

HIGHLIGHTS OF OSU MG STUDY GROUP DIAGNOSTIC SHOW-AND-TELL: JULY 18 & AUGUST 1, 2016

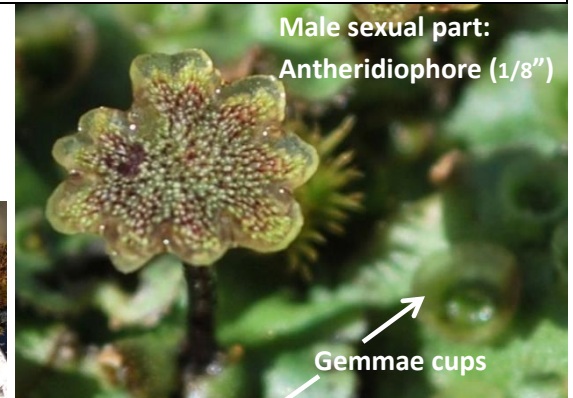
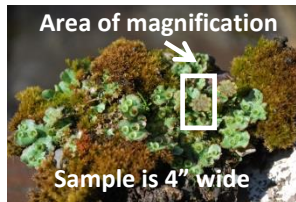
BY ELIZABETH PRICE

***Marchantia polymorpha*/Liverwort weed**

Joann brought in this weed, which at first seems charming but quickly becomes troublesome. In either case, it is interesting. There are 2 types of liverworts, thalloid and leafy. This is the thalloid type, which lies flat on the ground and grows in liver-like lobes. Liverworts reproduce asexually through gemmae (pieces of tissue), which reside in gemmae cups (charming). Rain splashes gemmae out of the cups to a new location where they can develop into separate plants. In *Marchantia* the male and female sexual parts look like tiny parasols (more charm). The male parasol, called an antheridiophore, has a scalloped edge; the female parasol, called an archegoniophore, is deeply divided. To the touch, *M. polymorpha* feels like plastic and once established can cover large areas of your garden (troublesome). Like mosses, liverworts are among the first land plants but do not have a vascular system including roots. Because of this the herbicide glyphosate is typically not effective, as it is translocated from the leaves to roots. To get rid of this weed you can scrape it up or cover it with newspaper and then mulch or compost.

For more information:

http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nursery-weeds/weedspeciespage/liverwort/liverwort_control.html



***Torreya californica*/California nutmeg tree**

Eric brought in a sample of this usual conifer in Taxaceae or the Yew family. It is endemic to the Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. The sharp-tipped needles are glossy green on top with two bright stomatal bands separated by a raised midrib below. The needles are 1-3" long and widen at the base. The green fleshy cones, called arils, are up to 1½" long. The images of the cones and tree were taken at Hoyt Arboretum.

For more information:

www.conifers.org/ta/Torreya_californica.php



***Prunella vulgaris* ssp. *vulgaris*/Selfheal**

Elizabeth brought in this perennial weed in Lamiaceae or the mint family. All plants in this family have opposite leaves, square stems and irregular flowers with bilateral symmetry (as opposed to the radial symmetry that flowers like daisies have). Plants in this family are often aromatic and include many common herbs.

This weed is from Eurasia but looks a great deal like the native selfheal, *P. vulgaris* ssp. *lanceolata*. The native plant has a more upright growth habit and narrower leaves at mid-stem (3 times as long as wide) than the weed (2 times as long as wide). However, the native plant is also known to be weedy in certain parts of the country. Both are typically easy to pull out manually. As the common name suggests, Selfheal has many medicinal uses.

For more information on both subspecies:

https://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_prvul2.pdf

