Plant Alert!

by Jane Moyer
Master Gardener, 2005

Master Gardener Alice MacIver is on an unending one-woman crusade to eradicate Arum Italicum from the Rogue Valley. The tenacious Practicum mentor prowls her neighborhood, local parks and the SOREC Demonstration Gardens determined to wipe out this invasive plant.

Although Arum Italicum (also known as Orange Candleflower, Cuckoo’s Pint, Italian Lords-and-Ladies) is beautiful, easy to care for, deer resistant and attracts pollinators. It can also overtake a yard or a wildland area in just a few years and crowd out all other plants including natives. It is extremely difficult to get rid of, irritating to the skin and poisonous if ingested (often fatally.)

It propagates via bird and animal dispersed seeds and hardy, difficult to see underground corms. It prefers shady moist areas. The distinctive white-veined leaves are present in the fall and can persist through the winter in warm winter climates. In cooler climates the leaves die in the winter and reemerge in the spring. The plant produces flowers with a pale hood-like spathe covering a white-yellow spadix in late May that gives off a displeasing odor. In all climates the foliage dies in the summer before the plant fruits. Berries emerge in tight clusters and change color from light green to orange-red as they mature from late summer to early fall.

Getting rid of Italian arum is a pain. Even professional land managers struggle with it, which is why early control is very important. Herbicides don’t work well and digging it up is a lot of work and never 100% successful. Alice recommends digging down 18” or more to get as many corms as possible. They are hard to see because they are tiny and a dark brown color, blending in well with the soil. All plant parts and soil should be placed in a bag and disposed of in the trash -- not your yard waste bin or home compost.

Infested sites should be checked weekly to stay on top of any new sprouts.

Like many invasive plants, Arum Italicum is not considered invasive in all locations. Many testimonials can be found on the internet asserting it safe in a particular area. It seems to be a problem mainly in east and west coast states. Washington has declared Arum Italicum a noxious weed, making it illegal to sell in the state and generating governmental eradication efforts. In Oregon and California, it has been declared an invasive weed in some areas. Portland has declared it invasive and has initiated citizen campaigns to stop its spread. Efforts are underway to have it declared an invasive weed in our state; however, at this time it is still legal to buy and sell.


https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=ARIT
Today I am grateful for a rare sunny day in late winter. Though not a sun worshiper by any means, the light and warmth lift my heart and spirit. When the Witch Hazel shrub starts to bloom, the daffodils begin poking their heads out of the mulch and the hellebore blossoms emerge from the depths, I am assured once more that winter is coming to an end – especially after a long, damp week of foggy days. I am in love with every season of the year and could not, if asked, choose a favorite. But as the days get longer and warmer, winter is fading and spring is declaring itself.

I am eagerly anticipating the Spring Garden Fair in May. As a practicum student, I spent my time in the plant sales booth with the other Practicum students. It felt a bit strange at first because I am not a salesperson, but I do love plants. I shared what I knew about plants and soon I realized that this is what we were all doing. Sharing our love for plants with people who came to buy them. We were creating a tremendous amount of goodwill and comradesy around our love for plants; we were creating a community.

But, as my experience with the group grew, I saw that JCMGA was more than a group of people who love plants.

The next year, I worked as a cashier in the plant sales booth, getting my feet just a bit wetter by participating in the set up and take down of the booth and helping spontaneously where-ever I could. Then, last year I jumped in with both feet and not only worked in the plant sales booth, but sold tickets out front and spent a day in the information booth. Every one of these experiences added to my conviction that people working towards a common goal are united, at least at that moment and can produce amazing results.

Now, as I work as a Spring Garden Fair Co-chair our common goal is to create a successful, fun-filled, energy generating, absolutely grand event. And we need your help to do it.

Soon, volunteer coordinators will contact you to volunteer to help with the Spring Garden Fair. Please do volunteer. Do what you can. If you can commit to a two-hour stint as a door monitor, we need you. If you can come before the fair and help with placing signs, we need you. If you would like to sell items in our Mother’s Day booth, we need you. If you want to sell raffle tickets, or help in the plant clinic booth, or sell tickets at the door we need you. By volunteering to help, you too become a part of our community and all the energy and fun it can produce.

But Spring Garden Fair is just one of the ways you can volunteer. If you have experience with managing a website, or specific talents in graphic arts, or experience with watering systems, we need you. If you have specific interest and expertise with dahlias, lavender or rain gardens we need you. If you have some experience with planning and producing large events we need you.

If you want to join us, we will find a perfect place for you to volunteer!

When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.
-- Ethiopian Proverb

by Kate Hassen
President
Master Gardener, 2013
**Editor this month...**

Pam Mooers  
Master Gardener, 2014

Spring is coming!

Like many of you I have spent countless hours this month tidying up the garden after a very long winter. I hate to admit that I am still cleaning up some fallen leaves. As I look around the garden I am constantly prioritizing. Today’s goal is to clear all of last year’s Shasta daisies or ornamental grasses so that I can enjoy the new crocus, narcissus, or anemone sprouting underneath. Then it is time to clear out the asparagus bed because the tiny shoots are starting to show themselves just above the soil. It is a year round process in my garden as I’m sure many of you can relate. My garden speaks loud and clear about its needs regardless of what I might have had planned.

Our Demonstration Gardens have those same needs although their voices may be easier to ignore. We will soon be introducing our gardens to the Master Gardener class of 2017. Although the apprentices won’t begin working and learning in the Demonstration Gardens until after Spring Fair our Head Gardeners have a lot of work to do before then. Two of our Head Gardeners have retired creating an opportunity for those interested in becoming more involved. Rosenelle Florencechild will be missed in the Lavender garden. She has been Head Gardener for two years and will still continue as liaison to the Oregon Lavender Association and Herb Society of America. We appreciate Irv Johnson and Margaret (Peggy) Bruce stepping up to fill this position. The Wanda Hauser Garden’s Nickie Van Vleck has also stepped down and I’d like to acknowledge what an asset she has been. She worked tirelessly in this garden since 2004 and has been the Head Gardener since 2008.

In this issue of the *Garden Beet* I noticed that quince was mentioned three times. Syd Brown has offered a tantalizing recipe for Roasted Quince Compote. I have never tried it and I am intrigued. We have things to do in March and advice on invasive plants. All good stuff and I think there is a clear message which is SPRING IS ON IT’S WAY! I hope you will all take advantage of the wonderful classes offered and join in the fun and camaraderie.

Remember to Donate your Decorated Pots for the SGF  
Email Questions to jcmgaor@gmail.com
OSU Josephine County Master Gardeners™
Along with OSU Extension Service & Rogue Community College

SEEDS OF SPRING

http://www.jocomastergardeners.com
Learn, Plant, Grow, Enjoy

28th Annual

‘SEEDS OF SPRING’ SEMINAR

Saturday ~ March 11, 2017 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Rogue Community College/ Redwood Campus
3345 Redwood Highway, Grants Pass, OR

The 28th annual Seeds of Spring Garden Seminar is brought to you by the Josephine County Master Gardeners. Kick off that winter frost and join other gardeners in sessions that will prepare you for those glorious warm spring days in your garden.

To Register click on the Link:
Jackson County Master Gardener Association Board Meeting February 3, 2017

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
President Hassen said our Executive Committee will have seven members. Four are designated by the Jackson County Master Gardener Bylaws; President, President-Elect, Past-President and Treasurer. Those individuals are Kate Hassen, Regina Boykins, Eric Weisberg and Annette Carter. The other three members; Pam Hillers, Kari Gies and Linda Holder were appointed by President Hassen.

The five members of the Bylaws Committee for 2017 will be Eric Weisberg, Linda Holder, Michael Riding, Kate Hassen and Pam Hillers.

President Hassen also spoke for the strong need to have a Social Chair. She said someone is needed to do the planning and work which helps bring in more members. A good conversation followed where Board members shared suggestions, such as asking the Master Gardener membership what they like or want, create small working groups to brainstorm ideas, and poll new members to understand their potential interest in becoming committee chairs, mentors and guides. An emphasis on recognizing tradition, but adding new ways to retain volunteers was also discussed.

SPRING GARDEN FAIR UPDATE
Jane Moyer shared artwork for JCMGA’s Spring Garden Fair. The entire Board agreed that local artist, Jolene Monheim created a beautiful piece. Jane said all that’s left is to fine tune some of the colors and the artwork will be finished.

Linda Holder happily announced there are already 52 vendors signed up for our spring fair. She added that some non-profits and several new businesses are among those who will be participating this year.

INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENER CONVENTION
Barbara Davidson said a two-seater bicycle has been generously donated by Pam Hiller’s daughter. She reminded the Board JCMGA needs to find someone who is creative and would be willing to organize and lead a group to decorate the bicycle for the International Master Gardener Convention.

CLOTHING COMMITTEE
Rhianna Simes said Jan Laine will speak to the new students about the clothing they will choose for their class. Cindy Tilley Case will show the class some popular MG clothing items and provide a sign-up sheet for students who want to volunteer for the committee.

YARD SALE UPDATE
Sandy Hammond shared a flyer which asks for donations for the JCMGA yard sale which will be held May 13. Donation suggestions include; books, clothing, decorative items, furniture, kitchen items, garden art and equipment, garden and power tools, horse tack, lamps and much more. The sale will also include any remaining plants left after the Spring Garden Fair.

CLASS OF 2017
Rhianna told the Board 2017 classes are going well and the new students are enthusiastic about learning. She also brought along photos of each student so Board members could recognize the newest Master Gardeners when their paths cross at the Extension.

NEXT MEETING: March 10, 2017
Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Tilley Case
Recording Secretary
Master Gardener, 2015

LIKE US ON Facebook
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2017
Jackson County Master Gardener™ Association
38th Annual
Spring Garden Fair

Saturday, May 6th 2017  9 - 5pm
Sunday, May 7th 2017  10 - 4pm
Jackson County EXPO
1 Peninger Rd, Central Point, OR 97502
Free Parking
Admission $3 ages 15 and up

Biggest Garden Show & Plant Sale
In Southern Oregon

Over 100 Plant and Yard Exhibitors
Free Gardening Demonstrations
Free Well Water Nitrate Testing
Special Mother’s Day gifts
Only Service dogs allowed

http://www.jacksoncountymga.org
541-776-7371

This 2017 event is produced by the Jackson County Master Gardener Association in collaboration with and support of Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener Program

Oregon State University Master Gardener
JCMGA Your Rogue Valley Gardening Resource

Photography and Design by Jolene Monheim, Master Gardener
March

SEED to SUPPER

a beginner’s guide to low-cost vegetable gardening

Contact John Kobal for more information
JohnKobal357@gmail.com
310-897-9786

A PROGRAM OF

OSU Food Bank
Oregon State University
Extension Service
Peggy’s Propagation

by Peggy Corum
Master Gardener 1989

February is such a promising month with bulbs coming up and green sprouts appearing on many perennials. A quick inspection of the Extension Propagation Garden revealed a surprise or two. In spite of The Rogue Gardener echoing nursery personnel telling customers "we'll be seeing you again" when a Daphne Odora is purchased, (due to it's propensity after many seasons to suddenly keel over for no apparent reason), our little propagations seem to have enjoyed winter weather, coming out of it with bright green leaves and their first little buds just waiting to open up.

Think of them as cute, fragrant little nosegays that are rooted and ready to take-off in your garden. The price is right at $3 for anyone interested. At that price, isn’t worth the gamble to prove you can do it?

The second welcome surprise after cold winter weather is the good condition of the hydrangeas. Little green shoots are already poking their noses out of each node along the stems. We will have a nice assortment of lace-caps, mop heads and a few oak leaf hydrangeas for your shopping excursions. Small in stature, but mighty.

THE GLEANING NETWORK

by Cindy Tilley Case
Master Gardener, 2015

In those warm summer months when the days seem to stretch on forever we all have the same problem. Sooner or later every good gardener has the experience of too much fresh produce. It’s that point when you realize you’ve harvested all the food you could possibly use. Eventually you resort to giving it to your closest neighbors and friends. I believe part of our responsibility as Master Gardeners is to try to help our communities become more self-sufficient. With that thought in mind, I’d like to suggest you donate your surplus garden harvest to the Gleaning Network.

The Gleaning Network in Central Point is a hand-up, not a hand-out organization. As a non-profit, The Gleaning Network provides low income, elderly and emergency food relief to families in the Rogue Valley. While completely staffed by volunteers the organization receives no Federal funding. For a minimal fee of $30.00 a person can become a member of The Gleaning Network. For that $30.00 they receive an allotment of 40 pounds of produce per month.

The majority of the food is donated by local grocery stores. Some is purchased through ACCESS and the rest is donated by generous Rogue Valley farmers and gardeners just like you. By becoming a paid member of The Gleaning Network you help provide money that’s used to purchase food for hungry Southern Oregon families. Even if you don’t need the food you can donate $30.00 to provide an Angel Scholarship for a family in dire need.

There is another way you can help. Each year the Central Point Grange CO-OP, along with the City of Central Point, provide a community garden space. The Gleaning Network is in charge of planting, weeding, watering and harvesting this garden. 858 pounds of produce from the Community Garden helped feed local families last year. If you are interested in helping in the Community Garden or you would like to learn more about The Gleaning Network, contact Cindy Tilley Case at 541.855.1902 for more information. And remember, while you’re planting your garden this year please consider planting an extra row for The Gleaning Network.
Roasted Quince Compote Recipe

Preheat oven or grill to 375

Long heavy-duty foil
4-5 quince, washed of their fur, quartered, cored and cut in crosswise or vertical 1/8th inch slices
1 bag of fresh or frozen cranberries, washed and drained
1 organic red onion, peeled, vertically halved then cut in lengthwise slices
1 knob of fresh ginger root, washed, peeled, sliced thin and cut in thin julienne strips
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon each ground cardamom and nutmeg
¼ cup good quality Balsamic vinegar
1/3 cup each frozen unsweetened pomegranate juice concentrate, port wine and water
1 Tablespoon agave or honey
2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil

Put quince slices, cranberries, onions and ginger strips in a large bowl. In measuring cup, stir together spices, Balsamic vinegar, pomegranate juice, wine, water, agave (or honey) and olive oil until mixed. Pour over quince slices and gently mix with flexible spatulas (silicone work best) until all is coated. Spoon quince mixture on a 24” piece of foil, then fold over crosswise making a seam down center, rolling up ends to close. Roast in oven or grill for about 35-45 minutes until quince slices are tender. Serve hot or cold. Great accompaniment for meats, fish, on salad, cream cheese, or sandwiches, instead of jam, or as a side relish.

Note: Apples or Bosc pears may be substituted for quince but while good, they’re definitely not the same.
This morning I woke up to things crashing around on my deck – a sure sign March is here! Lion or lamb, the good news about March’s blustery weather is Spring is just around the corner. It has been a very long, dark and wet winter and I have appreciated every bit of it, but am so ready for warm, sunny days and baby plants in my garden boxes. As with every season change, there are many things to remember to do to keep chores from piling up on the gardener during the main growing season. Personally, I try to divide up those things needing to be done by twelve, attacking a chore each month to avoid the mass work effort that always seems to happen during April and May. It’s so nice to have a routine that evolves with the seasons.

Fast-forward to weeds! This chore can be done any time, but this year looks to be quite an exceptional year for weeds. All the rain and bursts of sun have created an ideal setting for broadleaf weeds and I’m noticing a lot of rocket-weed around my home for the first time. So, I’ve been on weed-patrol with a bucket and hand spade for a few weeks now and things are slowly improving. An elderly friend use to tell me, “Get ’em when they’re little!” so now is time, unless you like using a shovel for taproots later!

My next move is planting more raspberries this month. Twice, I have unsuccessfully transplanted canes from friends’ gardens. The “failure” was in the soil-prep and available water. This time I plan to buy nursery stock and have a great place picked out with ample soil-drainage and water. Now is the time to plant all cane fruit, and rhubarb can go in now as well. In addition, I’m considering planting gooseberries. I’ve seen some healthy canes at a nursery recently. My grandmother used to make gooseberry pie, and jam. I haven’t seen the plants in years (or maybe I wasn’t looking) but thought it would be a nice addition to my garden.

All veggies in the cruciferous family can be started from seeds indoors now. Also, those long-season plants like peppers, eggplants and tomatoes can be seed-started now to transplant later but if the cold weather us expected to linger you might want to wait until the end of the month. This way your transplants won’t be gangly when it’s time to plant them outside. Direct-seed sowing can be done with greens like arugula, Swiss chard, turnip greens, spinach and corn salad greens. Don’t forget radishes, green (Spring!) onions, scallions, and leeks. If you plan to plant new asparagus, strawberries and artichokes this year, they can all go in this month as well. (as per our Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley).

Last to mention, I’ve been working on the rest of my late-winter pruning. The roses around my yard have been looking especially sad, so on top of a light pruning I have given them some slow-release food and additional mulching. I can’t wait to see the roses in May! If you still have late season pruning to do, remember not to trim back those early bloomers: forsythia, lilacs, quince and the fruitless early bloomer trees or you risk not having any blooms this year. Trim these back after their blooms are done later in the season.

I think you’ll have plenty to do this month, however if there’s wind, fly a kite! Celebrate the beginning of Spring on the 20th. HAPPY GARDENING!

Refund!

JCMGA can earn money every time you shop at Grange! How cool is that?

Whenever you shop at any of the Grange Co-Op locations, tell the clerk you are a Jackson County Master Gardener and they will credit our account with the amount of your purchase. At the end of the year, JCMGA will receive a percentage of all our accumulated credits back in the form of cash! This is like free money since we all buy plants, tools, and garden supplies!
Imagine every town in Jackson County growing enough fresh vegetables to help feed the hungry in their community. That’s the hope and mission behind the ACCESS Food Share Gardens. Since 2010 these highly productive, volunteer-run gardens have been providing thousands of pounds of fresh organic produce to ACCESS emergency food pantries. Volunteers bring home fresh produce for themselves and send the rest of the harvest out to the pantries. ACCESS collaborates with the SOREC Food Security Garden, and there are ACCESS Food Share Gardens in Medford, Central Point, Gold Hill, and Rogue River. This year, ACCESS will also be collaborating with the Ruch Community School garden.

We are seeking experienced gardeners to provide leadership in Rogue River, Gold Hill, and Ruch. With the support of ACCESS staff, volunteer managers take responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the garden. Managers lead or co-lead groups of volunteers to plant, weed, manage, and harvest a bounty of vegetables. Are you an experienced vegetable grower who could commit to managing a Food Share Garden this year?

If management seems like more of a commitment than you can make, we still welcome your gardening expertise as a regular helper in any of our gardens. We would love to have you! Volunteer hours in Food Share Gardens do count towards the volunteer requirement for Master Gardeners. We hope to see many Master Gardeners in our gardens this summer!

To volunteer as a garden manager or as a regular helper, contact Kim Barnes, 541-779-6691 ext. 309 or freshaccess@accesshelps.org.
March

JCMGA MISSION STATEMENT
“We learn, practice and teach the art and science of gardening in the Rogue Valley.”

by Rhianna Simes,
OSU Program Advisor
Master Gardener, 2007

Hello Friends and Gardeners

Happy Imbolc! We are officially half-way between winter and spring... with Crocus blooming to encourage us forward! YAY! We are going to make it!

I want to make sure you are aware of a couple of volunteer recruitment dates that are coming up on Wednesdays as part of the MG training this year. On March 8th we will be hosting Head Gardeners to share about how to get involved in our incredible Demonstration Gardens here at OSU Extension grounds. Each Head Gardener will have the opportunity to share about what apprentices will learn in the garden, and what fun projects they will work on during the growing season.

We will also have a Volunteer Fair on Wednesday, March 15th when all different aspects of the Master Gardener program will be showcased to help students understand where they can get involved. Each committee lead will share about their group, include ways that they would like support, and then set up around the room to answer questions. This will be a fun event and will help us all realize the scope and reach of the Jackson County Master Gardener program and all the amazing things we do! We have a lot to be proud of here!

If you have not come to a Wednesday class, please join us! We are having a great time together.

Imbolc or Imbolg (pronounced i-MOLG), also called (Saint) Brigid's Day (Irish: Lá Fhéile Bhríde, Scottish Gaelic: Là Fhèill Brighde, Manx: Laa’l Breeshey), is a Gaelic traditional festival marking the beginning of spring.
SUCCULENT DONATIONS WANTED

Do you have succulents?

Can they be divided? Your extras are coveted! The 2017 students need them to make succulent arrangements for selling at the Spring Garden Fair.

Leave your donations by the black mailbox in front of the older Practicum greenhouse by Friday 3/17. Be sure to fill out a donation form (found in the black mailbox). Put it in a plastic baggie (also found in the black mailbox) and tuck it securely in with the succulents you are leaving. On the donation form, please tell us if the succulents are hardy (can stay outside in the winter) or tender (need to be brought inside in the winter).

March 2017

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WE NEED YOUR BOOKS

BOOKS FOR KIDS AND FOR ADULTS

AWESOME USED GARDENING BOOKS

BOOKS ONCE LOVED, READY TO MOVE ON

BOOKS

Help raise money for SOU Scholarships by donating your books to the Spring Fair Book Sale (May 6-7).

Bring your gently-used Do It Yourself and Informational gardening books to the Extension office outside the Plant Clinic Now.

For information email Barbday@charter.net
The OSU Jackson County Master Gardener Associations Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center publish the *Garden Beet* monthly.

569 Hanley Road, Central Point, Oregon 97502.
Phone: 541-776-7371
http://www.jacksoncountymga.org

Anyone wishing to write for the Garden Beet must have the Maximum 800 word article and 600x800 photos submitted by the 15th of the month.

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All information provided by the Garden Beet is believed to be accurate. A product named in an article does not constitute an endorsement of said product by JCMGA.

**UP COMING EVENTS**

**Thursday, March 9  **Companion Planting  
3:00-5:00pm  
Companion planting is a strategy for maximizing the benefits of each plant while creating a supportive botanical ecosystem.

**Saturday, March 18*  **Seasonal Maintenance: Spring Clean  
12:30-3:00pm  
Learn what to plant, and what seasonal maintenance should occur in Spring to maximize blooms and productivity.  **4-part series**

**Saturday, March 25  **Spring Cultivation Techniques (1 of 3 series)  
12:30-3:00pm  
This is a special, educational work party for the food security garden. Learn to cultivate the soil without tilling for Spring cover crops.

**JACKSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATIONS  **  
**SPRING GARDEN FAIR  **  
**MAY 6th-7th** 
http://www.jacksoncountymga.org/departments/community-education-classes