MG fundraiser, which had included procuring extensive supplies and hauling the finished product to be sold at an art/wine event in downtown Moses Lake.

Jean's current interests include flower and vegetable gardening (she grew a zucchini plant as large as a VW) and mason bees. She moved November 1, 2013, to Arizona to spend half of each year there and will return to Moses Lake for the other half of her time. She's looking forward to learning about plants that grow well in a southern high desert environment and has already been asked to work on a landscape design committee for her condominium association.

Barbara Guiland received the **2013 Legacy** award. She served as Foundation President for the past 4 years. Barbara joined Master Gardeners 10 years ago after retiring from Big Bend Community College as an English instructor. She served as Foundation Secretary for 4 years, WSU co-Program Coordinator for 2 years, and was part of the group who established the Master Gardeners Foundation in 2006. Barbara spearheaded a Giving Garden at the Moses Lake Housing Authority and consulted with an assisted living center on Patton Blvd, offering ideas and plans for a garden for its residents. Besides answering questions at the Master Gardener clinic many weekends throughout the summer, Barbara answers gardening questions from WSU's phone line and email queries.



Barbara says she is a generalist and an eclectic gardener, who loves to learn about what can be done to make gardening an available, sustainable, and enjoyable pastime. She thinks it's important to keep learning about science-based gardening and trying to convince people that it can improve their lives and health. Over the years, Barbara has given many presentations. Her first one looked at life and gardens and used those subjects to focus on how to garden if you're handicapped, a topic she understood well after suffering a severe leg injury that left her flat on her back for six weeks.

Barbara has seen the expansion of the plant clinic program (from a single card table at the Farmer's Market in Moses Lake in the first years of her participation) to now well-staffed clinics at Grand Coulee, Moses Lake, Othello, and Ephrata. She is especially proud of the MG program's ability to continue its educational public outreach programs and maintain its connection with other gardeners in the state despite deep WSU budget cuts in recent years. In the past few years, she has seen the implementation of an online training program for new members and plant clinic data tracking being changed from recording information on paper to a streamlined electronic recordkeeping system. In the future, Barbara would like to see the Master Gardeners explore no-till, weedless gardens. On a personal note, she's also looking forward to publishing a collection of her poems on nature.

Kris Nesse received the **Dedicated Leadership** award. She joined Master Gardeners in 2009, and within a short time was elected to serve as Foundation Vice President. She has been heavily involved in the successful startup of an Ephrata Community/Pollinator Garden and this past year helped in establishing a pollinator border within it. She served as WSU co-Program Coordinator and spends many weekends answering questions at the Ephrata Master Gardener clinic as well as answering WSU's phone line and email queries. Over the years, Kris has given many presentations, including those for a recent class "On Your Mark, Get Set, Go" held in Soap Lake over a 4-month period, guiding the public on how to prepare soil and plant seeds for a successful vegetable garden.



Kris says she is a volunteer at the core. She has been a member of the Ephrata Farmer's Market board since moving back to the Columbia Basin in 2009, serving as secretary since 2010. Nesse has also been a volunteer for the Destination Imagination Creative Problem Solving for Children program where children of all ages learn skills in persistence, problem solving, and working together. She served many years as a coach and on the state board, as well as helping coordinate regional and state competitions.

Originally from the Columbia Basin, Kris moved to acreage in Washington's Stevens County close to the Canadian border where she learned to grow and preserve her own food on 2 acres of a 60-acre farm. Kris taught K-12 students and adult learners, using garden analogies to underscore key concepts. Kris was honored as Washington State Teacher of the Year and Tri-County Teacher of the Year.

Kris has many interests that include how to attract pollinators and encourage their survival, growing vegetables and herbs, canning, drying and freezing produce, and her latest interest: growing sweet potatoes and starting them the next year from slips. She recently created a “Zennish” garden for quiet contemplation using elderberry, evergreen, and grass plants and rocks.

A fourth award went to Laurie Berens, Public Affiliate, Secretary at WSU’s Extension Office. Laurie received recognition for her exceptional and creative ongoing support to the Grant-Adams Master Gardener Foundation.



HORTUS MUSTUS--Grant-Adams MG Recommended Plants

Black Lace Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ‘Eva’) . . . By Kris Nesse

As a new and, we hope, regular feature of *Grounded*, we’ll be profiling a variety of plants grown and loved by one or more Grant-Adams Master Gardener volunteers. Our first “Hortus Mustus” is commonly known as Black Lace Elderberry.

Our home is newish, built on a very windy bluff overlooking gorgeous Soap Lake. Moving from too many wet and wooded acres close to the Canadian border to only a couple desert acres has been an exciting and challenging gardening experience. It has taken time, research, and recommendations of veteran MGs, not to mention many failed plantings to even begin to figure out what grows well here.

Three years ago we began work on a narrow site on the east side of our house. I envisioned a “Zennish” sort of space. To that end we hauled and placed big boulders, sculpted a faux watercourse, and began planting. The space is one of the wetter zones on our property, with lots of sun early and more shade late afternoon.

I really wanted Japanese maple in this Asian-inspired space and managed to kill a couple of lovely little trees along with a spectacular upright Golden Hinoki Cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa* ‘Confucious’). Sigh...

Two years ago, though, I hit the plant jackpot! Acting on a recommendation by the Spokane MG volunteers, I went to a local nursery and purchased a Black Lace Elderberry. Elderberries belong to the genus *Sambucus*, which includes a variety of species and cultivars grown as fruit-bearing and ornamental shrubs. “Black Lace” attracted me with its almost black, lacy, Japanese maple-like leaves. No wonder it was selected as “Best New Plant” in 2006.

Cultural specifics include:

USDA Zones:	4-7; hardy to minus 30°F
Height:	6’ to 8’
Spread:	6’ to 8’
Exposure:	Sun to part shade
Water:	Medium to wet; well drained
Bloom time:	June, July
Bloom description:	Soft pink, fading to white; light lemon scent
Fruit:	Blackish red fall berries follow bloom; showy and edible
Attracts:	Birds, bees, butterflies



Black Lace Elderberry

So far, this plant has been a very easy keeper. Following the nursery owner’s recommendation, I pruned back the first winter to one foot stems. This is supposed to inhibit leggy growth in young plants and encourage fuller branching. Otherwise, pruning recommendations vary from expert to expert, but in general include late-winter options of (a) pruning out dead or weakened stems, (b) shortening one-year

stems, (c) cutting back to the ground to rejuvenate and/or cutting out three-year old stems. Sucker pruning is recommended unless naturalizing. Some horticulturists maintain that pruning after bloom can help maintain best foliage color and habit. The shrub grows fast! It is probably 6' by 6' this second year. It handles the wind like a trooper, and has no pest problems, thus far. Apparently plants have some susceptibility to canker, powdery mildew, leaf spot, borers, spider mites and aphids. Fingers are crossed that we'll avoid any of those!

As an accent shrub in my Zennish garden, Black Lace couldn't be more perfect. It's also recommended for shrub borders/hedges, screens, backdrop plants, and for stream/pond peripheries. Several other Grant-Adams MGs grow and love Black Lace Elderberry. It's a Hortus Mustus!

References: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c596>
<http://gardening.about.com/od/treesshrubs/ig/Top-Shrubs-for-the-Home-Garden/Black-Lace-Elderberry.htm>

Reflections from Retiring Co-Coordinators . . . *Compiled from comments by Barbara Guiland and Kris Nesse*

Barbara Guiland thanks all master gardeners for all she has learned and experienced over the last four years as president of the Grant-Adams Master Gardener Foundation. Though there have been challenges like losing our full-time program coordinator to budget cuts, numerous positive experiences and many connections have been made including our new partnership with Cloudview Farms.

Both Barbara Guiland and Kris Nesse, retiring Master Gardener Co-Coordinators, thank foundation members and all master gardeners for their willingness to stay involved when the Master Gardener Program in Grant and Adams County could have faded away. Barbara said "Whatever your belief about why the program has been or is valuable to you—the access to knowledge and willingness to pass it on, the companionship of fellow gardeners, the conserving of what is best and most beautiful in the natural world around us all—the 'We have done it all together' is what is important because that is what made it happen and continues to make it happen." Everyone helps keep the program alive and thriving.

In 2014 we'll be working closely with our new WSU Master Gardener Program Coordinator, Jeannie Kiehn, and the newly elected Master Gardener Foundation board with Kris Nesse at the helm as president. Additionally, Nesse looks forward to continually learning, improving and expanding the ways we serve the public, and enhancing the environment of Grant-Adams counties. As the new State Master Gardener Association representative, Guiland will continue to be part of the Grant-Adams Master Gardener program and provide her expertise to the Grant-Adams Foundation.

Meet the New Master Gardener Coordinator



Jeannie Kiehn

Jeannie Kiehn started as Master Gardener Program Coordinator with WSU Grant-Adams Area Extension on July 1, 2013. Jeannie has worked at WSU Extension for ten years as the Washington Regional Afterschool Program Specialist and will now be splitting her time between Master Gardeners and 4-H Programs. She is excited for both; 4-H comes naturally as she has been a club leader for 25 years; the Master Gardener Program offers a slight learning curve and new challenges.

Jeannie loves working in her yard and hopes that she can become as well versed and knowledgeable with gardening as the Grant-Adams Area Master Gardeners already are. She admits that she has already learned more than she ever thought she would about pollination, soil, and insects! She considers the best aspect of her new position is working with others passionate about gardening and teaching.

Highlights of Cloudview Farm Tour

Nineteen Master Gardeners and interns spent several hours touring the Cloudview Organic Farm near Royal City on September 18, 2013. The tour was led by owner Jim Baird and farm manager, Jim McGreevy. Jim Baird presented an overview of the operation's vegetable crops, orchards, animal husbandry, and many acres of commercial production. The farm's goal is to be as self-sustaining as possible from seed to delivery to the end user as well as to using sound management principles and meeting organic and GAP standards.



Owner Jim Baird and Jim McGreevy, farm manager, talk about the Cloudview Farm operations at their Royal City center

Tour participants viewed equipment, the CSA operation, garlic drying facility, greenhouses, living areas, and a tremendous variety of row crops. Innovative practices being experimented with include coppicing and pollarding trees, use of insectary plantings, shrub and tree row windbreaks, and unique combinations of cover crops, and use of animal manures and cover crops for building soil fertility. Weed control methods being used include paper mulch as well as more conventional tillage and hand labor. The morning session ended with the group being served a wonderful selection of fruits and vegetables arrayed in interesting salads.



The group toured the CSA assembly line, greenhouses and fields at Cloudview Farms

Attracting Birds to the Garden . . . *By Barbara Guiland*

Gardening is slow at my house in the winter, thank goodness, so we have more time to enjoy the birds at the feeders, watching their amazing comings and goings. There are great packs of sparrows, house finches, and juncos mostly, but occasionally there are surprises, including small birds that I don't immediately recognize. Once in a while, a sparrow hawk will light on a fence post, and I get a shiver up my spine as the flock silently disappears, as though by magic, leaving the abandoned bird feeder swinging in the breeze. The resident pheasants that live in the marsh across the street appear under the feeder, having braved the street and the sidewalk, their heads bobbing and their bodies ready to launch into awkward flight and squawking alarm in a flash at a hint of cat or human. During late January to early February, the red-winged blackbirds are back in force at the feeders, and geese pairs are on the lake bank eating the new weeds and grass. In the winter, most of the birds come into the yard because of the feeders, which are over areas that I have heavily mulched or placed rocks because I don't want the seed sprouting in my garden soil. I have very little lawn and I wouldn't put a feeder over lawn anyway because the overflow from the feeders and the bird guano kills grass.

Those winter birds, according to some research reported in Audubon Magazine (The Winter Banquet, Stephen W. Kress), do not become dependent on that extra food in feeders that we provide (nearly a billion pounds a year over the nation), and there appear to be other benefits to feeding them also. It's easier for them to find food; therefore they're healthier. There's certainly more of it than they could find in the wild, and they actually may be less exposed to predators because they have to hunt for food less. There are problems with birds flying into windows and avoiding my fat cats, but I think they're minimal. You can offer different types of food if you want to attract certain types of birds, and many birders in this area work at attracting particular species like finches or woodpeckers. Some basic types of seeds and bird foods are sunflowers, black sunflowers, cracked corn, safflower, peanut kernels, thistle (nyger), and yellow millet. We buy the standard mixed wild bird seed for two feeders and some finch food for our finch feeder.

Kress's article also mentions other reasons for keeping those feeders filled, such as the Great Backyard Bird Count, a scientific survey that collects data on the birds that visit backyard feeders as reported by birdwatchers at all skill levels. Participants count the birds that visit their feeders, or in a park or another designated area during a 4-day period in February. Next year's bird count will take place from Friday, February 14, through Monday, February 17, 2014. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can now participate from anywhere in the world! If you decide to participate, check out the website instructions. After collecting the information, birders log onto www.birdsource.org and record their findings. Thus, they add to the useful information of the changes in habits and habitat of great numbers of birds. The count has already taken place this year, but this knowledge allows you to get ready for next year!

Attracting birds to the yard at any time of the year is really quite easy. Essentially, four things must be available: food, water, shelter, and nesting material, and maybe, if you're so inclined, nesting places. My lot is small, although we live across the street from Moses Lake, we're surrounded by houses, but during all times of the year, birds come whether there are feeders or not because I have many plants that provide a place to hide and perch, available fresh food (the plants and their seeds), and the insects attracted to the plants. I have shrubs and trees that provide shelter, and I keep a couple of shallow birdbaths filled during the summer months. It's necessary to check them every day because of the high evaporation rate during the hot summer days. There's nothing more amusing to watch than a young robin taking his morning shower. Many plants I grow make good nesting material. I also have "bird houses" (nest boxes) hanging in a pine tree and under a pergola. Some of them have been used over and over for nesting because they are the right size or face the right direction and don't become too hot during the day. I have to admit that they're mostly fantasy bird homes because I like to see the houses in trees. Sometimes the birds use them for temporary winter shelter.



Food—the idea is to create a little ecosystem that is friendly to life, including yours. Birds eat different plants and different parts of plants (seeds, berries, nectar, fruit, nuts, buds), and they eat animals (worms, insects, larvae, eggs, mammals, fish, and other birds). If you do not use pesticides and herbicides excessively, for your own health as well as the birds, you can create an attractive destination for birds and provide for your own sustenance as well. So plant a variety of different types of vegetation along with your garden vegetables. If you want to attract a particular species of bird, then grow the plants that attract that species. It helps to know what species live in our area to begin with, so try to learn what they are.

In her article in *Birdwatchers Digest.com*, NPR contributor Julie Zickefoose suggests some common varieties of flowers that attract birds and will thrive here in our dry area. (A list is provided at the end of this article.) I grow them in my garden and other plants as well that birds like for food and shelter: shrubs and trees with berries, such as cotoneaster, American Hawthorne, barberry, yews, currants, pyracantha, gooseberry. Trumpet vines, honeysuckle, clematis, lace vine, and bunch grasses can please both you and the birds.

In our area, keeping moisture in the garden but not wasting water requires our constant attention. You can create mini-climates with walls, hedges, and fences placing gardens so that they have protection from the drying southwest prevailing winds. You can place sun-loving plants in open places and find shade for more delicate ones. You can use soaker hoses and fill birdbaths.

I don't really concentrate on inviting birds to my garden, but I am happy when it happens because it tells me that I've created a sustainable garden full of life. Several good websites can give very specific instructions about attracting birds to the garden. Try out www.Audubonmagazine.org, www.BirdwatchersWorld.com, or www.birds-in-your-garden.com and join the millions of people around the world who invite birds into their backyards. Who doesn't love being buzzed by a hummingbird while watering the roses, or doesn't smile at a flash of goldfinch on a crisp, sunny morning?

Plants to Grow to Attract Birds to Your Garden

Purple coneflower, <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	This big, robust prairie native feeds nectar seeking butterflies while the flowers are young, and goldfinches and sparrows after the seed heads mature.
Zinnia, <i>Zinnia elegans</i>	Hummingbirds constantly probe the tiny yellow true flowers inside the gaudy sepals, and goldfinches often tear the sepals away to get the seeds before they're even dry.
Sunflower, <i>Helianthus annuus</i> .	Goldfinches, blackbirds, and woodpeckers have always known their charms. A row of giant sunflowers, grown from seed, can make a fast-growing, 12-foot-high property screen, and a black-oil sunflower plant can produce dozens of seed-heavy heads, festooned with birds.
Black-eyed Susan, <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	This is a native wildflower, and its cultivars, the gloriosa daisies. Finches and winter sparrows and juncos appreciate the seeds in their black, cone-like heads.
Buddleia or butterfly bush, <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	This bush is a natural attractant to many insects and thus to birds too, it's a faster grower and can be cut back every year.
Larkspurs and delphiniums, <i>Delphinium ajacis</i> , <i>D. belladonna</i> , and others	Though some, such as scarlet larkspur, come in red, the predominant shades of delphiniums are lovely, cool blues.
Salvia, <i>Salvia splendens</i> , <i>S. farinosa</i> , and others	This plant is drought-resistant and willing though salvias are usually grown as annuals. They offer the tubular flowers hummingbirds, prefer abundant nectar and great color, and occur in every shade from 'splendens' hot red, wine, purple, and peach, to a true blue.
Coral bells, <i>Heuchera sanguinea</i>	A modest mound of gray-green foliage bursts forth with a summer-long display of foamy, pink bells on wiry stems, which will buzz with hummingbirds as long as they bloom. This hardy perennial likes partial shade and plenty of moisture.

Great Gifts for Gardeners in Any Season . . . *By Barbara Guiland*

I think of books as the best gifts for gardeners (after gloves, that is). Books make any journey memorable and allow us to rest and reflect at home during the winter months. One of my Master Gardener friends has a bag of reference books that she carries everywhere in her car, At least two of the books on this list I carry with me along with books on bird identification, small animals, gardens, nurseries, a pair of binoculars, a camera, and histories/maps of the area. As R. L. Stevenson would say, "To travel hopefully is better than to have arrived."

- *The Earth Moved: the Remarkable Achievements of Earthworms*. Amy Stewart has written more popular books since she published this one in 2004 (Pub: Algonquin Books), but I learned so much about these incredible "sifters of the earth" that I think it is even of more interest to gardeners than her later more popular books, which include *The Drunken Botanist* or *Wicked Plants*.

- *Weedless Gardening* by Lee Reich is probably the most thorough and readable books about no-till gardening presently available. The writer lives in Pennsylvania, but you can figure out how to adjust his suggestions for no-till gardening in the Columbia Basin. Pub: 2001 Workman Publishing.
- *Brushed by Feathers-A Year of Birdwatching in the West* by Frances Wood is not about gardening. It's about watching birds in your garden month by month. That is nearly as much fun as gardening, especially if you can see your yard/garden from your windows. It's truly engaging. Her illustrations are too. Pub: Fulcrum Publishing, 2004, Golden, Col.

Finally, here are the two books that I would carry while traveling in the Inland Northwest.

- *Geologic Road Trips in Grant County, Washington* is written by Mark Amara, our fellow Master Gardener. Grant County can look rather bleak and featureless to newcomers, but this book can help them appreciate the variety of geological layers that create the unique landscapes of this flood-washed plateau. You can buy copies from the Moses Lake Museum and Art Center (MAC) or from Mark himself; Fourth edition last published in 2008 by the MAC.
- *Sagebrush Country - A Wildflower Sanctuary* by Ronald J. Taylor allows you to see and understand the incredible diversity of vegetation and the habitats in which they occur. The sagebrush steppe covers a vast portion of the inland West intersecting on its edges with pine, for, oak, juniper and pine areas. Discovering what is there under the big sage as you travel through it may fill you with awe at power of living things to adapt to the conditions at hand. Sixth printing, 1998 by Mountain Press Publishing Co.

Atlas Nitrile Palm Garden Gloves



WSU Grant-Adams Counties Master Gardeners are continuing their year round Atlas garden glove fundraiser. Atlas garden gloves are lightweight and feature a 100% seamless nylon liner for a smooth comfortable fit. The thin nitrile palm coating on the gloves is extraordinarily tough for greater hand protection, yet flexible, allowing gardeners to perform detailed tasks with ease. The cost is \$5.40 each, which includes sales tax. Funds raised from this project are used to promote education and advocacy for the improvement of horticultural practices in our communities.

Gloves are available for purchase at:

- WSU Grant-Adams Area Extension Office, Courthouse, Ephrata
- Dog-Eared Books, 17 Basin Street, Ephrata
- ArtGarden Pottery, 104 W 3rd Ave, Moses Lake
- Moses Lake Farmers Market, McCosh Park, Moses Lake, (May-October)



Consider Checking Out These Garden Management Options

Growing Food in Parking Strip and Front Yard Gardens:

- <https://pubs.wsu.edu/ListItems.aspx?Keyword=FS115>. Unlike other types of home gardens, these may be affected by local ordinances, food safety concerns, and inadvertently cause traffic safety issues. This is a free PDF available for download.

This one is a Pacific Northwest publication entitled Natural Insecticides:

- <https://pubs.wsu.edu/ListItems.aspx?Keyword=PNW649>. It provides some history on pesticides used in organic gardening as well as general descriptions of how ingredients work against pests.

Conifers experience seasonal foliage dieback.

- WSU's publication: Seasonal Foliage Loss in Pacific Northwest Conifer Trees explains the phenomena and what can be done to optimize tree growth.
<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS056E/FS056E.pdf>.

Brown marmorated stink bugs have been spotted in western Washington and could move into our area.

- This fact sheet describes them and how to spot them
<http://pmp.wsu.edu/downloads/bmsbIDsheet.pdf>.

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