



LOOKING AHEAD MARCH

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WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

- [OSU: Garden Tasks for March](#)
- [Problems to manage in March](#)—lots of new ones to scout!
- [Blueberries and Raspberries](#)-prune and fertilize
- [Lawn Problems](#)—Moles, Moss, Annual Bluegrass
- [Resource Guide for March topics](#)
- [Diagnostic Resources](#)

THEY'RE BAAAAACK!

- Western Boxelder Bugs! Did you have these visitors all over the south side of your house last fall? You'll see them again on the warm sunny days in spring, too. They were cozied up from the cold, but they're back!
- They're a nuisance, but cause no damage.
- Button up all potential openings-screens, doors, around structural openings (electric and water) into the house.
- Vacuum up strays that wander inside.
- Although not necessary, you can spray them off the house with water or insecticidal soap—although you take the risk of killing beneficial insects if you do.
- For more information:

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74114.html>



Western boxelder bug

M. R. Bush, WA State University

HOME PESTS: CARPET BEETLES, DRUGSTORE BEETLES

- For some reason, there are many complaints in March about these indoor pests.
- The real trick with managing any kind of pest in the house is to
 - Find the infestation
 - Get rid of infested food (often pet food!)
 - CLEAN! Empty the cupboard, vacuum, and wash all surfaces with detergent and water
 - Always store pet food and grain products (flour, rice, cereal, etc.) in tightly closed glass or plastic containers
- Pesticides are not recommended for these and most “cupboard” pests



Drugstore beetle-1/10 inch
[More info-Drugstore Beetle](#)



Varied Carpet Beetle
1/10 inch (adult)

[More info-Carpent Beetle](#)

ATTRACT BENEFICIAL INSECTS TO YOUR GARDEN!

- Plan places in and around your vegetable garden to plant “insectary” plants—those that attract beneficial insects.
- Start seeds indoors at the end of March—sweet alyssum, dill, coriander, Phacelia, yarrow, and plant after last frost date. Direct sow sunflower seeds after last frost. Pick up some candytuft on sale, and transplant now.
- Remember—keeping a healthy garden—cleaning up, fertilizing and watering properly, giving plants enough airflow and sunshine, go a long way in creating a place where your natural pest-fighters—the beneficials—can help you control the bad guys.
- If you do need to use a pesticide to control a problem, follow all directions, spot-treat only, and use [least toxic options](#). Anything that kills the bad bugs also kill the good guys!
- For more information: [Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden](#)
- Or buy an “insectary mix” of seeds from a PNW supplier, such as
 - “Beneficial Insectary Mix”-www.outsidepride.com
 - “Beneficial Insect Attractant Mix” - www.johnnyseeds.com
- Better yet: Go Native! The last few pages have an [amazing list of Native Plants](#)



Candytuft (Iberis)

https://www.havlik.ca/img/409_1.jpg



Dill and coriander flowers

<https://steemitimages.com/640x0/https://cdn.steemitimages.com/D0mZZ6jT5DRqz2k2QUmCtyu94G5pmhjNMErvZgsDtw9SbpM/Ukrop%20%20korian-dr.JPG>



Yarrow

https://www.edenbrothers.com/store/media/Seeds-Flowers/resized/SFYAR113-1_medium.jpg



Phacelia

https://www.edenbrothers.com/store/media/Seeds-Flowers/resized/SFPHAI11-1_medium.jpg

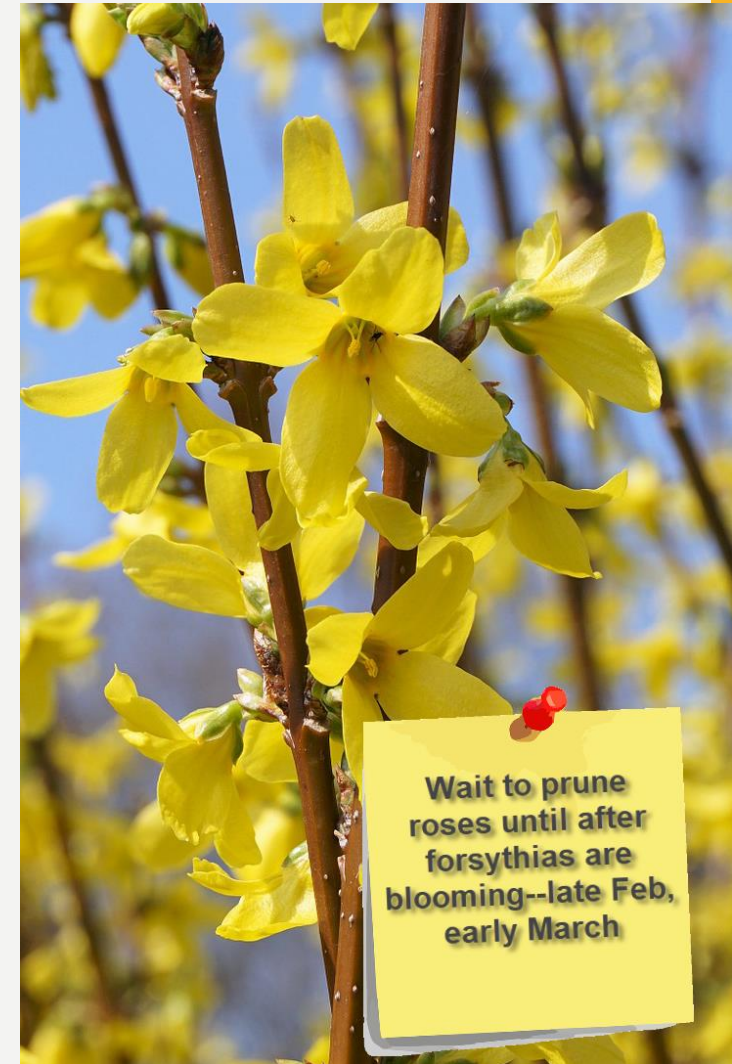


Sweet Alyssum

https://www.edenbrothers.com/store/sweet_allyssum_carpet_snow_see

ROSE CARE

- It's time to prune your roses about a week after you see the forsythia shrub in bloom!
- Here's a great site with images to help you with your pruning: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/roses/prune.cfm>
- And a video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ois08vuz98&list=PLZEzoOaZqnfVPUYtXji6wgVVSrpzS6l7b&index=28&t=0s>
- And check out this Rose problem guide from WSU: this covers all the problems and what to do about it!
<http://pubs.cahnrs.wsu.edu/publications/pubs/fs246e/>



COMMON ROSE PROBLEMS--

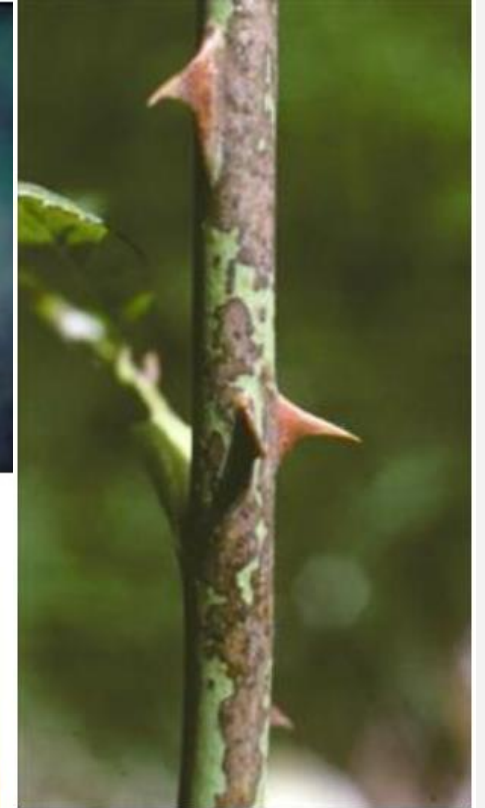
- [Black Spot](#) and [Powdery Mildew](#)
See article for recommendations
- Prune to improve airflow
- Destroy diseased canes and leaves
- Rake up and destroy fallen leaves
- Plant disease resistant cultivars
- If you had black spot and powdery mildew last year, begin spraying with a fungicide frequently during wet weather



*Caption: Rose black spot on leaves
Photo by: R.S. Byther*



*Caption: Powdery mildew on rose
Photo by: R.S. Byther*



*Caption: Rose black spot stem infection
Photo by: R.S. Byther*

Images:WSU Hortsense

APPLE AND PEAR SCAB

- Apply fungicides when leaves are separating, just exposing bud cluster.
- Repeat at 7-day intervals for 3 or more applications until weather dries.
- When in blossom, wait until 3/4 of petals have fallen before applying
- For more information:
<http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=3&PlantDefId=59&ProblemId=15>



Photo by Janna Beckerman

Figure 1. Early apple scab lesion development on leaves.



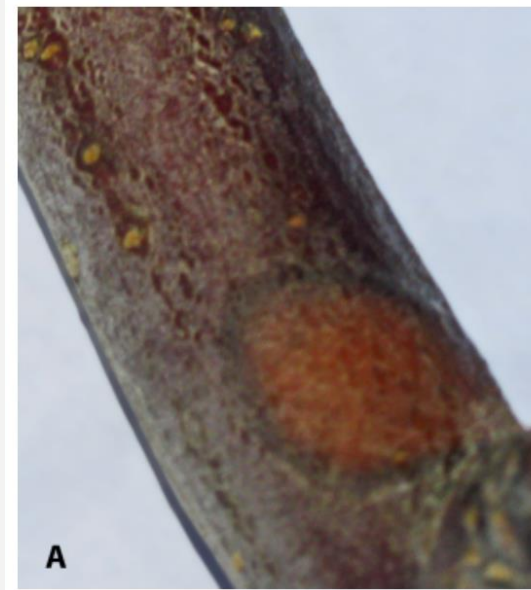
Photo by Janna Beckerman

Figure 2. Characteristic lesions of apple scab on mature leaves.

APPLE ANTHRACNOSE

Managing the disease: It's a year-round task!

- Sanitation—Clean up all leaf and branch debris
- Pruning affected branches
- Removing cankers during dry weather year-round
- Applying copper-based fungicides to limit or prevent infection during the dormant and growing seasons.



A
First sign of infection



B
Progression: Infection causes separation of bark tissue



C
Late Symptoms--"Fiddlestring" appearance

Images: <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/crop-protection/disease-management/apple-anthracnose/>

APPLE ANTHRACNOSE

- Starting shortly before bud break (March), spray trees with a protectant copper-based fungicide every 10–14 days until mid- July. Rotate products to limit potential for development of fungicide resistance. Use caution when applying copper-based fungicides during the growing season to avoid potential leaf burn and fruit russetting problems.
- Excise any cankers found during this time and remove heavily infected stems or branches. Monitor trees monthly for new infections and remove diseased tissue and new cankers as they appear.
- [More info from Hortsense](#)



Figure 3

Figure 4

(Photos J. King, WSU)

On larger limbs and branches, use a sharp knife to remove cankers that are less than half the branch width. Cut out a pointed oval oriented along the axis of the branch and cauterize edges of infected areas

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2109/2014/12/AppleAntracnose20121.pdf>

PEACH LEAF CURL

- **Plant resistant varieties—not much available for cold rainy springs in Western WA.**
 - Avalon, Frost, Indian Free, Mary Jane, Salish
- **Consider growing a peach tree in a moveable pot, and keeping out of the rain.**
- **Continue applying fungicide at 3 week intervals after that while cool and rainy..**
 - **Examples: Bonide Fung-onil Multi-purpose Fungicide**
 - **GardenTech Daconil Fungicide**
 - **Monterey Liqui-Cop Fungicidal Spray**



Jay W. Pscheidt, 2013.

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/peach-prunus-persica-leaf-curl>

IT'S TIME TO PRUNE YOUR BLUEBERRIES!

- Why? Blueberries require constant renewal growth of vigorous, 1-year-old wood to produce good berries year-to-year. [How-to](#)
- Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIQTGPI3R_E
- Time to fertilize them!



BEFORE PRUNING



AFTER PRUNING

FERTILIZE BLUEBERRIES

Age of plants from transplant date	5-10-10 **St. Patrick's Day March 15 - April 15	Ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) May 20 **Mother's Day	Ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) June 15 **Father's Day
Newly set	0	0	0
1 year	2 oz. (1/4 cup)	1 oz. (2 Tbs.)	1 oz. (2 Tbs.)
2 years	4 oz. (1/2 cup)	1-2 oz. (2-4 Tbs.)	1-2 oz. (2-4 Tbs.)
3 years	6 oz. (3/4 cup)	1-2 oz. (2-4 Tbs.)	1-2 oz. (2-4 Tbs.)
4 years	8 oz. (1 cup)	2-3 oz. (1/4 cup + 2 Tbs.)	1-2 oz. (2-4 Tbs.)
5 years	10 oz. (1 1/4 cup)	2-3 oz. (1/4 cup + 2 Tbs.)	1-2 oz. (2-4 Tbs.)
6 years and older	12 oz. (1 1/2 cup)	2-3 oz. (1/4 cup + 2 Tbs.)	1-2 oz. (2-4 Tbs.)

SUMMER BEARING RASPBERRIES

- While plants are dormant, remove all weak, broken, diseased, and insect-damaged canes.
- Shorten the canes so they are about 6 feet tall, and tie them to the trellis
- After the planting year, apply fertilizer annually to maintain good growth and leaf color. Each year, apply a total of 2 to 3 ounces of N per 10 feet of row (12.5 to 18.7 ounces of 16-16-16 fertilizer).
- Apply one-third of the total when the new primocanes start to grow, (end of March-mid April) one-third at the end of May, and one-third at the end of June. Broadcast the fertilizer: spread it over the surface of the soil in the row in a band about 2 feet wide entered **on the row. Irrigate right after fertilizing.**
- **Great guide:** [Growing Raspberries in Home Gardens](#)



HOLEY-MOLEY!!



Mole via Mikiwikipikidikipedia at en.wikipedia

- Our common Pacific and Townsend's are on the prowl for mates!
- Have you notice the huge number of mole hills? Male moles expand their tunnels to look for “girl friends”. Particularly ambitious males could make as many as 302 mole hills in just 77 days!
- Because body-gripping or body-piercing traps are illegal in Washington, it's a lot more difficult for homeowners to manage moles. However, you can read about your LEGAL options in the WSU Fact Sheet, [“Mole Management in Washington Backyards”](#).

DOES YOUR LAWN LOOK LIKE THIS?

- Hoe and hand-pull the annual bluegrass to remove it, and of course, maintain healthy turf (proper mowing, irrigation, fertilization) to out-compete the weedy grasses.
- Use a pre-emergent herbicide, which isn't very effective on this side of the Cascades, or using a post-emergent pesticide. Some of the more effective chemical options are available only from a registered pesticide applicator.

WSU Hortsense has more [recommendations](#)

Poa annua—annual bluegrass
It's a tough one to eradicate



https://www.ortho.com/sites/g/files/oydggjc116/files/asset_images/orthoApp/448/100981241.jpg



<https://cdn.domyown.com/images/content/poa-annua-in-grass.jpg>

MOSS IN HOME LAWNS

- **Now is the time—Moss is actively growing**
- Have you noticed that moss usually shows up in areas where grass struggles to grow, but where weeds invite themselves? That's an area where your lawn is "sick," for one reason or another.
- Best way to deter moss is to have a healthy lawn so the grass can outcompete the moss and weeds.
- Always try the following cultural methods of controlling moss before escalating to chemical control. In a nutshell, to keep moss at bay:
 - (1) let the sunshine in
 - (2) mow properly
 - (3) manage soil moisture properly
 - (4) create good soil conditions for healthy grass.

MOSS IN HOME LAWNS

- **Sunlight:** best way to control moss in your lawn is to increase sunlight--prune trees to at least 6 feet from the ground, and possibly thin the branches to allow more sunlight. If you don't create more light, the moss will come back regardless of what other steps you might take to eradicate it!
- **Mowing:** Mow once a week to keep your lawn between 2-3 inches (no shorter!). Longer grass will put down deeper roots, and mowing it frequently will increase the density of the grass.
- **Soil fertility:** Moss loves acidic soil. You may need to add lime to maintain the pH around 6.0-6.5. Lime won't kill the moss, but it will help your soil to keep good nutrient values. Fertilize with a product that is high in nitrogen (N), low in phosphorus (P), and moderate in potassium (K); for example, NPK-3:1:2 or 4:1:2.
- Apply 1 pound of actual nitrogen at each application four to six times a year in spring and fall. Lush growth will overcome the mossy areas.

MOSS IN HOME LAWNS

- **Irrigate properly:** Moss loves wet conditions.
 - install French drains or a rain garden to divert rain runoff.
 - When you water, plan on giving it $\frac{1}{4}$ inch each time you water, 4 to 6 times a week, totaling 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches per week, especially during our dry summers. Measure the water with a rain gauge or a tuna can in the watered area.
- From mid-March through April when moss is actively growing, rake or dethatch your lawn in mossy areas to remove the dead grass stems and moss. Overseed the dethatched area. First apply fertilizer as directed above, then spread lawn seed over the area. Plant a fine fescue like creeping red fescue in shady areas. If your lawn has shade and sun, plant a combination a perennial ryegrass and fine fescue. After seeding, mulch with a bit of straw, and water daily for at least two weeks.

MOSS IN HOME LAWNS

- Chemical products should be used only after using above recommendations. Please be sure to follow all directions on the label!
- An environmentally friendly option is to apply products containing ferrous, iron, or ammonium sulfate from mid-March through April.
- Examples include Lilly Miller Moss-Out! for Lawns and Scotts Turf Builder with Moss Control 22-2-2. Keep in mind that ferrous sulfate will permanently stain concrete and other surfaces. Complete fertilizers with iron sulfate will kill moss rapidly, and stimulate healthy grass growth at the same time. Wait about a week to overseed if using these products.

MARCH RESOURCES

- Many of the topics covered, especially pruning and pest monitoring, in the last couple months are also relevant in March:
 - [Looking Ahead: January](#)
 - [Looking Ahead February](#)
- Moss in Home Lawns
 - Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Management Handbook [Lawn and Turf-Moss](#)
 - Oregon State University: [Maintaining a Healthy Lawn ec1521](#)
 - Oregon State University: [Managing Moss in Lawns in Western Oregon EM 9175](#)
 - Washington State University: [Hortsense : Lawn and Turf Moss Factsheet](#)
 - University of Alaska Fairbanks: [Moss Control in Lawns HGA-00133](#)

YOU'RE NOT ALONE

- WSU Hortsense (E.g., search Google (e.g. for “WSU Hortsense apple”) That’s the easiest way. You can also go to the site: <http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Home/HortsenseHome.aspx> Always search for the singular, not the plural. “Apple” will get results, “Apples” will not.
- PNW Handbooks (E.g., search for “PNW Handbooks apple”) <https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-and-disease-descriptions> Always search for the singular, not the plural. “Apple” will get results, “Apples” will not. This site also has information for registered pesticide applicators. Only follow chemical advice for “Homeowners.”

DIAGNOSTIC RESOURCES

- **Hortsense:** <http://hortsense.cahnr.wsu.edu/Home/HortsenseHome.aspx>
- **Pestsense:** <http://pestsense.cahnr.wsu.edu/Home/PestsenseHome.aspx>
- **PNW Handbooks:**
- Insect Management <https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect>
- Plant Disease Management Handbook: <https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease>
- Weed Management Handbook: <https://pnwhandbooks.org/weed>
- **WSU Plant & Pest Diagnostic e-Network:** <http://www.dddi.org/wsua>
- **WSU Plant Pest Diagnostic Clinics:**
- [CAHNRS Plant Pest Diagnostic Clinic, Pullman](#)
- [WSU Puyallup Plant & Insect Diagnostic Laboratory](#)