

# Digger

OCTOBER 2023

## Mesmerizing magnolias

**New hybrids add  
splash of color**

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**When stress  
becomes too much**

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**Biological slug  
control**

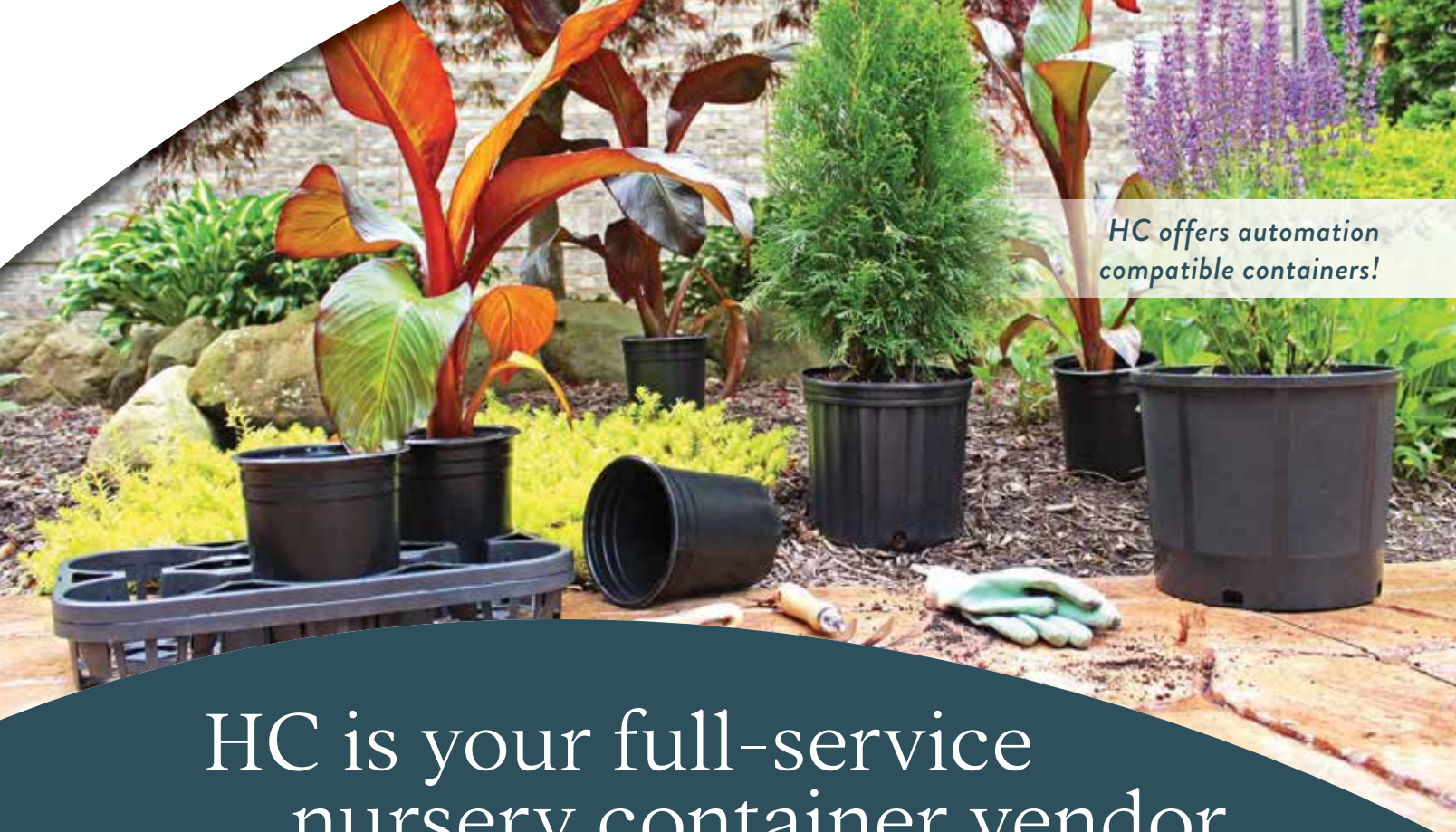
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Printed in Oregon on domestic recycled paper when available.

On the cover: The colorful *Magnolia* 'Rose Marie' avoids succumbing to a killing frost and is one of the latest blooming deciduous magnolias on the market. © MONROVIA BY DOREEN WYNJA

On this page: Left: A new mental health crisis line is tailored to help people working in Oregon agriculture with their unique challenges. ADOBE STOCK

On this page: Right: An overview of the rules and offers practical tips to assist agricultural employers with compliance adobe stock. ADOBE STOCK





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Digger magazine is an official publication and a member service of the Oregon Association of Nurseries, 29751 S.W. Town Center Loop W., Wilsonville, OR 97070.

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Postmaster: Change of address correction requested to above address.

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# Shared values are our guide

**One of the many lessons my mother taught me when I was young, was that we should always arise early, and jump start each day in a positive way.**



Todd Nelson

As a young man, I took this counsel to heart and started my mornings in a very positive way by getting up, getting dressed and getting out of the house long before Mom could find me and put me to work. Eventually though, she would always find me.

Those early lessons from Mom eventually took root as I learned the importance of starting each day guided by the core values of hard work, honesty, service, and putting people above things. Doing this has allowed me to find joy while working hard in this challenging industry to grow beautiful plants with the greatest people.

Six years ago, Mike Hiller, who was serving then as the Oregon Association of Nurseries president, encouraged me regularly to join the OAN. He frequently invited me to “just come and see what it is about.” I am grateful for his persistent invitations and decided to check it out.

Since coming and seeing what the OAN is about, I have been blown away by what happens day in and day out on our behalf. I learned that many of their core values aligned with my own. So ... I joined.

Since that first meeting, I have served the nursery industry in various ways. Just this last year, I was given the awesome opportunity to be OAN president. It has been an incredible experience to serve the Oregon greenhouse and nursery industry in this capacity.

I have been equally impressed with the quality of people who have served, and continue to serve, the OAN. They have been great mentors for me and are great resources for each of us. I would be remiss if I did not take a few moments to say thank you to a few individuals/groups:

**Josh Robinson:** For being such a positive example. You are generous with your time and support, and that shines through in your leadership and interactions with people.

**Jeff Stone:** The strongest advocate any group of people could possibly have, he is the backbone of the OAN. Your attention to detail and ability to make every meeting impactful was not lost on me. I appreciate your endless effort on our behalf.

**The OAN staff:** There is so much that happens behind the scenes; thank you for your hard work to ensure the organization runs smoothly.

**The Bountiful Farms family:** You make it look easy, thank you for your consistent effort each and every day. I love what I do because of the people I work with.

**My wife Lisa and our family:** Your support means the world to me; thank you for being so flexible with your time and for making every day fun and exciting.

Lastly, I want to thank you, my peers. I have enjoyed getting to know you better and learning more about the motivations that keep you functioning at a high level every day. I have come away from our interactions more optimistic about the future of our industry here in Oregon.

The future is unknown and there are still many challenges ahead to navigate, but I am confident in our leadership, who are guided by core values to help prepare for and navigate the future challenges that await.

Your incoming OAN president, Amanda Staehely, will do a tremendous job. She understands the ins and outs of the industry, she is politically savvy, and works incredibly hard. Her skill set will benefit the OAN as a whole, and I am excited to see her excel in her new role.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve! ☺



# Calendar

Get the word out about your event! Email details to [calendar@oan.org](mailto:calendar@oan.org) by the 10th day of the month to be included in the next issue of *Digger*.

## OCTOBER 7

### AMERICAN CONIFER SOCIETY FALL RENDEZVOUS

The Western Region of the American Conifer Society is hosting this year's ACS Fall Rendezvous Saturday, October 7 in the Portland area. The event will include visits to Miller's Manor Gardens in Canby, Oregon, as well as Crowfoot Nursery in Sandy, Oregon, where participants can tour the gardens and purchase plants. The cost for the day is \$20 and transportation is not included. There will be drinks and light refreshments at each stop, but lunch is on your own. For more information, log on to <https://tinyurl.com/ACS-fall-23>, or contact Vinny Grasso, ACS Western Region president, at [VGrasso@EHRnet.com](mailto:VGrasso@EHRnet.com), or Larry Stanley, ACS Western Region director, at [conifer@teleport.com](mailto:conifer@teleport.com).

## OCTOBER 10

### SUNSET CHAPTER AUTOMATION DAY

The Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN) Sunset Chapter is once again hosting an Ag Automation Day from noon-2 p.m. Tuesday, October 10 at Gold Family Farms, 11715 S.W. Hillsboro Highway in Hillsboro, Oregon. There will be demonstrations on the use of autonomous vehicles in a production environment. A vendor will also be demonstrating a drone spray vehicle. Lunch will be provided. Those attending should RSVP to either Mary Gallegos at [Mary@GoldFamilyFarms.com](mailto:Mary@GoldFamilyFarms.com) or Chris Robinson at [Chris@RobinsonNursery.com](mailto:Chris@RobinsonNursery.com).

## OCTOBER 13

### NEXGEN TOPGOLF GATHERING

The NexGen group is hosting a TopGolf event with food and a high-tech take on golf, sponsored by Means Nursery. This is a social and networking event for the group, whose goal is to make connections between young, new, or up-and-coming in the nursery and associated industries. The event starts at 7 p.m. Friday, October 13 at Hillsboro TopGolf, 5505 N.E. Huffman St. in Hillsboro, Oregon. To RSVP, go to <https://bit.ly/nexgentopgolf>.

## OCTOBER 25-27

### PESTICIDE COLLECTION EVENT

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has partnered with Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program to host pesticide collection events for small businesses and ag producers of Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman counties. The events are:

- Hood River Transfer Station, 3440 Guignard Dr., October 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- The Dalles Transfer Station, 1317 W. First St., October 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Wasco Event Center, 903 Barnett St., October 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY BRASADA RANCH

## OCTOBER 27-28

### OAN CONVENTION

Register now for the 2023 Oregon Association of Nurseries' Convention, set for Friday and Saturday, October 27-28, at Brasada Ranch resort in Powell Butte, located in Central Oregon near the city of Bend. Situated on over 1,800 acres, Brasada Ranch is a modern mountain retreat with panoramic views, award-winning golf at Brasada Canyons, massage and body treatments at Spa Brasada, and curated experiences ranging from sunset horseback rides to live concerts with local musicians and farm-to-table dinners. The OAN Convention is the annual can't-miss event featuring updates on important green industry issues, new board introductions, celebrating the outgoing board, and honoring the best the nursery industry has to offer. For the latest details, keep checking [www.OAN.org/Convention](http://www.OAN.org/Convention). For sponsorship opportunities, contact Allan Niemi, OAN Director of Events, at [ANiemi@OAN.org](mailto:ANiemi@OAN.org) or 503-582-2005.

Participants need to register one week in advance by reading the instructions and downloading the application at <https://bit.ly/Hazardwaste>.

## NOVEMBER 1-4

### NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION & EXPO

The 96th annual Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention & Expo will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana. FFA members and guests from across the country will participate in general sessions, competitive events, educational tours, leadership workshops, an expo and shopping mall, volunteer activities and more. Early bird registration continues through October 10, followed by standard registration on October 11. Housing registration is already open. For more details, go to [www.Convention.FFA.org](http://www.Convention.FFA.org).

## NOVEMBER 13

### USDA-ARS RESEARCH UNITS OPEN HOUSE

The USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Research Units will open their research facilities for a Golden Jubilee open house event at from 1-4 p.m. Monday, November 13, at 3420 N.W. Orchard Ave., Corvallis. The event will celebrate

50 years of horticultural research excellence. There will be facility tours, posters, pictures, and demonstrations highlighting research accomplishments.

## DECEMBER 5

### IN-PERSON PESTICIDE TRAINING

The Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) Health and Safety Committee and Oregon OSHA are providing an in-person training workshop for four core credits that are required by the Oregon Department of Agriculture as part of the pesticide licensing process. The workshop is intended to help employers in the farming and ranching industries achieve compliance with certain requirements. It will be 1 p.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the 2023 OFB annual meeting at the Washington Square Embassy Suites, 9000 S.W. Washington Square Road in Tigard. The workshop provides four core credit hours, which are recertification credits that pesticide handlers and applicators are required to earn to maintain their licenses. For OFB members, the cost of the workshop is \$40. The cost for nonmembers is \$100. Only credit cards are accepted. Each participant must register individually. Online registration closes at noon on Dec. 4. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/45ziXPE>.



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# Northwest News

OAN members and chapters are encouraged to send in relevant news items, such as new hires, new products, acquisitions, honors received and past or upcoming events. Email [news@oan.org](mailto:news@oan.org).

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## Monrovia closing Connecticut location by 2025

### Monrovia Nursery

**Company** announced it will close its Connecticut location by 2025.

Monrovia has been leasing the land at its Granby, Connecticut, location since 2014. The landowners plan to use the property for a solar farm installation. After careful consideration of the future growth opportunities at all of its nurseries, Monrovia agreed to give up its lease in 2025.

“This decision is based on Monrovia’s future growth strategies and not on financial hardship. In fact, 2023 was one of Monrovia’s most positive and productive years, despite cost pressures,” the company stated in a release. “The New England market is a strong and growing sales market for our brand. We are confident we will continue the growth we have seen in this region.”

Monrovia said it has made improvements that will allow it to service the New England market from its locations in Georgia, California and Oregon. The company said Connecticut is its smallest nursery, and the land has layout limitations on automation and future innovations



D.J. Parson of Lane Forest Products chats with visitors to their booth at the 2023 Farwest Show. For the 2024 show, exhibitors will have more time for interaction, with Day 1 opening at 10 a.m. rather than noon.

PHOTO BY CARLY CARPENTER

## FARWEST SHOW WILL HAVE CONSISTENT START TIME IN 2024

The Oregon Association of Nurseries has announced modified hours for the next edition of the Farwest Show, taking place August 21–24, 2024 in Portland.

The big change is that the Farwest expo floor will now open at 10 a.m. on Day 1 (Wednesday), rather than noon. Thursday and Friday hours will remain the same. The hours will now be 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday (Day 1) and Thursday (Day 2), and 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Friday (Day 3).

“We have been receiving feedback from exhibitors and attendees over recent years to change our noon Wednesday start time to an earlier start time of 10 a.m.,” OAN Director of Events Allan Niemi said. “This will allow exhibitors and attendees more time to connect on the show floor.”

As part of the schedule change, the Farwest keynote on Day 1 will now start at 8:30 a.m. rather than 11 a.m. as in recent years. The key-

**FARWEST**  
PORTLAND



note will include a 20-minute “State of the Industry” presentation by OAN Executive Director Jeff Stone, followed by the keynote itself. Day 1 regular seminars will follow starting after 10 a.m.

## EVANS FARMS TO BE NEW LOCATION FOR ANTIQUE SCHOOLHOUSE

Longtime OAN member **Evans Farms** in Oregon City, Oregon will be the new site of the Carus Historic Schoolhouse. The 97-year-old structure is being moved there after the Canby School District decided the building would need to either be moved or demolished.

A group called the Friends of the Carus Historic Schoolhouse led the charge to save the building. It is comprised of five women, including Evans Farms owner Cindy Lou Pease, a former student at Carus. Some of the wood used to



The Carus Historic Schoolhouse is being moved to longtime OAN member Evans Farms.

PHOTO COURTESY FRIENDS OF THE CARUS HISTORIC SCHOOLHOUSE

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## Northwest News

Pure Energy Group Inc. is currently working with several farms, nurseries, and other businesses to do grants for solar projects.

PHOTO COURTESY PURE ENERGY GROUP INC

construct the school originally came from Evans Farms.

The building is too large to be moved via road, so it's being moved across a mile worth of fields. The route entails crossing hills, a stream and two roads. The final process began in late August, *The Oregonian* newspaper (Portland) and Oregonlive website reported.

The building will need a new foundation at its new site, and other improvements also need to be made. The friends group will campaign to raise \$250,000 and pursue matching grant funds to make it all pencil out. For more information, see [www.CarusHistoricSchoolhouse.org](http://www.CarusHistoricSchoolhouse.org).

### NURSERIES TO FACE INJURY/ILLNESS E-REPORTING MANDATE

Nurseries that employ 100 or more people during the year will be required to electronically report injury and illness information from their required record-keeping forms once a year, according to a new rule announced this summer by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

The requirement is to take effect January 1. It applies not just to nurseries, but a variety of industries deemed "high hazard." Officials say it's all information that workplaces are already required to maintain. The electronic reporting is the part that is new.

In Oregon, the rule will be implemented through rulemaking by Oregon Occupational Safety and Health (Oregon OSHA). That agency has just begun the rulemaking process. "We are going to provide our input on this," OAN Executive Director Jeff Stone said.

The OAN has learned that Oregon OSHA plans to post to the web illness and injury information that is specific to certain establishments and even certain cases. However, the agency will seek to avoid sharing that info in a way that identifies individuals or their healthcare professionals.

"DOL's new rule doesn't really require Oregon OSHA to publish the nitty



gritty details about companies and cases, but they want to do it," Stone said. "We'll be objecting. It doesn't serve any evident purpose that we can see."

### USDA GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR RURAL SOLAR, WIND PROJECTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development agency is making available up to \$1.3 billion in Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grants — to fund solar, wind and energy efficiency projects — through the end of 2024.

The next application deadlines are quarterly, with the next ones coming up December 31, and subsequent deadlines each quarter in 2024. The grants are funded through the Biden administration's signature Inflation Reduction Act, which was passed and signed in 2022.

"Creating opportunity for rural communities means investing in farmers, ranchers, and small businesses," U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said in a press release. "These once-in-a-generation investments in renewable energy, like wind and solar, and energy efficient technologies create new markets and deliver real cost savings for our small and mid-sized agricultural operations and Main Street businesses, building and keeping wealth in rural America."

"The program is part of the Justice40 Initiative, which is working to ensure that 40 percent of the benefits of certain federal investments reach communities that are marginalized, underserved and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment," the agency noted in a press release.

In the most recent quarter, the agency announced \$266 million in grants in 47 states, Guam, and Puerto Rico, with

Oregon getting its share with 28 grants totaling \$2.2 million.

Rob Aldridge with Pure Energy Group Inc. (<https://PureEnergy.group>) in Jefferson, Oregon, is currently working with several farms, nurseries, and other businesses to do grants for solar projects, though other types of projects are eligible too. He said that the USDA raised its match from 25% to 50% for solar projects due to the abundant funding that is available.

"When adding the USDA 50%, plus 30% or 40% tax credits, plus Energy Trust incentives, plus some benefits from depreciation, a solar system can pay for itself in a year or so," he said. "After that, you'll have 40 or more years of free energy and reduced dependence on the power company." He noted that ongoing energy cost increases are making the benefits of efficiency projects even more pronounced over time.

According to the USDA's most recent grant data, **Reimer Nursery** in Gaston, Oregon received a \$14,941 grant to install a roof-mounted solar project, replacing 100 percent of their energy, with an expected savings of \$1,501 per year. Similarly, Ross Tree Farm, also in Gaston, received a \$19,756 grant to install roof-mounted solar project, giving the business 100 percent renewable energy, with an expected savings of \$1,481 per year.

But according to Aldridge, he's working with larger Oregon nurseries on past and upcoming grants that will save much more.

Nurseries have received up to \$250,000 in past grants, and in the future, he may apply for up to \$1 million for larger operations.

"REAP really is a huge opportunity for the farmers and rural businesses,"



The Palmer amaranth can outcompete the intended crop on farms.

PHOTO COURTESY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Aldridge said.

To learn more about investment resources for rural areas, or to submit an application, go to <https://tinyurl.com/REAPgrants> or contact the nearest USDA Rural Development state office.

## INVASIVE AMARANTH SPOTTED IN IDAHO

The invasive Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri* S. Watson) was found in Idaho, which became the first state in the Pacific Northwest to confirm its presence.

The plant is considered a weed across the United States, particularly for farms, where it can outcompete the intended crop and throw a wrench in production. It is known by a variety of names, including carelessweed, dioecious amaranth, Palmer's amaranth, Palmer amaranth and

Palmer's pigweed.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the plant is native to the Southwest but has spread much farther. It can grow 2–3 inches per day and can reach heights of 6–8 feet.

“Populations have developed resistance to multiple classes of herbicides with different modes of action, including glyphosate, making it very difficult and expensive to control, especially on productive farmland,” the USDA stated in a factsheet issued back in 2017. “It also is a highly competitive weed, and has been shown to be the most competitive of the pigweed species. Palmer amaranth has an extended germination and emergence window, rapid growth rates and high water use efficiency, and it produces large quantities of seed. It is a very prolific seed producer, producing up to 250,000 seeds from one plant.”



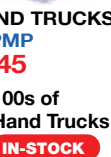
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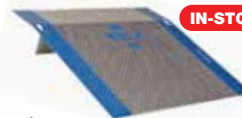
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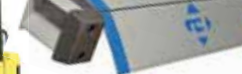
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For more information, review the USDA factsheet <https://tinyurl.com/PalmerAmaranth> or a bulletin issued jointly by Oregon State University and the University of Idaho <https://tinyurl.com/AmaranthBulletin>.

Sightings of the plant should be reported. In Oregon, contact Dr. Joel Felix at [Joel.Felix@OregonState.edu](mailto:Joel.Felix@OregonState.edu) or 208-739-2675. In Idaho, contact Dr. Albert Adjesiwor at [A.Adjesiwor@UIdaho.edu](mailto:A.Adjesiwor@UIdaho.edu) or 208-490-3623.

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### 'VERY STRONG' EL NIÑO TO BRING WARMER WINTER

An El Niño system is headed toward the coast of Oregon, bringing a warmer winter and warmer waters for some marine life, the *Oregon Capital Chronicle* news website (Salem, Oregon) reported.

Coastal areas could experience flooding from high tides and rising sea levels. In the mountains, this could translate into more rain instead of snow, which could signal another dry summer to follow.

For aquatic species, warming ocean temperatures could spur a northern migration and could be deadly for plankton vital to salmon and other species up the food chain.

El Niño last visited Oregon in the winter of 2018, and has occurred more than 20 times since 1950. The latest system, which recently reached the southern Oregon coast, is predicted to be among the fiercest in years, according to Oregon's state climatologist, Larry O'Neill. There have only been three El Niños since 1970 that have reached the category of "very strong" as determined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The last one was in 1997. "Generally the rule of thumb is that El Niño leads to drier, warmer weather," he said. "In strong years, it's led to warmer, wetter weather. We don't know yet how robust those relationships are though."

The system typically arrives in early September, reaches its peak in the winter and fades toward the spring of the following year.

Andy Bryant, a hydrologist at the National Weather Service, said that it's likely that due to warmer temperatures, more of the precipitation in the mountains that usually comes down as snow in winter is likely to fall as rain instead. For communities and aquatic species that rely on mountain snowpack to hold onto precipitation that then melts and flows as water in spring, it could mean a much drier spring.

---

### COALITION PUSHES FOR HIGHER H2B GUEST WORKER CAP

The H-2B Workforce Coalition is pushing to exempt returning H2B guest workers from the annual cap of 66,000, the AmericanHort trade group reported in a recent update.

The federal H-2B program provides guest workers for a variety of industries, including the landscaping trades. Others include hospitality, seafood, equine, forestry, amusement parks, and golf courses. Groups from all those industries are in the coalition, along with AmericanHort.

The coalition is hoping to include the cap exemption in annual spending bills. On June 21, the House Appropriations Committee passed the Fiscal Year 2024 Homeland Security appropriations bill by a vote of 33-25. For the new fiscal year, which starts on October 1, the bill would exempt from the 66,000 cap H-2B returning workers who were issued an H-2B visa during one of the previous three fiscal years. The Senate took up its version of the spending bill in committee recently and the committee chair committed to work on H-2B cap relief before the bill moves to the Senate floor.

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### AG GROUPS CRITICAL OF MODIFIED WOTUS RULE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced a set of amendments to its revised Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule, which itself was announced back in January.

The WOTUS rule defines which streams, ponds, wetlands and other bodies of water can be regulated under the federal Clean Water Act. In May, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously struck down the "significant nexus" test which does not require wetlands to have a significant surface connection to navigable waters to be considered regulable.

Although the 2023 WOTUS definition was not before the court, the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have modified it to conform to the ruling. But agricultural groups say the rule, even as modified, still goes too far, the *Capital Press* newspaper (Salem, Oregon) reported.

The EPA had a "golden opportunity" to write a WOTUS rule that's fair to farmers and stands the test of time, "but instead chose to continue government overreach and revise only a small slice of the rule that was rejected by the Supreme Court," said Zippy Duvall, president of the U.S. Farm Bureau Federation.

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## Announcements

### MÁS LABOR, OAN CREATE GUEST WORKER SERVICES OFFERING

**másLabor** has been selected as the Preferred Guest Worker Services Vendor for Oregon Association of Nurseries. As part of this new arrangement, OAN members will receive custom consultations on applying for H-2A labor, as well as a dedicated resource and access to their expert H-2A housing connections, program basics, compliance guides, and a full online reference document on H-2A ([másWiki](#)) that is accessible to them post-enrollment.

"We listen closely to OAN members on an ongoing basis, and we take careful note of their evolving needs," OAN Executive Director Jeff Stone said. "Labor is, consistently, the number one problem our growers have. That's always been true, but never more so than now. More and more of them are looking to guest worker



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programs to provide dependable and consistent help. We saw a clear need to add a preferred vendor program to our portfolio of exclusive OAN member benefits.”

másLabor is planning to conduct a presentation on the H-2A program Saturday, October 28 at the 2023 OAN Convention at Brasada Ranch resort in Powell Butte, east of Bend in Central Oregon. For more information on másLabor and their comprehensive H-2A visa services, call 434-263-4300 or visit [www.MasLabor.com](http://www.MasLabor.com) or [OAN.org/Labor](http://OAN.org/Labor)

### FESSLER NURSERY PARTNERS WITH THE PLANT COMPANY

The Plant Company has partnered with **Fessler Nursery** in Woodburn, Oregon, to distribute leafjoy® premium houseplants, opening new markets in the Western U.S., *Nursery Management* magazine reported.

Fessler Nursery has begun delivering leafjoy houseplants to Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

“The Plant Company is pleased to be partnering with Oregon-based Fessler Nursery,” said Pete Sheardy, midwest and western territory manager at The Plant Company. “Their commitment to the very best growing practices will help us provide high-quality leafjoy houseplants west of the Rockies and grow our customer base.” The company officially launched the partnership at the Farwest Show in Portland, Oregon.

### FREEMAN JOINS DÜMMEN ORANGE AS SALES MANAGER

Dümmen Orange North America recently hired Chris Freeman to its team as western region sales manager. He worked previously as a



Chris Freeman



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manager or director with major breeding companies including Ball FloraPlant, Fischer and Syngenta.

“We are thrilled about Chris joining our team as he has valuable experience to share,” said Nathan Sell, managing director of annuals, perennials and pot plants for Dümme Orange. “His passion for grower success, customer service and know-how make him a tremendous asset for our distribution partners and the clients we serve.”

Freeman’s past roles in R&D, product development, sales and business development give him a unique understanding of the complete value chain of the floriculture industry.

Freeman earned a Master of Agriculture degree in Horticulture from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from the

University of Houston. For more information about Dümme Orange, visit [na.DummenOrange.com](http://na.DummenOrange.com).

### HARRELL’S LOCATES FIRST OREGON WAREHOUSE IN TUALATIN

Fertilizer, fungicide, herbicide and insecticide distributor **Harrell’s LLC** opened its first warehouse in Oregon this past summer. The warehouse, located at 9675 S.W. Tualatin-Sherwood Road in Tualatin, will serve customers in Oregon and the surrounding



Scott Renfro

region.

The company said it will allow for faster product delivery times and more convenient product storage.

“Harrell’s LLC is excited to be opening our first location in the state of Oregon,” said Scott Renfro, Harrell’s territory manager for Oregon. “It demonstrates our commitment to fully servicing customers with inventory close to the farm and reflects our core value of making our customers as successful as possible. This location will most importantly allow us to achieve shipping consistencies with both POLYON® controlled-release fertilizer and crop protection products from all major suppliers.” The company now has 30 warehouses nationwide. It has opened four others since the start of 2022, serving the areas in and around Columbus, Ohio; Richmond, Virginia; Syracuse, New York; and Lubbock, Texas. ©



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## CORRECTION



Due to a production error, the plant on the cover of the September 2023 issue of *Digger* was misidentified. The plant is Princeton Elm (*Ulmus americana* ‘Princeton’), which is resistant to Dutch elm disease. *Digger* regrets the error.



# Favorite plants of the summer



Mike Darcy

Head “plant nerd,” longtime speaker, host of gardening shows on radio and TV, and author of the In the Garden email newsletter. You can reach Mike, or subscribe to his newsletter, at [ITGMikeDarcy@Comcast.net](mailto:ITGMikeDarcy@Comcast.net).



*Pyrrosia* is one of Portland gardener Loree Bohl's favorite new plants. The plant is epiphytic so you can plant it in the ground or in an interesting mounted container.

PHOTO BY LOREE BOHL

**F**OR THOSE OF US LIVING in the Pacific Northwest, we have had quite a summer of extremes in the weather, just like much of the rest of the country.

Last winter we had low temperatures down to the high teens and low twenties, which is not the norm. Spring brought us abundant rain, which was welcome. Then came summer, with no rain, and high temperatures, over 100 F, which once again is not the norm for us.

Our plants have had to be resilient and adapt to these challenging weather conditions, and the adaptation has not always been successful.

Gardeners are also having to be resilient and recognize that sometimes change is a necessity. Who better to help them with reconciling this necessity than local garden centers showcasing new and different plants?

So, how should local garden centers find these new plants to tantalize gardeners with? Of course, it is always better to learn which plants are favorites from other nonprofessional gardeners. So I asked them this question: Given all the weather challenges, which was one of your favorite plants that was able to adapt

and thrive last summer?

Their answers allowed me to learn about some interesting plants, including some new to me.

### Portland gardener Loree Bohl

has a special affinity for agaves, cactus and all things spiky. This affinity was the inspiration for the name of her garden blog, “danger garden,” but the plant that Loree selected is not “spiky.”

“One of my favorite plants this summer is *Pyrrosia*,” she said. “I love them all, but *Pyrrosia lingua* and its variations is probably the one that’s most available in garden centers.

“I have roughly 17 different types of *Pyrrosia*. They are generally considered to be hardy in Zone 8, but last winter was pretty rough on the ones in my garden. It was below freezing day and night for 72 hours, with ice and frigid wind. However, they have all bounced back and look great. Since the only ‘leaves,’ — it’s a fern, but they aren’t really typical fern fronds — are produced at the end of rhizomes, I was afraid they would never look full again, but they do!

“It’s a fun plant because not only can you grow it in the ground, it’s epiphytic so you can make interesting mounted



Portland gardener Lisa Fuller loves *Ornithogalum arabicum*, which is a bulb.

PHOTO BY LISA FULLER

containers.”

*Pyrrosia* is not usually available at most retail garden centers, but is more of a plant that would be found at a specialty nursery. It would probably be a new plant to most gardeners. With proper signage and an informative display, it could stimulate interest and become a new sales opportunity.

### Salem gardener Elaine Jerauld

selected one of my favorite plants. I have had *Salvia* ‘Amistad’ in a pot on our deck for many years and I am glad Elaine selected this as one of her favorite plants. It is readily available in garden centers. It blooms all summer and into the fall, with hummingbirds visiting it continuously all season long.

Elaine says that, as the light in the garden begins to shift to the softness of fall, *Salvia* ‘Amistad’ continues to brighten the garden with its deep purple highlights.

“This plant is scattered throughout our garden as a notable pop of color. The hummingbirds love it as do the smaller



## What I'm Hearing



Hummingbirds love *Salvia* 'Amistad', one of Elaine Jerauld's favorite new plants.

PHOTO BY ELAINE JERAULD



Portland gardener Amy Campion loves *Solidago* 'Golden Baby', which attracts tons of pollinators.

PHOTO BY AMY CAMPION

pollinators, so as a result, this is a very busy plant around here. It also has been consistent for overwintering these last strange-weather winters and, while it may show up a bit later than before because of our colder springs, it does show up," she said.

To friends who are new to gardening, I always recommend that *Salvia* 'Amistad' be put on their shopping list because it brings so much to the garden palette. Also of note, bright pink *Salvia* 'Chiapensis' has been blooming into January at our place.

**Portland gardener Amy Campion** moved to Oregon in 2013, having previously lived and gardened in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has become a spokesperson for drought-tolerant and native plants. She also has a keen interest in native bees and other native insects.

Amy says, "Here is one of my favorite summer plants, *Solidago* 'Golden Baby'. It blooms in July, (with a little bit of rebloom later in the summer), and attracts a ton of pollinators, which is why

I love it. But it is also a very nice garden plant in general."

It should be available at most garden centers.

"It stays small and doesn't spread like some other goldenrods and is very well behaved! And it's quite drought tolerant. Also, it's very easy to start from cuttings, so I like to propagate it and share it with friends. I like many goldenrods, but this is probably my favorite one."

**Portland gardener Lisa Fuller** has chosen a bulb, *Ornithogalum arabicum*, as one of her favorite plants. It is a bulb that is new to me.

Lisa has been in the floral industry and said that this is also one of her favorite flowers to use in arrangements. This is her first year growing it here, so the winter hardiness is not known to her. Thus, Lisa suggests, that she will give it some protection this winter.

Lisa says, "This plant is very difficult to photograph because of the stems that

are 5 feet tall! It forms a sturdy clump of broad sword-like leaves in early spring and a single stem emerges from each bulb and blooms over a very long period.

"It is a great long lasting cut flower and is a perennial with a zone rating of 8–10. I'll probably keep this in a pot and overwinter it in an unheated garage. This is also known as 'Star of Bethlehem,' but the variety *O. arabicum* has distinctive almost black 'eyes' which are the developing seed pods."

These four gardeners mentioned four different plants, and it is interesting that the four plants are all quite different. Three of them are plants that I have never grown and the *Pyrrhosia lingua* is one that I have never heard of.

Asking gardeners these types of questions might give garden centers some ideas for new plants to add to their collection. Plants such as these would not just appeal to the average gardener, but to the ardent gardener as well. ©



# Protecting employees from heat



For an extended version of this article, including information on heat and smoke rules for worker housing, scan this QR code.

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## Tips and resources for employers to comply with Oregon’s new heat illness prevention rules

**I**N 2022, OREGON Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) adopted permanent rules to protect workers from heat-related illness. As we approach the end of the second summer under the new rules, this article provides an overview of the rules and offers practical tips to assist agricultural employers with compliance.

### Oregon’s heat illness prevention rules

The heat illness prevention rules for agriculture are found at OAR 437-004-1131.

The rule requirements are triggered when an employee performs work in conditions where the ambient heat index equals or exceeds 80 F or above (see Chart A, Page 20). The heat index in a

work area is also known as the “apparent temperature” and is calculated to determine what the temperature feels like to the human body when relative humidity and the air temperature are combined. The calculations are published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service.

The rules do not expressly place the onus of calculating the heat index on employers, but we believe that to be the case based on how the rules are written. Employers can determine the heat index by using the OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool App (<https://TinyURL.com/HeatSafetyApp>) or the online calculator available from the National Weather Service (<https://TinyURL.com/HeatIndexCalculator>).

**Access to shade:** When the heat index is 80 F or higher, employers must establish and maintain shade areas meeting the following criteria:

- Open to the air on three sides or have mechanical ventilation for



Peter Hicks



Steve Shropshire

**Peter’s practice focuses on litigation and counseling with an emphasis on employment and commercial matters. He can be reached at 541-797-2079 or Peter.Hicks@JordanRamis.com.**

**Steve uses his experience and knowledge to help his clients understand and navigate the complex legal environment that governs water rights and water law, natural resources, environmental, real estate and land use matters. He can be reached at 541-647-2979 or Steve.Shropshire@JordanRamis.com.**

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cooling;

- Accommodate the number of employees on recovery or rest periods so that they can sit in a normal posture, fully in shade;

- Located as close as practicable to the work area;

- During meal periods, must be large enough to accommodate the number of employees on the meal period that remain on site; and

- If trees or other vegetation are used to provide shade, such as in orchards or forests, the thickness and shape of the shaded area must provide sufficient shadow to protect employees.

- If providing shade is not safe or feasible, employers must implement alternative cooling measures that provide equivalent protection.

**Drinking water:** Employers must provide ample opportunities to drink water

## Summary of requirements

### When heat index equals or exceeds 80 F

Enough shade provided to accommodate those on their heat illness prevention rest and meal breaks

Cool or cold drinking water; up to 32 ounces per employee per hour.

Acclimatization begins.

Emergency plans developed/updated to address employee exposure to excessive heat.

Develop and implement an acclimatization plan and procedures in writing.

Develop, implement, and maintain an effective heat illness prevention plan in writing.

Provide heat illness prevention training to all employees, including new employees, supervisory and non-supervisory employees.

Training must be documented.

### When heat index equals or exceeds 90 F

Implement high heat practices (i.e., a communication system to identify employees that may be experiencing a heat-related illness; a system that allows designated and other employees to call emergency medical services; and a system for monitoring the indoor heat index).

Develop and implement a written heat illness prevention rest break schedule; employers must choose one of three options

Chart A

and ensure an adequate supply (32 ounces per hour for each employee) is “immediately and readily available” at all times and at no cost when the heat index in the work area equals or exceeds 80 F.

The temperature of the drinking water must be between 35 and 77 F.

Water should be replenished throughout the work shift. Employers can also provide electrolyte-replenishing beverages that do not contain caffeine (for example, sports drinks), but should not completely replace the required water supplies with the non-water substitutes.

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## Rest break requirements

Heat index temperature	Rest break durations
90 F or greater	10 minutes every two hours
95 F or greater	20 minutes every hour
100 F or greater	30 minutes every hour
105 F or greater	40 minutes every hour

To be able to demonstrate compliance with this requirement, employers should maintain water logs documenting when and how water is provided, including documentation of regular intervals when water is replenished.

**High heat practices:** If the heat index is greater than or equal to 90 F, employers must implement additional safety measures. Again, documentation is key, including recording rest breaks and regularly training and circulating your Heat Illness Prevention Plan (described in more detail below):

- Employers must ensure effective communication so employees can contact supervisors when necessary and observe employees for alertness and heat-related illness by regularly communicating with employees working alone (radio and cell phone are acceptable), creating a mandatory buddy system, or implementing other equally effective means of observation or communication. Communication must occur in a language and vocabulary readily understood by all employees.
- One or more employees must be designated and equipped at each worksite to call for EMS and allow other employees to call for EMS.
- Employers must: (a) directly measure the temperature and humidity in buildings and structures without mechanical ventilation at the same time and location when occupied by employees to determine the current indoor heat index; or (b) use the NIOSH Heat Safety Tool app to determine the heat index outside of the building or structure and assume that it is the same inside; or (c) if the structure is designed or otherwise known to be affected by outdoor humidity (e.g. hoop houses and greenhouses), measure and use the actual humidity inside the structure.
- Employers must develop and implement a cool down rest-break schedule by choosing from one of three options listed in the rules (see Chart B above). This includes developing an employer-specific

plan that complies with the rule requirements, adopting the plan designed by NIOSH, or adopting the simplified schedule developed by Oregon OSHA set forth below:

Under the simplified schedule, the 10 minute break period is part of the two-hour interval (e.g., 110 minutes of work and 10 minutes of rest).

- Breaks are required only during the specified heat index. If the heat index is not above 90 degrees for at least two hours, no break is required.
- Employers can use different approaches for different groups of employees, as long as employees don't switch between groups.
- Piece rate employees must take the same break as hourly employees.
- The purpose of the heat illness prevention rest breaks is to allow the body to cool down and recover from working, so employers should mandate that the breaks be taken in the shade or an air-conditioned vehicle.
- Breaks may be provided concurrently with required meal or rest periods, except for unpaid meal breaks — the preventative cool down rest period must be compensated.

**Emergency medical plan:** Employers must adopt an Emergency Medical Plan that addresses employee exposure to excessive heat and must address the types medical situations that employees could encounter, including those conditions relating to excessive heat exposure.

**Acclimatization plan:** Employers must develop and implement a written acclimatization plan. Employers can either develop their own Oregon OSHA rule-compliant plan or adopt the NIOSH acclimatization plan. Document when employees begin and complete acclimatization, recording the specific measure used to acclimate the employee and

when and how the measures were implemented.

**Heat illness prevention plan:** Employers must develop, implement, and maintain an effective heat illness prevention plan in writing. The plan must be made available at the worksite to employees and to Oregon OSHA upon request. The plan must contain at least the following:

Chart B

- How employees will be trained on the hazards of heat exposure and the necessary steps to prevent heat-related illnesses;
- How to recognize the symptoms of dehydration, and how to respond to suspected heat-related illnesses in others;
- How sufficient amounts of cool, potable water in work areas will be provided;
- How employees will be provided frequent opportunities and encouragement to stay hydrated by drinking water;
- How employees will be provided sufficient space to rest in a shaded area or cool climate-controlled area, and where heat-affected employees may cool off and recover when signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses are recognized;
- How the employer will implement the heat illness prevention rest break schedule when necessary to keep employees safe; and
- How the employer will implement heat acclimatization procedures for new employees or employees returning to work from extended absences of seven or more days.

If you have not already done so, do not neglect preparing and circulating a Heat Illness Prevention Plan as soon as possible. Jordan Ramis is available to offer any assistance you need to comply with this requirement and implementing an appropriate plan.

**Supervisor and employee training:** Employers must provide heat illness prevention training to all employees, including new employees, supervisory and non-supervisory employees in a language and vocabulary readily understood, and in a manner that facilitates employee feedback. The training must be provided ➡

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annually before employees begin work that should reasonably be anticipated to expose them to the risk of heat illness.

Oregon OSHA has imposed a number of specific requirements for that training found in OAR 437-004-1131(9). In addition, OSHA's website contains links to training materials. Do not neglect training for new employees and managers, particularly during periods of rapid hiring to meet seasonal demands.

**Training documentation:** Employers must prepare and maintain written or electronic training records that can be provided to Oregon OSHA upon request. The records must contain the name or identification of each employee trained, the date(s) of the training, and the name of the person who conducted the training.

The most recent annual training record for each affected employee must be maintained. Employees should also

be required to acknowledge, in writing, that they have been provided training and had an opportunity to ask questions and receive guidance.

### Available resources

Oregon OSHA has made a number of heat-related resources available on its website, which is found at <https://TinyUrl.com/OSHAHeatStress>. The website includes detailed information on rule requirements, fact sheets and FAQs, worksite posters, and training materials in both written and video format (in English and Spanish).

Given the high priority Oregon OSHA has placed on these rules, employers should immediately begin implementing these practices, if you have not already done so. Jordan Ramis is ready to provide any assistance and guidance that may be helpful for implementation of the rules. ☺



### The Legal Access Program

entitles each OAN Regular and Associate Member to 30 minutes per calendar month of FREE legal advice from Jordan Ramis PC attorney Steve Shropshire. If your question cannot be reasonably answered within the allotted 30 minutes, Steve will estimate the amount of additional time he believes the answer will require. You may then elect to hire Jordan Ramis PC to represent you further on that matter, hire other counsel, or drop the matter altogether.

Legal Access services are intended for one-time, situation-specific questions relating to the nursery business. This OAN member benefit is not intended to cover matters that require ongoing legal advice beyond the initial 30-minute consultation.

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*M. 'Rose Marie'* avoids succumbing to a killing frost and is one of the latest blooming deciduous magnolia on the markets.

© MONROVIA BY DOREEN WYNJA

# Magnolia's many colors

A rainbow of flowering deciduous hybrids makes this tree a perennial favorite

By Tracy Ilene Miller

**O**UR ATTACHMENT TO THE GENUS *Magnolia* might possibly be embedded in our consciousness over millennia based on its ancient lineage. Researchers looking to trace the characteristics of the very first flower, existing 140 million years ago, found it resembles modern magnolias, with their distinct tepals and numerous stamens and carpels.

In Central Oregon, 44 million years ago, mammalian species of the moist, dense forest would have most certainly encountered *Magnolia*, according to researchers at John Day Fossil Beds.

The longevity of *Magnolia* has lent the genus significance to many cultures, where it is imbued with meanings ranging from romance to beauty, pride and enduring relationships.

It has also led to the staunch dedication to the genus and its attributes by researchers and breeders, including horticultural stars of the end of the last century and beginning of the 21st century. Those include August Kehr, Philip Savage Jr., Dennis Ledvina, Richard Figlar, Felix Jury and Mark Jury, breeders at

the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and others.

While breeders worked to find better hybrids and define ideal growing conditions, debates over phylogeny and taxonomy paralleled those experiments with *Magnolia* crosses over decades.

It has been noted that before the turn of the century, a shift in breeding occurred when researchers reported on the number of complete sets of chromosomes of more than 300 species and cultivars. At that point, *Magnolia* became the sole genus in the subfamily Magnoliaceae, and additional reordering put once-named genera into sectional ranks of subgenus.

This allowed breeders to more definitively define the lineages of *Magnolia*-identified plants for greater reproductive compatibility of hybridization experiments.

This more-refined understanding is one factor leading to introductions of new deciduous magnolia hybrids. Because of their closer alignment in parentage, these new introductions exhibit better characteristics for such desired qualities as





## Magnolia's many colors



Forty-four million years ago, central Oregon was a hot, wet, semitropical place filled with a wide diversity of plants and animals, including *Magnolia*. Below left: creodont, the size of a modern panther, 5 *Macginicarpa* (sycamore), 6 *Orohippus* (early horse), 7 *Dioon* (cycad), 8 *Cornus* (flowering dogwood), 9 *Juglans* (walnut), 10 *Castanea* (chestnut), 11 *Castanopsis* (chestnut), 12 *Castanopsis* (chestnut), 13 *Ictalurus* cf. (freshwater catfishes), 14 *Telmatherium* (1.25m brontothere), 15 *Castanea* (chestnut), 16 *Magnolia* (magnolia tree), 17 *Hyrachyus* ('running rhino'), 18 *Hyrachyus* ('running rhino').

MURAL BY LARRY FELDER, COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

cold hardiness, foliage persistence and vivid flower color, as well as smaller stature, precocious flowering (first flowers emerging before the emergence of leaves), late blooming and blooming on young plants.

These newer selections shine as additions to the list of enduring deciduous magnolia hybrids previously introduced, which remain best-sellers for their strong traits that answer modern needs and wants.

### White-to-pink magnolias

Stephanie Mack, yard buyer at **Portland Nursery**, knows exactly when magnolias are in bloom because customers come in asking for them by name, especially saucer magnolias (*Magnolia × soulangeana*). “They are so spectacular and early,” she said.

Customers are also inspired to buy magnolias — which make up 10% of the nursery’s tree sales — after seeing them in well-crafted displays at the garden center. Mack said customers are typically satisfied with the deciduous varieties because almost all are fragrant, have no disease

problems in Oregon, are adapted to acidic soils, and are less brittle than evergreen magnolias.

Specific to Portland, customers request bigger trees, due to the city’s street tree requirement of a minimum 1.5-inch caliper and a larger maturity size, she said.

“That’s harder for me as a buyer.” If it were up to Mack, she’d recommend smaller-caliper trees for better availability and initial establishment of the trees after planting.

A quarter of the nursery’s sales of deciduous magnolias are for street trees, leaving the majority to cultivars best suited for small yards and condo or apartment dwellers.

The tropical-looking *Magnolia macrophylla* ssp. *ashei* (10–15 feet tall by 8–10 feet wide, zones 6–9), with its 2-foot-long leaves and big white, fragrant flowers that can reach 8 inches across, gets everyone excited at the nursery. “When they start to leaf out, the staff members go crazy about them,” Mack said.

A new introduction at **Heritage Seedlings & Liners Inc.** (Salem, Oregon)

was a serendipitous find. It was identified only after it was grown from mixed seeds from China, sold at a local school auction and then rediscovered as a standout — 15 years later, in the purchaser’s garden!

The qualities prompted the nursery to patent *Magnolia cylindrica* ‘MJK-MB1’ PP34917 (Marilyn’s Choice™, zones 5–9, 35–40 feet tall by 4 feet wide), which “has garnered widespread interest due to its tightly columnar form and its demonstrated flowering habit in only nine months from a bud in a number one pot,” co-owner Mark Krautmann explained. In addition to arriving to market in a modest-sized pot with 4–5 flower buds, ‘Marilyn’s Choice’ blooms late enough to avoid major frost events; maintains a tight branch structure for strength in ice storms; and shows major pest and disease resistance that in trials compared favorably with the popular *M.* ‘Galaxy’.

“It’s a plant that has a bright future,” Krautmann said, “a once-in-a-career find.”

One of Krautmann’s all-time favorite magnolias is *M.* ‘Daybreak’ (zones 5–9, 20–30 feet tall by 15–20 feet wide), devel-





Legend: 1 *Cercidiphyllum* (tree), 2 *Ensete* (banana plant), 3 *Sabalites* (extinct fan palm), 4 *Patriofelis* (cat-like animal), 10 *Pinus* (pine tree), 11 not labeled in mural, 12 *Pristichampsus* sp. (3 m long crocodile), 18 *Lauraceae* (laurel tree), 19 *Cicadidae* on *Vitis* (cicada on grapevine), 20 *Meliosma* (aguacatillo).

oped by Dr. August Kehr, the renowned azalea and magnolia breeder. ‘Daybreak’ has purple-pink blooms with white interior and — a slightly floppy, less rigid flower shape that Krautmann calls “royal and approachable.”

“[‘Daybreak’] doesn’t have that billboard, in-your-face effect,” he added, noting it will bloom in three years with 8-inch flowers on a mature tree. “‘Daybreak’ is unusual for magnolias because of its upright form with blooms delayed six weeks later than *M. × soulangeana* and low susceptibility to frost.

Wholesale tree grower **J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.** (Boring, Oregon) has added Spring Welcome® Lobner Magnolia (*Magnolia × loebneri* ‘Ruth’, zones 3–7, 15–20 feet tall and wide), which is easy to propagate and produces a saleable 3-gallon plant in 2–3 years, said Guy Meacham, product development manager. Developed and introduced by North Dakota State University, where a rigorous evaluation system yields hardy and reliable trees, Meacham said, Spring Welcome is a better cultivar than others

out there, with its bright white, 3–4-inch star-shaped flowers that bloom reliably to –35 F on a tight, well-maintained, upright ovate form with no central leader and disease-free foliage.

Meacham said the nursery currently sells more of *M. stellata* ‘Royal Star’ (star magnolia), but “Spring Welcome still needs to be discovered.”

For its outstanding form, Nicholas Staddon, plantsman and company spokesman with **Everde Growers**, a wholesale grower with 15 farms in Oregon, California, Florida and Texas, recommends the hybrid *M. ‘Athene’* (*M. ‘Mark Jury’ × M. soulangeana ‘Lennei Alba’*, zones 7–9, 13 feet tall by 10 feet wide). ‘Athene’ is a vigorous, upright, medium-size, vase-shaped tree that blooms at three years with fragrant cup-and-saucer white tepals showing a distinct violet-pink base.

“It may be as perfect a magnolia as you get to see,” Staddon said. “The form of the flower has great substance, with big petals that are interwoven and support each other.”

Nonetheless, Alexandrina



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## Magnolia's many colors



*M. 'Sunsation'* has a pinkish-red base on the inside of the flower against a strong yellow.

PHOTO COURTESY HERITAGE SEEDLINGS



Black Tulip™ has dramatic, fragrant, deep purple goblet-shaped blooms.

© MONROVIA BY DOREEN WYNJA

hybrid saucer magnolia (*Magnolia* × *soulangeana* 'Alexandrina', zones 5–9, 20–25 feet tall and wide) is Staddon's first love in magnolias. A smaller, shrubby or rounded tree that dates back to 1831 and is still widely popular, 'Alexandrina' bears fragrant 8-inch goblet-shaped blooms, white with a purplish base, that herald the start of spring, Staddon said, and fall too, as the leaves turn shades of yellow in colder weather before dropping.

### Black-to-red magnolias

Black Tulip™ (*Magnolia* × *soulangeana* 'Jurmag1' PPAF, zones 5–9, 15–20 feet tall by 6–10 feet wide) is one of the most heralded and successful magnolias thanks to its dramatic, fragrant, deep purple goblet-shaped blooms. The medium-sized tree is the first and most commercially successful of the Mark Jury hybrids.

Mark Jury and his father, Felix Jury, have both been recognized with a Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Veitch Memorial Medal — Mark in 2023, and Felix in 1992 — for their contributions to horticulture. The RHS medal is only one of the many awards, accolades and recognitions heaped on the Jury magnolias, now sold through Anthony Tesselar Plants (Silvan, Victoria, Australia).

'Black Tulip' is the best-selling magnolia at Heritage Seedlings, and Mack at Portland Nursery



named it as a customer favorite in addition to the fragrant and large-flowering (zones 5–9, 10–15 feet tall and wide).

“Any magnolia that has a deep flower color attracts customers,” Mack explained. ‘Vulcan’ magnolia flowers emerge on bare branches, reach 10 inches and are a solid deep magenta, with no white.

A Felix Jury hybrid from the 1970s, “‘Vulcan’ was a breakthrough, getting red tones into larger flower forms with solid color through the whole bloom,” said Abbie Jury, Mark’s wife, who has assisted and documented her husband’s plant breeding work. “It paved the way for pretty much all the following generations of red magnolias.”

Mack is also excited about the newer ‘Genie’ (*M. soulangeana* × *liliflora* ‘Genie’ PP20748, zones 4–9, 5–6 feet wide by 10–13 feet tall), bred by >>



*M. macrophylla* ssp. *ashei* is a less known but striking dwarf suspecies of *M. acuminata*.

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## Magnolia's many colors

Yellow-flowered magnolias are an unexpected color. They're among the most requested from Heritage Seedlings, including 'Yellow Bird'.

PHOTO COURTESY  
HERITAGE SEEDLINGS



Vance Hooper in New Zealand. 'Genie' has the big, wide-petaled flower show of *M. soulangeana* in a compact, columnar size. Plus, from a sales perspective, because 'Genie' blooms at a younger age, it almost always is delivered with flower buds, which attracts customers.

Burgundy Star™ (*Magnolia* × 'JURmag4' PP20346, zones 5–9, 10–12 feet tall by 3–4 feet wide) is another Mark Jury hybrid with a breakthrough color for smaller gardens, with its narrow, columnar form. The fragrant flowers are large, star-shaped and red, making a distinctive red column when in bloom, Abbie Jury said.

### Yellow magnolias

Of the top eight sellers at Heritage Seedlings, four are yellow magnolias. Two are long-established: *M.* 'Butterflies' (zones 4–9, 15–20 feet tall × 10–15 feet wide), bred by Philip Savage, is one of the earliest-blooming yellow varieties, and *M.* × *brooklynensis* 'Yellow Bird' (zones 4–8,

20–40 feet tall × 10–15 feet wide).

The other two are *M.* 'Sunsation' (zones 4–9, 20 feet tall × 10 feet wide), bred by August Kehr, with a pinkish-red base on the inside of the flower against a strong yellow, and *M.* 'Judy Zuk' (zones 5–9, 20–28 feet tall × 6–8 feet wide), a somewhat columnar tree, released by the Brooklyn Botanical Garden (BBG) in 2007. 'Judy Zuk' has 7–8-inch tulip-shaped, fragrant blooms in deep yellow with tinges of pink.

BBG has the distinction of introducing yellow magnolias to the horticulture world after crossing the cold-hardy U.S. native *M. acuminata* (cucumbertree) with *M. denudata* (Yulan magnolia), native to China, resulting in Elizabeth hybrid cucumbertree magnolia, patented in 1977. 'Elizabeth' is still a popular magnolia, as are yellow hybrids in general because of their late-blooming habit. It was the work at BBG, starting in the 1950s, and by Kehr that extended the yellow hybrid options internationally, Abbie Jury said.

Although *M. acuminata* is a native species, Heritage Seedlings stopped growing it because seed is hard to obtain, cuttings are difficult, and tissue culture is not an option. Instead, "we offer the less well-known but striking native species, *M. macrophylla*, and its dwarf shrubby subspecies, *M. macrophylla* ssp. *ashei*," Krautmann said.

In addition, Krautmann singled out Honey Tulip™ (*Magnolia* 'JURmag5', zones 5–9, 10–13 feet tall by 10 feet wide), another Mark Jury introduction. "'Honey Tulip' is for the ages, a rising star," he said. It has the same 6-inch goblet-shaped flower form as 'Black Tulip', with a softer yellow that is a "unique color" and more pastel than some of the other yellows.

'Honey Tulip' also distinguishes itself, Abbie Jury noted, by flowering on bare wood, unlike most yellow hybrids, which flower with their foliage.

"The yellow-flowered magnolias are really pretty and interesting, an







Felix® Magnolia produce a very large bloom with rich color on the outside and the inside of the tepals. The blooms can reach 12 inches wide and are fragrant, bright pink, prolific and early on bare branches.

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M. 'Butterflies', bred by Philip Savage, is one of the earliest-blooming yellow varieties.

PHOTO COURTESY  
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## Magnolia's many colors

unexpected flower color,” Mack said. “*M. ‘Butterflies’* tends to hold its flower color really well; it doesn’t fade quickly. Customers ask for it by name, as well as ‘Yellow Bird’ and ‘Sunburst,’” she added.

### Lavender-to-pink

Over the decades, magnolia breeders have concertedly worked on later blooming of the buds.

*M. ‘Rose Marie’* (zones 5–8, 10–12 feet tall by 8 feet wide), a cross between *M. ‘Pink Surprise’* × *M. ‘Daybreak’* was bred in Green Bay, Wisconsin, by Dennis Ledvina. This hybrid avoids succumbing to a killing frost and is the latest blooming deciduous magnolia on the market, Staddon said. “When every other magnolia has finished blooming, ‘Rose Marie’ is just starting to bud up, before holding center stage.” Adding to its appeal is its

large 8-inch fragrant blooms, lasting for up to six weeks on a compact tree/shrub.

J. Frank Schmidt was looking to add a magnolia that could be used as a small street tree, with a central leader and a good branch structure. In 2016, after several years of trialing, the grower landed on Mercury® Magnolia (*Magnolia ‘NCMX1’* PP 29218, zones 5–8, 25 feet tall by 15 feet wide). It was developed at North Carolina State University, where Thomas Ranney has been at the forefront of interspecific magnolia breeding, and jointly introduced with J. Frank Schmidt.

Mercury® Magnolia blooms 3–4 weeks later than most magnolias, a significant benefit for cold areas of the country where blooms are often lost to frost. It bears very large lavender-pink flowers and emerges in spring with bronzy new growth that turns dark green and stays free of

foliar diseases.

The only downside to ‘Mercury’, Meacham said, is the more challenging propagation using only budding or grafting. Nonetheless, it’s a worthwhile addition that tends to sell out at J. Frank Schmidt.

*M. ‘Galaxy’* (zones 5–9, 20–30 feet tall by 10–15 feet wide) was a U.S. National Arboretum introduction more than 30 years ago and is still a popular plant thanks to its narrow, upright form and masses of fragrant dark red-purple flowers with a lighter interior on bare branches.

“It’s the best on the market because it has a strong central leader, plus the flower color is great,” Staddon said.

With Felix® Magnolia (*Magnolia* × ‘JURmag2’ PPAF, zones 5–9, 10–12 feet tall by 3–4 feet wide), Mark Jury achieved a personal goal, and a goal of his >>

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## Magnolia's many colors

father's, of a very large cup-and-saucer bloom with rich color on the outside and the inside of the tepals, Abbie Jury said. Although officially noted at 12 inches wide, Staddon said he's seen the blooms reach 18 inches, coming in fragrant, bright pink, prolific and early on bare branches and a slow-growing plant.

### The future of magnolias

Although it can take 10 years or more for a plant to be selected for trialing, and then trialed and released, "The best are yet to come," Staddon said. At the Jury nursery, three new varieties are in production for release — including a new red, Abbie Jury said.

But as breeders look to the future, it's important to take into consideration climate change and habitat loss, Krautmann said. Desirable characteristics will include increased tolerance to salt, drier, higher pH and warmer soil conditions, which will require breeders to focus not only on cultivar creation but rootstock selection as well.

"*Magnolia biondii* may offer considerable advantage over *Magnolia kobus* in this regard, and we will offer most of our selections on this new rootstock in order to extend the possible market range much farther west, including the mountain states and the American Southwest," Krautmann said.

Overall, a common refrain among those interviewed for this article was that, even if the market can support many more new selections, only those that deliver value should be pursued. New magnolia varieties must offer improvements that extend climate adaptation, such as drought tolerance, which for the most part deciduous magnolias are not.

They can take the heat, Mack said, but they need summer water. ☺

*Tracy Ilene Miller is a freelance writer and editor who covers several topics, including gardening. She can be reached at TMillerWriter@Gmail.com.*





# Taking care of our own

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## A new mental health crisis line offers help for those facing the unique stresses of agriculture

BY JON BELL

**I**F YOU DON'T WORK IN AGRICULTURE, or aren't involved in it in some way, you may not be aware the suicide rate among farmers is three-and-a-half times higher than that of the general population. The risk is also elevated among workers in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Todd Nash knows this a little too well.

A rancher in the Eastern Oregon city of Enterprise and the current president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Nash has felt the impact of suicide by way of close personal friends and families he knows.

Though the numbers might not be reflected in official state data, Nash says the county — population just 7,500 over 3,100 square miles — has seen 14 suicides in the past two years alone.

"The numbers don't always jibe with what the Oregon Health Authority has, but talk to our mental health director here at our center for wellness, and we're at a rate that's three **>>**



PHOTO COURTESY OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

**"The suicide rates of the agricultural community in Eastern Oregon are through the roof. It felt to me like that was wholly unacceptable."**

**— Allison Myers, associate dean of Extension, Oregon State University**

## Taking care of our own

times the national average,” said Nash, who’s also a Wallowa County commissioner. “It is very personal to me.”

Whether it’s the stress that comes with working in agriculture, the isolation of living in remote areas, or the longstanding belief that they just need to power through their depression and challenging times, farmers and agriculture and nursery workers deal with compounding factors that can weigh heavily on their mental health. In some cases, the pressure can ultimately get to be too much.

For a long time, agriculture-specific mental health services haven’t been available. But now, thanks to a coordinated effort that’s involved everyone from Nash to Oregon State University, the Oregon Legislature and a national nonprofit called the AgriSafe Network, help is on the way.

The Oregon Association of Nurseries and other agricultural organizations successfully lobbied the Oregon Legislature to fund the creation of the helpline, with Rocky Dallum of the Cattlemen leading the lobbying effort.

“Suicide is an issue to be taken seriously, and the stresses of agriculture are unique,” OAN Executive Jeff Stone said. “It’s affected me and people I know, and it should be addressed openly. We’re proud that is happening in a meaningful way.”

In September, the AgriStress Helpline (804-897-2474) launched in Oregon. A free crisis phone and texting line for people in agriculture and in agriculture communities, AgriStress is staffed by crisis support specialists who have been trained in mental and behavioral health in agriculture.

Those specialists can match callers



PHOTO COURTESY OREGON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

**“... talk to our mental health director here at our center for wellness, and we’re at a [suicide] rate that’s three times the national average.”**

**— Todd Nash, Eastern Oregon rancher and president of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association**

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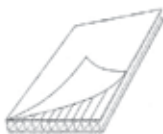


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with the services and resources they need to deal with whatever mental health issues they may be experiencing.

“A crisis specialist is going to engage them and talk to them about their concerns, then get them onto the next step of their path toward the services and care they need,” said Tara Haskins, total farmer health director for AgriSafe.

“Sometimes just the sheer fact that they can call and talk to someone who’s been trained in the stressors of agriculture can be enough to help diffuse anxiety and worry.”

### Connecting people with care

Originally founded and incorporated in Iowa in 2003, the AgriSafe Network today is a national nonprofit working to educate healthcare professionals and agriculture workers about the health and safety of those in the agriculture, fishing and forestry industries — all of which are prominent in Oregon.

The nonprofit initially started working on the concept of the AgriStress Help Line in about 2018.

“We started out by asking, if we could dream what we wanted for a crisis line to be for people in agriculture, what would it have?” Haskins said. “We knew we wanted to provide the best care for people in the industry because they do so much for us.”

The team at AgriSafe came up with the model in part based on other crisis lines that have proven to be helpful in other industries.

It launched in 2022 and was available in six states: Wyoming, Texas, Missouri, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Oregon came on board in September and became the seventh.

The free help line is staffed by crisis response specialists who’ve had 300 hours of training plus additional training geared specifically toward agriculture and the stresses it can bring, including drought, disease, labor shortages, uncertain markets and more.

These specialists also get additional training every quarter on specific agriculture-related topics.



### AgriStress Helpline in Oregon

The free AgriStress Helpline is now live in Oregon. Farmers, ranchers and agriculture workers struggling with mental health can call or text 833-897-2474 to talk to trained professionals who understand agriculture and can help connect them to a range of services.

The line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is available in 160 languages and can also accept text messages in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and French. Every caller is offered a follow-up call 24 hours later to help ensure their needs have been met.

Haskins said the line does get calls from agriculture workers who may be on the verge of suicide, and crisis specialists trained in de-escalation and emotional support can often help by connecting callers directly with emergency service providers and other resources. But the line also handles a wide variety of other kinds of calls, from farmers stressed about natural disasters or tight finances to third-party callers who are concerned about a friend or a loved one.

“Typically in crisis lines, 20–30% are calls from someone worried about a person, and they want to allay some of the worry and uncertainty,” Haskins said. “Our specialists really look at all the opportunities to connect people to care and make sure there are no gaps in treatment.”

### AgriStress in Oregon

Allison Myers is an associate dean for Extension and engagement and program leader for family and community health at Oregon State University. For years she has been focused on work promot- ➤

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## Taking care of our own

ing mental health, including serving as lead investigator on seven federal grants. She, too, has been touched by suicide and unfortunate deaths.

“I’m a person who’s tired of losing people I love to deaths of despair,” she said. “I do have some experience in my family and my lived experience in behavioral health. I know people who have died from overdoses [or] alcohol.”

Myers also became familiar with the shockingly high suicide rate in the agricultural community of Eastern Oregon — and decided to try and do something about it.

“The suicide rates of the agricultural community in Eastern Oregon are through the roof,” she said. “It felt to me like that was wholly unacceptable.”

Having traveled around the country for her work, Myers had come across AgriSafe and the AgriStress crisis line.

Familiar with the success of crisis lines in other health-related areas like smoking cessation, she thought AgriStress, especially because of its ag-specific focus, might be helpful in Oregon. She also liked the idea of a crisis line that would offer farmers and agriculture workers — normally a stoic bunch that would cringe at the thought of going into a clinic to deal with stress or anxiety — a private way to get help.

“These kinds of interventions are tailored and made relevant to you,” Myers said. “If we can get people to call it, it works.”

She reached out to Commissioner Nash last year to see if he thought bringing AgriStress to Oregon was a good idea and if people would use it.

“It didn’t take long for me to warm up to the idea of having a hotline that would direct people toward people on the other end that would, in essence, be

speaking our language,” Nash said. “It’s like the 988 [national Suicide & Crisis Lifeline] but for someone who understands agriculture.”

### ‘A huge win’

Working together, along with Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, Myers and Nash helped push Oregon Senate Bill 955 during the most recent legislative session. The bill aimed to secure state funding to run the AgriStress line in Oregon.

Ideally, an endowment of more than \$2 million would have been able to fund the service in perpetuity, but limited funding in the legislature meant that SB 955 could only land \$300,000 as passed unanimously by lawmakers. Still, it was a big spark to kick things off.

“It’s a huge win,” Myers said. “We amplified a very important conversation.”

Pulling in partners like Moda and the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization, as well as working closely with AgriSafe, moved the effort forward and helped kick off the AgriStress line in Oregon on Sept. 1.

Nash said it’s a great place to start, though there’s much more work to do. And Myers said the hotline is just one end of a continuum of care that needs to begin long before someone feels the need to pick up the phone.

Prevention, she added, and the ability to talk about mental health in a supportive way, will be key in addressing future issues in the agriculture community. But the effort is heading in the right direction.

“As heartbreaking as it can be to do the work, it’s very fulfilling,” Myers said. “For people to see us putting an evidenced-based solution into practice through a bipartisan process — it’s a community health person’s dream come true.” ☺

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*Jon Bell is an Oregon freelance journalist who writes about everything from Mt. Hood and craft beer to real estate and the great outdoors. His website is [www.JBellInk.com](http://www.JBellInk.com).*



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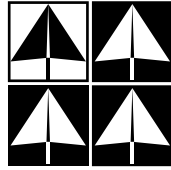
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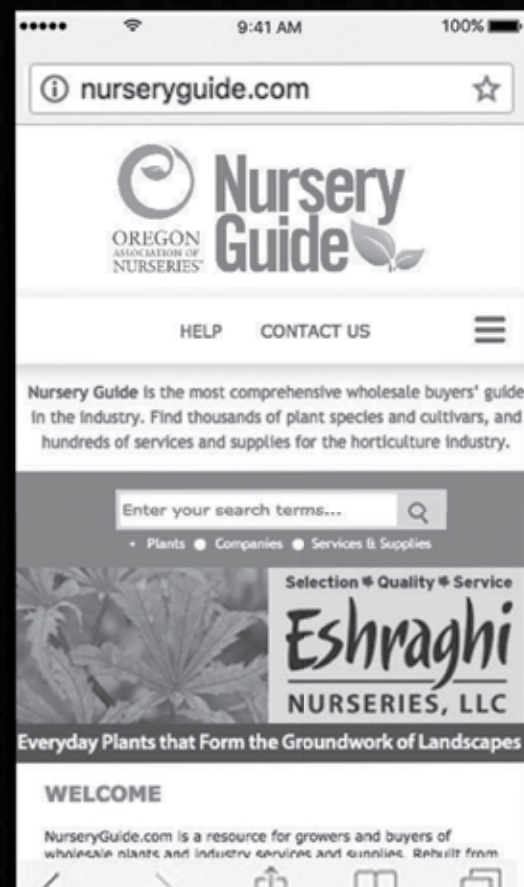
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# GROWING KNOWLEDGE

Series content is coordinated by Dr. Jay Pscheidt, professor of botany and plant pathology at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon.



An ongoing series provided by Oregon State University in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture and in partnership with the Oregon Association of Nurseries



The Milky Slug (*Deroceras reticulatum*), or the Grey Fieldslug, is a major pest in Willamette Valley agriculture and horticulture.

PHOTO COURTESY OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

## A slimy scourge

### Researchers seek effective biological controls against invasive North American slugs

BY CASEY H. RICHART, DANA K. HOWE, DEE R. DENVER AND RORY J. MCDONNELL

**T**HE MILKY SLUG (*Deroceras reticulatum*) is probably the most economically damaging species of terrestrial slug or snail species in the world. This holds true for Oregon, where it is a major pest in Willamette Valley agriculture and horticulture (where it is often called the gray field or gray garden slug).

A 2012 study by the Oregon Seed Council concluded that slugs alone cost the Oregon grass seed industry about \$60 million a year, factoring in direct crop loss, molluscicide cost, and additional labor.

Milky slugs are about 1.5–2 inches long, but they are often numerous and have healthy appetites for a very wide variety of

plants, including ornamentals such as hostas, marigolds, and gardenias. They also live in a wide range of places, including nurseries, garden centers, personal gardens, small farms, parks, adjacent forests, pastures, and other agricultural fields.

The milky slug gets its name from the white defensive mucus it secretes when harried. Their coloration ranges from light to dark gray, with a darker gray mottling throughout the body.

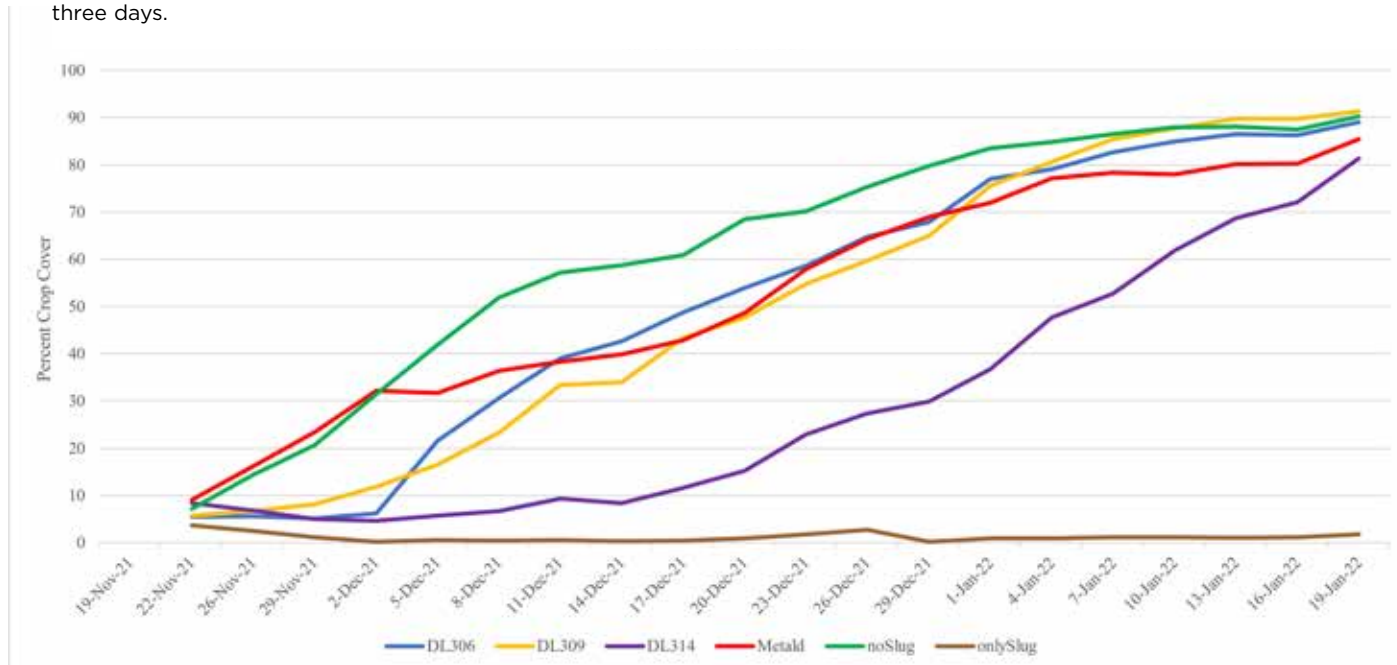
#### Chemical remedies

The most used management strategy in Oregon agriculture for pest slugs and snails is chemical molluscicides. However, >>

## A slimy scourge

### Crop protection

Researchers compared three species of *Phasmarhabditis* nematodes: 1) *P. papillosa* DL306, 2) *P. hermaphrodita* DL309, 3) *P. californica* DL314, to 4) liquid metaldehyde, 5) no management strategy (slugs only, a negative control), and 6) no slug pressure (a positive control). They placed 10 milky slugs into each microcosm (excepting the positive control), and all six treatments had three replicates. We assessed mortality daily and assessed crop protection by taking images of the containers every three days.



these compounds come with many challenges. Farmers, for example, report considerable variation in efficacy of the active ingredients, which include metaldehyde, iron phosphate, sodium ferric EDTA, and methiocarb.

There is scientific evidence to suggest that gastropods can develop a tolerance to metaldehyde, which is the most widely used active ingredient. In baited form, metaldehyde is also attractive to dogs and can be fatal if ingested. Additionally, it persists in waterways, which may result in further non-target poisoning. Due to these non-target concerns, this chemical has been banned in the United Kingdom, as have some forms of applications in California.

Another chemical molluscicide, methiocarb, is a restricted use material with the DANGER-POISON signal word. It is neurotoxic to humans, and highly toxic to birds, bees, and aquatic species, particularly fish. Methiocarb has been banned in Europe because of its damaging non-target effects.

Iron phosphate and chelated iron are stomach poisons and there is evidence to suggest that they can be harmful to earth-



Dana Howe from the Dee Denver lab adding nematodes to the microcosm containers in the OSU greenhouses.

PHOTO COURTESY OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

worms. Ideally, an optimized integrated pest management (IPM) strategy would allow for better pest control while reducing negative impacts on non-target systems.

### In search of IPM solutions

Much of our research focuses on developing IPM strategies for pest slugs and

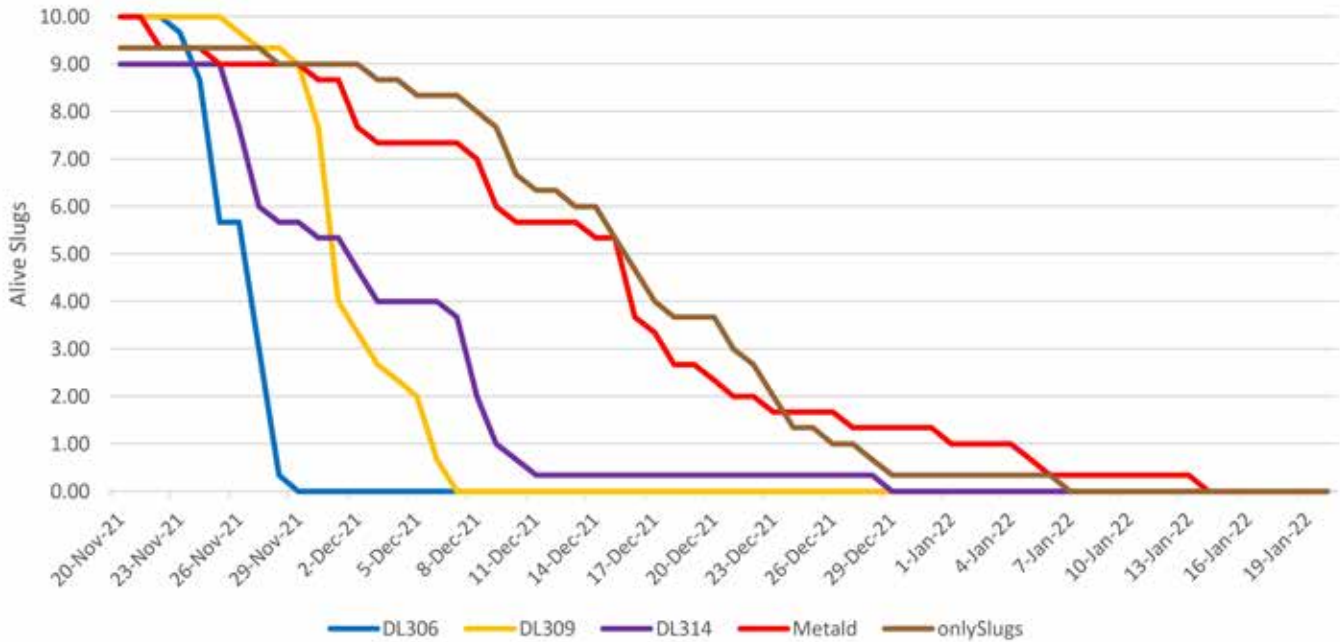
snails, including using essential oil plant extracts as biorational molluscicides, assessing the effectiveness of natural enemies of the pests as biological control agents, and developing attractants for use in both trapping and attract-and-kill strategies.

Also, we aim to better understand the natural history and life history character-



## Average mortality by treatment

The containers treated with nematodes resulted in significantly higher slug mortality than metaldehyde. The metaldehyde treatment did not have significantly more mortality than the negative control.



Hundreds of thousands of nematodes now occupy the spot where the infected *Deroceras reticulatum* slugs died.

PHOTO COURTESY OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

istics of invasive slug and snail species to make control efforts more effective, while reducing non-target impacts.

In parts of Europe, there are a few species of nematode roundworms in the genus *Phasmarhabditis* (there is no common name) that have partnerships with a facultatively symbiotic species of bacteria. Together, they specialize in eating slugs

and snails.

The nematodes penetrate the slug and vomit inside a cocktail that includes the bacteria. The bacteria are slug-eaters, and they reproduce rapidly, and the nematodes in turn feed on the bacteria and reproduce. This cycle continues until all that remains is a slug-shaped soup of parasitic worms, bacteria, and vomit.

The species that we are currently using in our research are *P. papillosa* DL306, *P. hermaphrodita* DL309, and *P. californica* DL314. The DL numbers signify different strains of the species, and they correlate to the graphs in this article. Our very preliminary data suggests that the primary hosts for *P. papillosa*, and *P. californica* is the milky slug or other slugs in the genus, whereas *P. hermaphrodita* has been found in a wide variety of terrestrial gastropod species, including snails.

In Europe two of these nematodes species are commercially available as biological control agents. The first, *Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita*, was commercialized in 1994 as Nemaslug® and is now available in 15 countries.

Nemaslug® has a long history of protecting agricultural (e.g. winter wheat) and horticultural (e.g. orchids) crops from damage by a wide range of pest slug and also some pest snail species.

The second, *P. californica*, was commercialized in 2022 as Nemaslug 2.0® and is currently only available in England, Scotland and Wales. Users purchase these nematodes in packets and mix the contents with water and apply



## A slimy scourge



An image through the microscope of *Phasmarhabditis* nematodes infecting a slug (*Deroceras reticulatum*).

PHOTO COURTESY OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

immediately using a watering can or hose applicator, to already damp soil in their gardens.

Currently, there is no species of nematode roundworm native to North America that is known to specialize in terrestrial slugs and snails, and nematodes that target these pests are not currently commercially available to North American farmers and horticulturalists. This is due to a lack of information on potential impacts on non-target slugs and snails.

We recently conducted an experiment to assess if these nematode roundworms can protect annual ryegrass, an important crop in the Willamette Valley. To ensure the containment of the nematodes, we conducted this research in a microcosm — a small-scale representation of a field situation, in containers at the Oregon State University greenhouses.

We compared three species of *Phasmarhabditis* nematodes: 1) *P. papillosa*, 2) *P. hermaphrodita*, 3) *P. californica*, to 4) liquid metaldehyde, 5) no management strategy (slugs only, a negative control), and 6) no slug pressure (a positive

control). We placed 10 milky slugs into each microcosm (excepting the positive control), and all six treatments had three replicates. We assessed mortality daily and assessed crop protection by taking images of the containers every three days. See the “Crop protection” figure (Page 42) for more information.

The containers treated with nematodes resulted in significantly higher slug mortality than metaldehyde. In fact, the metaldehyde treatment did not have significantly more mortality than the negative control. See the “Average mortality by treatment” figure (Page 43) for more information.

However, the slugs treated with metaldehyde were clearly poisoned, and for about two weeks they hardly moved, and they did not start eating the ryegrass until recovering from this poison. Conversely, the slugs in the nematode containers grazed freely for 10 days, before the nematodes started to cause rapid mortality and the slugs grazed grass no more. See the “crop protection by grass growth” figure to see more general trends on grass herbivory.

These differences in mortality rate resulted in different patterns of crop protection. The metaldehyde conferred great crop protection initially, with measurable grazing pressure not detected until after 2 weeks. In the nematode treatments however, for the first 10 days, crop protection tracked the negative control, with crops rebounding strongly after significant slug mortality had occurred.

These results suggest that integrating nematodes with a chemical molluscicide are likely to confer greater crop protection than either of these treatments alone. We are excited to test this hypothesis. We have already exposed a wide diversity of commercially available molluscicides to these three *Phasmarhabditis* species in laboratory studies, and we found that they do not cause mortality in these nematodes. Watch for future updates to be shared in Digger.

This research strongly suggests that nematode roundworms are a powerful tool in the IPM arsenal against terrestrial slugs and snails. However, since at least two of these nematodes (*P. hermaphrodita* and *P. papillosa*) are native to Europe, it is possible that they could become a pest here as well.

The next step in our research is to test the lethality of these nematodes against the rich and unique terrestrial slug and snail fauna native to the temperate rainforests of the Pacific Northwest. For as in chemical pesticides, biological control of slugs and snails too has a long history of detrimental non-target effects. ©

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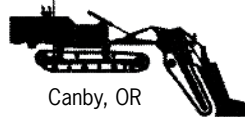
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# From little ones to leadership

## The Oregon Association of Nurseries Convention is coming up at beautiful Brasada Ranch in Central Oregon.

Convention is our chance to bring the nursery and greenhouse family back together. Two years ago we went to gorgeous Maui (we will be back). Last year at Skamania Lodge, we enjoyed tree house hospitality suites and engaged in axe throwing! This gathering will make its own great memories. Come join the fun Friday–Saturday, October 27–28.

### Family is the center of convention

The cornerstone of our industry is closely fixated on family. I've said that many times over the past 18 years I have served at the OAN.

When I started, my blonde girls were 4 and 6 and they were instantly welcomed into the fabric of nursery families. Now, one is a senior nursing school major at Washington State University and the other is a college graduate in education.

The care and love of the nursery community made them into the people they are.

There are many examples of yesterday's convention kids becoming today's OAN leaders. I've heard stories like Mark Bigej being a responsible caretaker for a young, and I'm assuming rambunctious, Kyle Fessler. There is a story when Tom Fessler was being sworn in as president, his newborn son Noah was handed to the Bigej family to look after.

In more recent years, teenage Bigeys, Stones, and Niemis took over the kids' programs at convention, taking care of the little ones of the Robinsons, Staehelys, Simnitts and a plethora of other grower families.

Today, family is just as important as ever. You can see that at other OAN gatherings too, including chapter Christmas parties, the Farwest Show, and a gathering of OAN leaders we held at the Tillamook Creamery in 2022.

### Holiday spirit

The OAN Chapters do a phenomenal job of bringing out the joy of Christmas. Two chapters stand out for the purpose of this column: Mt. Hood and Clackamas.

The Mt. Hood Chapter gathering is a tradition that spans decades, embracing the wonder of children at Christmastime. Little ones growing up in that chapter include names like Ekstrom, Kinen, and Nelson who have risen to become leaders.

The Clackamas Chapter creates its own magic, with carolers and an appearance by Santa. So many of our association's leadership has sat on the lap of a Santa and I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Stones would watch carefully when the Simnitt family tree would go up. It was not Christmas until a Simnitt child cried on the lap of their relative (Jerry).

Christmas is a treasured opportunity to take stock of the blessings, and witness the holiday joy of young and old.

### Farwest Show

The OAN continues moving forward with a board of directors that includes several sons and daughters of industry titans. They recall running around at the trade show and connecting with fellow families, collecting as much candy as a kid under 100 pounds could possibly eat.

The 50th anniversary of Farwest was no different, only the names have changed. It was amazing seeing Wayne and Amanda Staehely's crew run with Kyle and Mollie Fessler's kids around the trade show floor, using the OAN booth show as a home base. The sight of them jumping into the plane/motorcycle at Leonard Adams and going full Top Gun was quite something to witness.

### A weekend in Tillamook

In spring 2022, the OAN Executive Committee held a retreat out in Tillamook to meet with the dairy industry and do some mutual planning.

First there was pizza and arcade night with all family members. It was a cocophony of sound, soda (for the kids) and suds (for the parents). With every game one could think of, quarters were flying out of parents pockets to satiate the frenetic desire to play, compete and achieve top scores.

Carolyn Rose, my Washington State Cougar, was there along with the likes of the Robinsons, Fesslers, Verhoevens, and Staehelys. The group did ice cream tasting and several of the crew were deemed "super tasters." It was awesome.



Jeff Stone  
OAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Inclusion makes memories

Kase Meskers, 6, joined his father Tyler (Oregon Flowers) at an OAN open house where staff member Tana Klum prepared a plethora of elite sweets for everyone to share. Sugar was in full bloom.

Young Meskers was an easy mark to amuse and I would get permission from his father to get yet another cupcake. He was a polite eater and was not expecting me to jam the entire thing in my mouth to make him laugh. Tyler tells me that Kase still mentions that event and believes that EVERY event his dad goes to is just like he experienced.

### Not so little anymore

This generation of leadership at the OAN has been shaped by ups and downs in the industry, the hard work and love for what they do, and the strong family connection between growers and the community they belong to.

This year, I would be remiss not to mention that we have a past president in Josh Robinson, a son of the industry, leaving the board. His contribution cannot be measured and I love this man like my own brother.

Amanda Staehely is our new president. Her father, Jerry, and her uncle, Jim, both served as presidents of the association. Amanda becomes only the seventh female president to serve the association. However, she is the first to be a daughter of a past president.

Because of the community and family connections this industry demonstrates on a daily basis, we are in excellent hands in 2023–24. ©



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