

## Community Gardening Education Committee (CGET) 2025

20 active members

220 public contacts

375 volunteer hours

The purpose of our committee is to educate our community through hands-on vegetable gardening classes and plant giveaways. The classes are offered at community gardens, at food banks, and on-site when requested. We aim to educate beginning gardeners and underserved communities.

Our 2025 goal was to broaden our outreach to new groups and to add topics to our teaching repertoire.

Our topics and events this year included:

1. Pruning fruit trees - Lupe's Garden at Philomath Community Services
2. Seed to Supper in the Garden - Orchard Ct. apartments international student housing on the OSU campus
3. Family Fun Night - Corvallis Community Center (C3)
4. Tomato Starts Giveaway - South Corvallis Food Bank
5. Pepper Starts Giveaway - South Corvallis Food Bank
6. Tomato Starts Giveaway - Food Pantry at Philomath Community Services
7. Fall/Winter Gardening - Willamette Park Community Garden
8. Spanish Container Gardening - Calvin Presbyterian Community Garden
9. Food Preservation of the Harvest - Calvin Presbyterian Church
10. Houseplant Care and Propagation - OSU Basic Needs Center

We met our goals by teaching two hands-on vegetable gardening classes at Orchard Ct. apartments to international grad students. This arose from a request by the grad students. (They have 20 on-site raised beds!) We also did a follow-up on our Spanish Container Gardening class by hosting a new (to us) Food Preservation class at the site. We held a (new to us) houseplant care and propagation class which was requested by OSU students.

We aimed to meet the needs of underserved populations with classes at OSU International Grad Students housing, at the food banks, at Calvin Presbyterian Community Garden, and to children at C3.

We will continue to ask underserved population groups how we can best help them. Our efforts are most effective when we tailor them to *what people want* rather than *what we think they need*.

This committee is fluid as far as members go. BCMGA volunteers work on our events as well as those of other committees. They dip in and out. We include Certified volunteers as well as Trainees. Our projects are fun and educational for our students, as well as fun and fulfilling for us as presenters. They help BCMGA meet our educational goals.

Cheryl Stratton, December 2025