

Weeder's Digest

All the dirt that's fit to print



Newsletter of the Whatcom County Master Gardeners

October 2003

Fall is here! All of you who thought you were becoming desert rats from the long hot, dry summer are waking up to weather closer to our "normal" Pacific Northwest maritime climate. I don't know about you, but this cooler, wetter weather is most welcome to me.

Thanks to all of you who volunteered for the various summer activities, and remember, we have on-going needs for volunteers during the winter. So, don't give up the good work, and don't give up the habit of volunteering.

What a great advanced training we had on September 5! The attendance was good and the instructors presented wonderful classes. How did you like the time of year it was held? It seemed to work out very well, however if you have any comments, give them to us for future planning.

The ballot for the Foundation elections is enclosed. Please vote and return the ballot to the Extension Office. If you want to vote for someone not listed on the ballot, write-in votes are welcomed. We do wish to thank those gardeners who accepted nominations and ran for office. We realize that it takes time to hold an office and we appreciate their commitment. There are no losers here, only winners.

November 13 will be the annual Graduation/Potluck at the Ferndale Senior Center. Your spouse/companion and children are welcome. More information about what to bring, etc. will be in next months' newsletter.

Al McHenry

Hovander Happenings

~David Simonson

"Pumpkin Day" is almost here! Saturday, October 11, will be our annual "Pumpkin Day." Volunteers should be at Hovander around 8:30 a.m. to prepare for the event and weigh the larger pumpkins. From 9 to 10 a.m. we will have residents of adult groups homes here to get pumpkins. From 10 a.m. - noon children can pick out a pumpkin to take home. At noon, we'll put the remaining pumpkins by the garden sheds and the general public can take pumpkins by donation. We are also selling bundles of corn stalks again this year.



In other Hovander news— We were entered in the "Whatcom in Bloom" contest and got 2nd place in the "Public Agency" category. We also received the "Cooperative Spirit" award. A big "thank you" to all volunteers whose efforts made for a very successful you in the MG demonstration garden projects. So, pat yourself on the back!

We are in the process of preparing for winter at the park, but will continue workdays until the end of October. There's still time to get a few more volunteer hours in this year!

WSU Master Gardener Program Purpose Statement:

To provide public education in gardening and home horticulture based on research-based information from WSU Cooperative Extension.

WSU Master Gardener Program Slogan:

"Cultivating Plants, People and Communities since 1973"

Newsletter Deadline:

*Third Wednesday of every
month.*

Tis the Season



By Faye Agner

We have had an exceptional hot, dry summer. September brought some much-needed rain. Now is the time for colder nights and still some sunny afternoons. Enjoy the milder weather as you go about the fall chores of raking leaves, pulling your annuals, putting your garden to sleep and caring for your winter garden. You need to make plans for covering your winter plantings if you have not already done so.

October is the month of falling leaves, and the work of removing them. Rake them up promptly to avoid having to work with a sodden mat that will smother the grass beneath. Fall planting is a good time for new improvements. Now is the time to look over your yard and decide if you need some color in one corner of your yard or any other changes. New arrivals are coming into the nurseries. Plan a trip to go visit your favorite and survey the new offerings. A good place to start is with the heathers and heaths. Heathers bloom in the summer; heaths in the winter. Don't ignore heathers just because they are not in bloom. Several varieties show fiery winter plumage that will warm up your garden and brighten those uninteresting corners of your yard. Heathers prefer an acidic soil, so work in plenty of peat moss when planting.

Now is also the time to cut back your perennials to about 4" to 5". Ornamental grasses need grooming. Pull out the straw-colored grass so the plant looks good during the winter. Use your fingers to comb out the withered leaves. Do not cut your grasses back until spring.

October is also time for mums. You will find them in just about any color in the garden centers and the supermarkets.

Either you can toss the plants out when they finish blooming in November, or you can turn your small investment in to a half-dozen new mums next spring. Should you choose to save your mums, plant them this fall in a sunny well-drained spot with moist, fertile soil. Next spring, just as the mum's new growth starts, dig it up and use a sharp shovel to cut the root ball into six equal pieces, each with a bit of stem and root. Replant the pieces in your garden and give them a drink of water. They should do just fine.

Of course, all gardeners have a compost operation going, and now you can add all of the taken up annuals and the trimmings from perennials to the compost pile. However, if you noticed diseased plants or leaves on these plants, then it is better not to add them to the compost.

It is time to stop deadheading your rose, and allow it to form seed-bearing hips. Your rose will know that it raised a family, and can kick back and begin to harden off for the long, cold winter. Romance time for slugs mating and egg laying. Apply the safe new slug baits to eliminate the slugs before they lay hundreds of eggs that will keep you busy next spring.

October is also the month for garlic planting. It's easy to grow. Plant the biggest cloves, fat side down; 2 inches apart in well-composted soil, making sure to get it into the ground by the end of the month. Don't plant grocery store garlic; buy cloves from your local nursery to reduce the chance of fungus disease.

This is also the time to start new geraniums from cuttings. Mix together equal amounts of peat moss and perlite. Thoroughly wet the mix, and then put it in a strainer and shake out the excess water. Fill a gallon plastic freezer bag one-third full. Take 6-inch cuttings, remove the lowest three inches of leaves, dip the base in rooting hormone and insert them into the peat mix, making sure no leaves touch the rooting medium. Zip the bag shut and keep it in a warm, bright location out of direct sunlight. Transplant into four-inch pots when the cuttings are well rooted, and plant the

new plants outside in the spring, around Mother's Day.

To over-winter your tender perennials, they need to be protected from the harshness of a cold winter. Referring to Martha Washington Geraniums, fuchsias and the like, the easiest method is to put your tender perennials in an unheated garage for the winter. Leave fuchsias and geraniums in their pots, or you dig them out of your garden, put the plants in a box and cover the roots with compost. Water just enough to keep the root balls from going completely dry. Cut the branches back to about 8 inches tall. That will remove most of the leaves, and keep your garage cleaner. Transplant and cut back farther in spring, and with a little luck, you'll have healthy geraniums and fuchsias to give you a head start on next year's garden.

Over-seeding onto an established lawn can do a lot of good. A thicker lawn is less likely to be bothered with weed invasion and fall is a good time of year to work on lawn renovation. If you can rake and mow your lawn before scattering the seed, you'll have better luck with the renovation process. Yard maintenance companies may be hired to aerate, thatch or over-seed the lawn and fall is a good time to get to the grass roots of lawn improvement.

WHO AM I?

I am a delicate-looking plant, with graceful divided, fernlike foliage. I have dainty pendent flowers, usually heart shaped, in pink, rose, yellow or white on leafless, horizontal to arching stems. In general, I need rich, light moist, porous soils. My foliage dies down even in mild-winter climates. My Latin name is *Dicentra*.

Last month was daisy.





President's Message

Yes, it is good to be home! Yes, we had a great time in Europe! It is hard to understand how there is nothing I'd rather do than travel in Europe and yet there is no place I'd rather be than at home! Go figure!

Before I get into MG information, I would like to share with you my Swedish horticulture experience.

We have been visiting with Margareta and Gosta Hedberg for 20 years. In 1983 they introduced us to their new project. They had volunteered part of their 95 acre farm, Skraddarbo, to the State University of Agriculture-Sweden for a study of afforesting former farmland. We saw the progress made by 1994—but this time I realized that it was not unlike the work Bob Barker was doing on his property—more reason for interest!

As caretaker, Gosta keeps a daily log—measuring, weeding, pruning, keeping the moose out, and reporting regularly by e-mail.

Just a short explanation of the problem of former farmland afforestation is that the farming has sterilized the soil which displeases the roots of deciduous trees. Mycorrhiza [a group of fungi spores] is needed for the finer parts of the roots. It seems that deciduous trees like a soil with mushrooms and mushrooms like a forest with deciduous trees. The study is trying to figure out to make them both happy.

The Swedes, being a very practical, thoughtful and ingenious people, have a goal to grow forests of healthy deciduous trees quickly, thus eliminating the need to deplete the rain forests and their exotic woods by producing straight, tall, quality hardwood for fine woodworking. I find this fascinating!



Pat Nelson,
MGF President

Among the projects leading them in this direction was the planting of a stand of fir trees 15 years ago. A year later, he planted Oak trees among the firs. The idea is that they must grow straight and fast in order to reach the light. He prunes the branches to prevent a canopy and encourage vertical growth for the fastest straight grain cubic feet of lumber.

Recently, a new scientist at the University who is part of the study had been presented with the discovery of a Birch tree with 42 Chromosomes instead of the normal 28 chromosomes. Gosta now has 150 starts and they seem to be developing quickly and happily! This could be very interesting!

Scientists from forest research institutes around the world have visited this study at Skraddarbo.

November Potluck and Graduation:

Good food, awards, and Cheryll Kinsley will talk about 'Below, Behind, and Beyond Flowers: featuring Foliage, Texture, Shape and Structure in the All Season Garden'

Now, back to Whatcom County—

Kudos need to be extended to a few of our members—We received The Molly Faulkner Cooperative Spirit Award for our demonstration garden, which also won 2nd place in the Public Agency category. Way to Go David and Crew!! Dianne Rapoza and crew at the Lake Whatcom Residential and Treatment Center won 2nd place for the Community Division—and then won a Judges' Special Award—A beautiful trellis which was presented to them on stage!! And, even though Dianne says she wants no credit—Congratulations Dianne and Crew!!

Sharon Lindsey has been chosen and one of ten people to compete in a prestigious Bonsai competition! The competition will be held between now and when you receive this message—but as far as we are concerned, just qualifying for it is a huge honor—Congratulations Sharon.

Next Meeting:

Bob Barker is speaking to the Master Gardeners at the October Foundation meeting on the hows and whys of genetic engineering.

I heard that I missed an excellent Advanced Training—Why didn't I have someone tape it for me? Good job, as usual, Merrilee Kullman!

Finally, thanks to Bruce and Karen Teper for having us out to their nursery—it was great and I have five new grasses!

Plant of the Month..... By Cheryll Greenwood Kinsley

Swiss Chard

Family: Chenopodiaceae
(Goosefoot family)
Genus: *Beta*
Species: *vulgaris*
(subspecies *cicla*)

One of the many privileges associated with being a Master Gardener is the continuing opportunity to learn *more* about every aspect of home horticulture. We're treated to knowledgeable and entertaining speakers, and we're given the most up-to-date, research-based information about what's new and important for gardeners to know. This information equips us to help the public differentiate between what works and what doesn't—think chocolate-covered laxatives for gophers, here, and bath soap in nylons hanging from trees to guard against deer. We're also better prepared to help them sift their way through current garden trends to find the nuggets of proven wisdom and tested experience that will make it possible for them to realize their own visions of what a garden should be.



Sometimes, when we take a look at trends in gardening, it turns out that what's "new" is actually a return visit to the old tried-and-true. This is certainly the case today, with renewed interest in the dependability of older varieties of plants, the lasting impact of foliage over the fleeting beauty of compositions depending solely on flowers, and the idea that our landscapes must serve us year-round, whether what they give us is aesthetic pleasure or food for our tables. Gardening is an activity that spans all seasons, even though many of us have formed the lifelong habit of thinking of it in terms of a "growing season" that happens only from April to September.



Over the next few months, I will feature in this column some of the plants that bring us pleasure and sustenance through the long Pacific Northwest winter. Many are purely ornamental. Others provide fresh vegetables for our table. Some serve both purposes, and that's why I've chosen Swiss chard this month.

Swiss chard—discovered in Switzerland, no surprise there—is a beet with no "beet." It's all greens, nutritious and tasty to eat and a pleasure to look at in the garden. It's a fine example of a plant to incorporate in your ornamental beds for strong winter interest. It grows easily from seed sown directly in the ground and is ready to harvest in less than sixty days. It's too late to start seeds now in Whatcom County—mid-August is best, for harvest well into the winter and sometimes, in mild years, all the way to February, when you can start your next batch if you find chard to your liking. It will germinate when the soil has warmed to 50°. Starts may still be available at local garden centers and if you can find them, there's still time to transplant them into the setting of your choice, so long as the soil is well amended and you place your chard where it will get full sun. There are a number of very attractive varieties. All feature deep green leaves tending to bronze in cold weather, but the colors of their fleshy midribs vary. Argentata Swiss chard—often billed as 'Bionda á Costa' in seed catalogs—has pearlescent white midribs and large, very dark leaves. The midribs and leaf veins of 'Ruby Red' are just that. And 'Bright Lights' has midribs of pink, red, bright gold, pale orange, white, and mauve.

All the Swiss chards will grow to perhaps two feet—if you give them the chance. Many people prefer to harvest the leaves as they emerge, to add to a "baby greens" mix for a fresh salad. If the leaves do reach full size, they're still good in salads made with other hearty greens. Or you can sauté the midribs and serve the uncooked leaf borders alongside. This combination of fresh-and-cooked is wonderful. Let your culinary imaginations run wild with chard. Cut entire leaves into strips and sauté them in olive oil with garlic and a bit of lemon juice, combine with white beans and pine nuts and toss with hot pasta. Make a gratin of the midribs, or steam the whole leaves and use them to encase savory fillings as you would with cabbage leaves. Because its taste is assertive, chard pairs beautifully with strong-flavored cheeses and with other winter vegetables.

And yes, there are other winter vegetables that our gardens here can happily produce. Nantes-type carrots actually get sweeter if left in the ground until you're ready to use them. Parsnips are a Thanksgiving favorite for many people. Spinach and even lettuce can be yours for the growing. 'Winter density' lettuce looks—and tastes—like a cross between romaine and spinach. It will withstand some frost if left unprotected. If you're willing to consider the time, trouble, and expense of techniques involving cold frames, cloches, and covers, you'll expand your choices even more.

Besides producing nice things to look at and good things to eat, your winter garden can also nurture the Soil Food Web that we've learned about in our Master Gardener training. Taking good care of that complex biological community is an important part of environmental stewardship. We Master Gardeners are charged with that, which is even more important than helping gardeners avoid putting laxatives in gopher holes or hanging bars of bath soap tied in hosiery from the branches of their trees.

Deep thanks to all of you who worked hard to bring us the Master Gardener Advanced Training on September 5. It was beautifully organized, wonderfully interesting and entertaining, and extremely informative. An all-around great day!

Garden Friends and Foes By Todd Murray

Sudden Oak Death

Class: Oomycetes

Order: Peronosporales

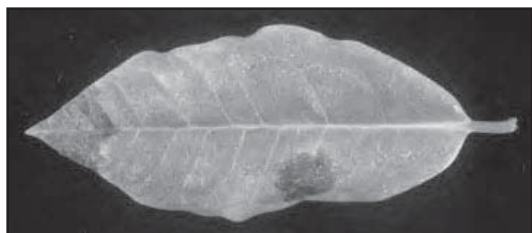
Family: Pythiaceae

Species: *Phytophthora ramorum*

This month's article is a little different because it's about a pest problem that we do not have yet. However, sudden oak death is often in the news and is now a concern for Washington State. If you read this article regularly, you recognize that education and information is *the* most useful pest-managing tool. So it doesn't hurt to learn about it now before it comes here.



Shepherd's cane wilting of Douglas fir.



Infected rhododendron leaf.

History

The name "sudden oak death" sure sounds horrible. If I picked up the newspaper and read the headlines about a new disease "Sudden Todd Death," I would probably never step outside of my house again for fear of my life. Sudden Oak Death (or SOD) was named so because in 1995 epidemic proportions of tanoaks died suddenly in Marin County, California. Lush green tanoak canopies suddenly turned crispy brown. Large seeping, bleeding cankers were found on the trunks of the trees. Disease was suspected but no critter could be identified. It wasn't until 2000 the suspect disease was identified as a *Phytophthora* but the species was un-described. Here in the Pacific Northwest, we recognize other *Phytophthora* species as "root rots."

When this problem was emerging in California, plant pathologists in Germany and The Netherlands were describing a new species of *Phytophthora* that was found infecting ornamental rhododendrons in Europe; the scientists named it *Phytophthora ramorum*, meaning the 'destroyer of branches'. In 2001, it was realized that this newly described European species was the same as the *Phytophthora* found in California. Once the disease was diagnosed and named, research into the extent of its range, potential hosts and regulation began. We are still in the early stages of understanding the disease.

Currently, SOD is living in twelve counties in California and one county in Oregon. In Europe, *P. ramorum* has been found in Germany and The Netherlands. Interestingly, the California strain of *P. ramorum* is a different mating type than the European strain. A mating type in Fungi is somewhat analogous to our different sexes; only different mating types can join and reproduce sexually.

Before the spring of 2003, SOD was perceived as a forestry problem. It has now been found in nurseries in Portland, OR; King County, WA; and New Westminster, B.C. To make things more confusing, both the European and Californian mating types were found in plant materials at some of these nursery locations. Because it has a broad host range, and is moving around via nurseries, *P. ramorum* can impact many plant species important to plant nurseries and Whatcom County gardeners, such as rhododendrons, madrone trees, Douglas-fir trees, camellias, and *vaccinium* plants.

Biology

During a recent conference about SOD at a WSU Puyallup workshop, a gentleman stood up and yelled, "My God, what you scientists are describing to us sounds like a fungus gone insane!" This comment was prompted after the gentleman learned the biology of *P. ramorum*.

P. ramorum is a hearty pathogen. It has many strategies for getting around, infecting new plants, growing fast, reproducing, and weathering bad conditions. The life cycle of *P. ramorum* is complex depending on the host, environment and weather conditions. The following website had a diagram illustrating the potential life cycle of *P. ramorum* (<http://cemarin.ucdavis.edu/ecology.html>).

Basically, *P. ramorum* can infect and germinate by three structures, through zoospores, sporangia and chlamydospores. Sporangia can disperse and infect plant tissue by direct contact or being blown through the air. Zoospores are short-lived but very mobile. The zoospores have flagella (tails) that they use to swim through water. Splashing rainwater or blowing air also moves zoospores around. They can form cysts and stay viable in soil and infect new plant tissue. Chlamydospores are the dormant stage of

Winter Harvesting

Excerpted from "Picking Fruits and Vegetables, by George Pinyuh

Home grown vegetables and fruit can taste much better than those usually available in markets, but to be at their best, they need to be harvested at the right time.

Vegetables and fruit should be picked at the proper time not only to assure the best quality, but also to arrive at their optimum vitamin and mineral content. Vegetable and fruit left in the garden or on the tree too long will often become fibrous, tough or rotten.

In the case of vegetables, harvesting at the proper stage will also tend to keep the plants producing. Plants which do not have an abundance of leaves or fruit to develop and carry through to maturity will be able to produce more of both.

In order to harvest each vegetable and fruit at its peak of tenderness and sweetness, it is important for home gardeners to be able to tell when the time is for each crop. The following methods have been determined through much trial and error, and should serve to facilitate this sometimes-mysterious process.

Kohlrabi – Kohlrabi should be harvested when the enlarged stems have become 1½ to 3 inches in diameter. If they are allowed to become larger they get tough and stringy, indeed, even woody.

Parsnips – Parsnips will generally be of higher quality if allowed to remain in the ground until late fall or early winter. This increases the sugar content and enhances the flavor considerably. In storage they should not be allowed to dry out, so it is best to store them in a moist medium, like sand, in a cool environment.

Potatoes – Harvest late varieties of potatoes when the tops have dried down but before any heavy freezes. Dig carefully to avoid injury and do not expose them to light for too long a period. They should be stored in a dark well ventilated area where the temperature is around 45° F.

Pumpkins and Winter Squash – Harvest these vegetables after the vines dry up, but before any heavy frost. The skin should be tough and have reached the correct color for the variety. With a sharp knife cut the stems leaving a two-inch stub on the fruit. Wash and dry thoroughly before storage. Store in a 55° F area with plenty of air flow.

Turnips and Rutabagas – Both of these root crops can be harvested when they reach two inches in diameter. Turnips should not be allowed to get much larger, because they become hollow and pithy inside. Rutabagas on the other hand, do not demonstrate this tendency and consequently may be left in the ground for use during the winter.

Apples – Apples should be harvested when the fruits become fully colored for the variety. Reds especially should have a good red color. They can be picked at this stage for storage since they have matured enough. Leaving them on the tree for a few more days after this stage will give them more flavor and quality for eating out of hand. At this point, some fruit will begin to drop on their own from the tree.

On apples which are not solid red in color at maturity, the ground color is a good indicator of readiness. The ground color should show considerable yellowing.

Tasting the fruit is often a good indicator of readiness. They should be firm, juicy and sweet, but with some tartness still evident.

Immature apples tend to be astringent and puckery to taste and if picked at too immature a stage they will not ripen properly and will shrivel and lose flavor.

Summer varieties tend to ripen over a two-week period and several pickings may be needed. On the other hand fruits on individual trees of late varieties tend to ripen all at once.

Pears – Pears should never be allowed to ripen on the tree. They need to be picked while still firm before any marked ripening occurs, or they will develop

grittiness and the inner flesh will become discolored and soft. If they are picked too green they will never really attain their optimum flavor and will tend to shrivel in storage.

The color of pears should just begin to turn from a dark, leaf-green color to alight yellowish green. Normally at the proper picking time the seeds will become dark brown. There should also be springiness to the flesh as opposed to the rock-hard consistency of immature fruit. The flesh should give a little if squeezed in the hand. Stems should separate easily from the spurs with an upward twist of the fruit.

Those that are to be stored should be held at 30-32 degrees F. to retard ripening. Ripening will occur if they are exposed to 70° F. temperatures for a few days.

Apricots – Apricots must be completely yellow over the entire surface but not too soft. They should be picked while still fairly firm. If picked too early they will never develop optimum sweetness.

Grapes – Table grapes are always given the taste test before picking. Don't rely on color alone. When the color of grapes looks good, taste a few from the ends of the bunches. If they're sweet, they're ready for harvest. The seeds should be brown.



Volunteer Opportunities

Do you still need to finish your volunteer hours? Why not help out in the office clinic, contact Jill Cotton if you are interested 360/766-7006 or e-mail jillcotton@msn.com

The Hovander Garden still needs to be maintained if you are interested in

helping with this meeting times are Wednesday and Saturday 9 a.m. to Noon. Contact David Simonson for more information, 360/398-0462.

Timesheets

The Master Gardener Monthly Timesheet is available as an online form, <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/homehort/mg/Private/timesheet.htm>, or you can download a printable PDF at http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/homehort/mg/Private/MG_Timesheet.pdf. Please submit a timesheet for your volunteer hours and continuing education on a monthly basis.

Garden Friends & Foes

Continued from page 5

this fungus. Chlamydospores can lie dormant for some time and can tolerate drought. This dormancy strategy is why it is difficult to grow plants in previously infested soils; the fungus can persist for some time without any host.

Because *P. ramorum* has diverse ways of reproducing, containing it may prove difficult. *P. ramorum* can be spread to other hosts through air, water, rain, soil and plant debris. People can move it via plants, plant material, soil, plant products, wood, woodchips, dirty shoes, and water. *P. ramorum* does best in cool, wet climates (like ours).

This disease is fast. Sporulation can happen quite rapidly after inoculation. So once a plant is infected, *P. ramorum* can already produce dispersal stages to infect other plants. Cankers have girdled tanoak trees within four months of inoculation.

Symptoms

Diagnosing SOD is very difficult. The symptoms can resemble many other plant diseases or problems. Plant pathologists have to use genetic-characterizing methods to accurately identify *P. ramorum*. The symptoms of SOD are variable among hosts. Currently there are 38 species of plants that are susceptible to *P. ramorum*, 22 of which are quarantined by the federal government. For a complete host list, visit: <http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/>. Visit this regularly, it is quite amazing how diverse the hosts are and I expect that this list will grow.

Sudden Oak Death doesn't cause death in all plant species that are affected. In fact, the California oaks, like tanoaks, are the hardest impacted. *P. ramorum* can infect limbs, trunks and leaves, depending on the host. Infection of woody tissue is seen through the formation of cankers. The bark will produce oozing sap as the living tissue underneath the bark dies. In oaks, the collapse of the tissue can happen rapidly, resulting in the sudden decline of the tree's canopy turning from green to brown. This type of damage can cause dieback in the canopy and possible girdling of the tree or shrub resulting in death.

P. ramorum can also infect leaves and stems. Leaf symptoms appear as brown spots or patches, particularly on the leaf tips where water collects. In some plant species, the leaves appear to be the only susceptible plant part. Leaf infection rarely results in the plant's death but does allow the disease to build up a large amount of inoculum. Infection of new growth is also used as an indicator of *P. ramorum*. Infected new growth will appear wilted, as in the case of Douglas fir.

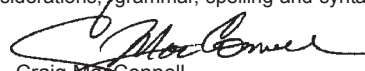
Washington, Oregon, California and British Columbia are working hard to restrict the movement of infected material. Through regulation and public awareness, the progression of SOD will slow. A large effort is being invested into this horticultural nightmare so that, by the time it reaches us in Whatcom County, we can treat this as any pest problem. Stay educated about sudden oak death by visiting: <http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/>.



Weeder's Digest is the monthly newsletter for the Whatcom County Master Gardener Program. Guest articles are encouraged. Please submit typewritten articles by the third Wednesday of each month to Karri at the Master Gardener Office. Articles can also be submitted by e-mail to: karrimac@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu. Editor uses MS Word for Windows and PageMaker 6.5. Any articles prepared on other programs or platforms should be saved as Text Files or Rich Text Files. Editor reserves the right to edit for space considerations, grammar, spelling and syntax.

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Dates to Remember:

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|----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| October 2 | 10 a.m. to noon | Monthly Foundation Board Meeting Extension Office |
| October 9 | 7 to 9 p.m. | Monthly Foundation Meeting Extension Office |
| October 11 | 8:30 a.m. to Noon | Hovander Pumpkin Day Hovander Park |
| October 16 -18 | All Day | WA State MG Advanced Training Port Townsend |
| November 13 | 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. | MG Graduation Potluck Ferndale Senior Center |
| Wednesdays | 8 to 9 a.m. | Master Gardener breakfasts Babe's in Ferndale |
| Wed. & Sat. | 9 a.m. to noon | Hovander Work Parties |
| Wednesday | 1 to 4 p.m. | Bellingham Library Clinic |