

## OSU MG Study Group Diagnostic Show-and-Tell Highlights: November 5, 2018

Prepared and photographed by Elizabeth Price (Except where noted)

Join our friendly OSU MG Study Group on the first Monday of each month from 1 to 3 pm for Diagnostic Show-and-Tell. Have fun while learning! We explore bugs, diseases and more. Below are a few samples of what MGs brought to our last session.

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### English ivy (*Hedera helix*): Two forms—mature & juvenile

Jean brought in Public Enemy #1 when it comes to weeds, English ivy. We're all familiar with its prostrate form, when it requires support, such as tree trunks or fences, to grow vertically. We were less familiar with its flowering form, shown right, which grows upright *without* support. It sets clusters of deep purple fruit attractive to birds. Additionally, the leaves of mature flowering stems are quite different than those of the juvenile form.

This weed is notoriously difficult to eradicate. To remove it from trees, cut the ivy stem at the tree base and, if you're inclined to using chemicals, paint the cut with herbicide. Do not pull the ivy from the bark--let it die in place. The wax on ivy leaves protects them from herbicide, much like a raincoat; however, newly emerged spring leaves are vulnerable before they become waxy. This is the only time herbicide is effective on the leaves.

NOTE: Images of umbel and mature leaf by Jean Natter.

For more information: [Oregon Department of Agriculture](http://Oregon Department of Agriculture)



**Mature form**



**Juvenile form**

**Upright flowering stem**

**Prostrate stem**



**Compound umbel**



**Juvenile leaf**



**Mature leaf**

### Wild four o'clock (*Mirabilis nyctaginea*)

No, this isn't some Friday happy hour, it's a perennial weed Rhonda found in her garden. When she yanked it up she was surprised to see long, dark red, carrot-shaped roots. The common name refers to the brevity and largely nocturnal habit of the ½" pinkish flowers, which open late afternoon around happy hour and are spent by early the next morning, before the morning commute.

It is native to many states, but none on the West coast, and is known to spread aggressively in farming areas and open range land. It is on the noxious weed list of Washington, where it is found east of the Cascades, but not on Oregon's list. Since this specimen has already set seed, Rhonda may be seeing more in her yard next year.

For more information: [WSU: Noxious Weed Control Board](http://WSU: Noxious Weed Control Board)



**Long Taproot**



**Wild Four O'Clock – Perennial Weed**

**Opposite leaves with heart-shaped foliage**

### Raspberry root aphids

Emily's four red raspberry bushes had been failing badly—yellowing wilting leaves and low fruit production. With no evidence of a culprit above the soil, she dug them up only to find the roots covered in a white substance. To the naked eye, it looked like white mold, but under the microscope we saw aphids too tiny to detect without magnification. (Due to the white waxy coating, root aphids are often mistaken for mealy bugs.)

Emily will bag the roots and dump them in the regular trash. Next year she'll plant new raspberry bushes in a different location. But she'll mound the soil to ensure good drainage around the roots. (NOTE: Many root aphids have alternate winter hosts, typically *Populus* sp., on which they form galls. However, there's scant information on the raspberry root aphid.)



**Highly magnified aphid**



**Red Raspberry Root**

**The white areas are an aphid infestation.**

For more information: [University of Idaho IPM](http://University of Idaho IPM)