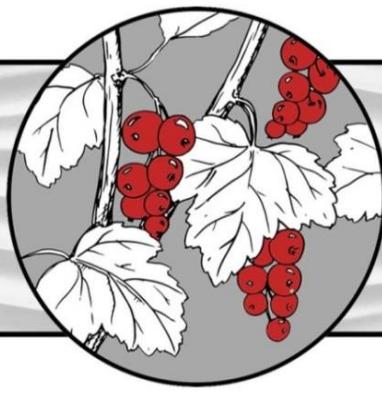


Coastal



Currants

Newsletter of the Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Association

APRIL 2016

President's Notes

March came in like a lion, but I am looking forward to seeing the lamb arrive. The soil is warming and soon the pea sprouts can be planted outside. I suspect some apprentices are pleasantly surprised the seedlings they transplanted for Susan Coast's class have survived. I know I was when my first transplants took off. Plants are tough if you give them a chance to grow. Speaking of which . . .

Our graduating class is setting out to earn their badges.

Graduation was fun with background music thanks to Doug Hoffman and his laptop.

Plenty of spice cake, chocolate cake, and good times. LCMGA

gift bags were well received with more tools to help new apprentices become Veteran Master Gardeners.

Planning! → Planning! → Before Planting!

Planting! → Planting! → Planting! → Planting!

Now it is time to wake up the garden within, put new skills to use, and get those sprouts ready to survive in the **real world**.

I know it is hard waiting for the soil to dry and warm up, but believe me it is worth it. Personally, I have lots of prep work to get done. A little mixing of soil, nutrients, some sunshine, and it will be spring planting time.



The March Board meeting was very short. Proceeds from Seafood and Wine increased over last year. The Plant Sale Committee is on track with soil, 4-inch pots, and plant tags available for growers. Donations of plastic 1-inch blinds are always needed.

Jill Johnson was appointed Chairperson for LCMGA Awards Committee. Liz has a possible candidate for

Seeds to Supper event and will explore further.

We are also looking into advanced MG Training classes, with several to be completed online. OCCC is interested in offering some additional classes.



Brochures will be available soon showing all of the five demonstration gardens. First printing will be 250 with the cost around \$100 (or about 40 cents for each) with heavier paper, folding, and shipping included from Vista Print. All of this within a 1-hour timeframe!

The general meeting followed the Board meeting with vote to approve the Modified Budget passed by all in attendance. We concluded by enjoying leftover cake and seed exchange.

**Donna Davis
LCMGA President 2016**

April Activities Calendar

Activities

April 5 — Leaf Reduction Printing

Community Room
Oregon Coast Community College
Newport

Our own Heather Fortner, internationally known nature artist, is offering these amazing workshops. Session One will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. Session Two will be from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Create your own unique T-shirt, napkins, etc. Please check the email you have received for more information. Email Heather, at heatherfortner@hotmail.com for technical questions and email Dawn, at dawn.henton@gmail.com to sign up for the session of your choice.

April 12 — 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon and

April 19 — 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

The Perfect Plant Label

Master Gardener Office
Lincoln County Extension Office

What goes best with your perfect plants for the plant sale? A perfect label. Heather Fortner will be teaching how to use the computers and printer in the office to make perfect labels. The cost is FREE; free instruction; free computer use; and free labels. What better way to make the label that lasts long and looks great? Please email Dawn at dawn.henton@gmail.com to reserve your space in the workshop.

Round Tables

April 14 — 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Pruning Techniques

Newport Public Library
35 NW Nye Street
(Corner of NW Nye and W Olive; meeting room, lower level)
Vern from Buena Vista Arbor Care will be discussing pruning techniques.

All members, students, and public are invited. This program is free to all, but please call the OSU Extension office (541-574-6534) to reserve a place and ensure adequate materials.

April 28 — 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Invasive Plants in Lincoln County

Newport Public Library
35 NW Nye Street
(Corner of NW Nye and W Olive; meeting room, lower level)
Aaron Duzik, Invasive Species Specialist at the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, will do a power point presentation on invasive plants in Lincoln County and will answer questions on how best to deal with them.

All members, students, and public are invited. This program is free to all, but please call the OSU Extension office (541-574-6534) to reserve a place and ensure adequate materials.

Elsewhere Close By

April 9 and April 10—10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Hortlandia

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon's Plant and Garden Art Sale

Portland Expo Center
2060 North Marine Drive; Portland
Free admission, parking is \$8.00.

April 16 and 17—10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Siuslaw Chapter Early Show

Plant Sale and Bonsai Display

Florence Center
715 Quince; Florence
The American Rhododendron Society

April 22 — 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and

April 23 — 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friends of Bush Gardens Annual Plant Sale

Salem's Riverfront Park Pavilion and north lawn.
See Friends of Bush Gardens Facebook page for complete list of growers.

April 30 — 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Corvallis Evening Garden Club's Plant Sale

Shepard of the Valley Lutheran Church
2650 NW Highland Drive
(Corner of Highland and Walnut)
Corvallis
Plants sell from \$1 to \$4 in most cases.

April 30 — 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Lane County Master Gardener Association
Plant Sale and Garden Fair**

Lane County Fairgrounds
796 West 13th Avenue

Eugene

Thousands of plants, huge silent auction, local vendors, crafts and community organizations.

April 30 — 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Yamhill County Master Gardeners Association

Yamhill County Fairgrounds
Leslie Lewis Pavilion
2070 NE Lafayette Avenue
McMinnville

Thousands of plants with over 20 outside additional vendors with garden related plants and products.

Looking forward

May 10 — 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

The Perfect Plant Label

Master Gardener Office
Lincoln County Extension Office

This will be the last workshop before the plant sale. Sign up by emailing Dawn at dawn.henton@gmail.com.

May 21

Lincoln County Master Gardeners Plant Sale
Lincoln County Fairgrounds

May 24

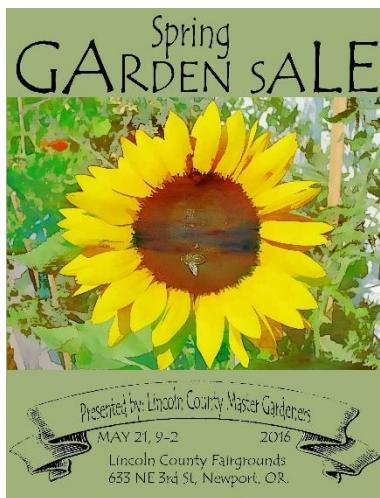
After the Plant Sale Party!!!!!!

Spring Garden Plant Sale

Written by Cathi Block

The annual LCMGA Spring Garden Sale has been a popular event since its beginning in 2000. For many years, it was held at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds and then moved to the Newport Armory where it was located for the past 9 years. The 5,400-square foot space worked well and being right on Highway 101 brought in hundreds of local shoppers.

This year, we will be moving back to the Fairgrounds in the main exhibit hall. With over twice the square footage we will be able to give our customers more elbow room to browse, shop, and visit the many educational booths that will be added this year. To make the shopping experience easier for customers the five main plant sections will be color-coded with brightly colored table coverings. There will be plenty of good parking; and we will be partnering with other folks in the community and from the OSU Extension office.



with OSU Extension's Jan Ostby; Food Preservation; Cloche raffle and cloche supply; Soil Amendments and Fertilizers; and Composting with Master Composters.

Setup days begin on Wednesday, May 18, with

placement of tables, booths, banners, and signage. On May 19 and 20, we will be sorting and organizing hundreds of incoming plants up until midday on Friday. The actual sale will begin Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. If it's anything like previous years, the line will be so long you won't be able to see the end; and the first few hours will be crazy!

LCMGA has over a hundred members, as well as the new class of students. Many of the veterans you don't see often; however, when the sale starts everyone shows up to lend a hand! The Spring Garden Sale is a time to reconnect with friends, learn about new plants or varieties, socialize, work hard, laugh, shop (Friday afternoon for members!), share, and be a part of an amazing group of people!

See you there!

Cathi Block
(Retiring Plant Sale Coordinator)

Educational booths will include Rain Water Collection Systems with the Solid Waste District; Pollinating Plants with Master Beekeepers; Adaptive Gardening; Nutrition

Coordinator's Corner

By Liz Olson, Master Gardener Program Coordinator

Congratulations to the 2016 Master Gardener Class consisting of 26 lively, energetic, and attentive students who successfully completed the 12-week course. They are now Apprentices ready to embark on their Volunteer Service Commitment. I am looking forward to working, interacting, and getting to know each of them much better.

Background History Checks

This is an OSU requirement for any volunteer who will be interacting with youth 18 or younger.

Even if it is not a sponsored MG project or event but as an MG you are required to file the form. It is required every 2 years. If you have not lived in Oregon for at least 7 years, please contact me for specifics.

Forms are available in the Extension Office. A copy of your driver's license needs to be included.

Coastal Perennials Roundtable



If you were able to participate in the March 10 roundtable with Betty Bahn and Heather Fortner, you were part of a rare experience. Not only were we dazzled with Heather's spectacular PowerPoint presentation, but we were privileged to have Betty share her vast knowledge of coastal plants.

What a treat to have these two talented Master Gardeners share their love of plants.



Want to learn more? Check out Betty's three very informative lists attached (*Coastal Desirable Shrubs and Trees*, *Plant Nurseries*, and *Plants for the Oregon Coast*).

Pollinator Plant Profile

Borago officinalis

Borage

Written by Anne Schatz

From the pollinator perspective, Borage is THE BOMB!

Borage is an annual, Mediterranean-originating herb that flowers continually until late fall/early winter from a single planting. So plant now! Borage grows to 3-feet tall and 2-feet wide, likes full sun, and some summer water. Good soil is nice, but not necessary. It has an indeterminate growth habit and can sprawl a bit, so it probably isn't the best for showy border plantings. Multiple plantings can keep it more upright.



Fall seeded (or self-seeded) overwintered plants start producing multiple blue flowers (there are white forms, too) on the coast in late March to early April, giving a long season of bloom, including the important early and late periods. The flowers are shallow and accessible to diverse pollinator species. Adding to this, borage replenishes its nectar every 45 minutes, so each flower is worth about five other nectar providers. To pollinators, one bed of borage is worth a much larger bed of succession blooms! Because of its popularity with pollinators and long bloom season, it's a great way to observe the succession of solitary bees through the summer. It also attracts large numbers of bumble bees, honey bees, and other pollinators. Watch for bees carrying borage's unusual blue-gray pollen.

Gardeners also love borage. It's a dynamic accumulator (a deep rooted plant that accumulates large amounts of

nutrients effectively) that concentrates potassium and silicon. This could be why it's considered a good companion plant, because those deep roots help break up compacted soil and silicon improves the stress tolerance of many plants, to include drought and pest stress, and increases resistance to fungal attack. Gardeners also love that borage attracts beneficial insects, including braconid wasps and tachinid flies that predate flea beetles in the larval stage and are both pollinators as adults. It is also considered a good green manure plant because it produces large amounts of biomass, both above and below the soil. Consider it for planting in fallow areas or anywhere your soil could use a boost.

Many people enjoy the cucumber-flavored leaves in soups, salads, beverages, and cocktails. The beautiful edible flowers really dress up a salad or ice cubes for festive summer drinks.



The leaves have a high levels of Vitamin C and Vitamin A with good amounts of potassium, iron, and magnesium. Although people have eaten borage for centuries, there are concerns that borage plant parts, particularly concentrated parts such as borage oil, contain a substance toxic to the liver. Please do your own research.

Of all the pollinator plants I put in last year this was, hands down, the best. The pollinators consistently chose it over other pollinator favorites and I loved the long bloom and way the bees worked it from morning to evening. Each evening I would find bumble bees sleeping peacefully among the blooms. Beautiful. What a wonderful way to end a long summer day!

Anne Schatz

Anne has been a Master Gardener since 2008, is enrolled at the Journey Level in the Master Beekeeper Program, and is an avid pollinator enthusiast.

Get the Most from Your Herbs

Written by Ann Geyer

Herbs are the workhorse of the garden. They delight our senses, fill gaps in our planting beds, and are generally hardy enough to withstand a summer of neglect. So assuming you've planted at least one of your favorite herbs, let's talk about harvesting.

The best time for harvesting herbs depends on the plant and how you intend to use it. For example, you can pick mint leaves for tea or cooking any time and you can use them fresh or dried. If you want to use other parts of an herb plant, such as the seeds, roots, or flowers then you will need to harvest in advance and preserve them for later use.

Harvesting Leaves

Generally the leaves of herb plants should be harvested before the plant flowers. Once the flowers are blooming, many herbs become bitter or lose much of their flavor.

I like to pick the leaves when they are young in order to get the highest amount of essential oil from which provides both aroma and taste. Pick early in the morning when the leaves are not stressed from high heat. Remember not to wash the leaves to preserve the maximum amount of oil. If the leaves are dirty or dusty, spray one day and pick the next.



Harvesting Flowers, Seeds, and Roots

When harvesting herb for their flowers, pick when the flowers have not yet fully bloomed. Seeds are best



collected when the seed pods begin to change color. Roots are usually dug up at the end of the growing season, typically early fall.

Nurturing Herbs for Longer Life

Harvesting herbs, or just pruning if you don't have a use for the leaves, roots, seeds or flowers, encourages new plant growth. It's okay to prune the plants frequently. Whenever the herb looks scraggly or unshapely you can prune back to a reasonable size. Annuals can be sheared back to a few inches, while perennials should not be cut more than half their height. Pruning perennials midsummer is recommended to help encourage the plant to flower again in the fall.

Grow Herbs and Enjoy

Herbs are some of the easiest plants to grow. No green thumb required. Put a few plants in a sunny window or close to the kitchen door for easy access. Then snip whenever you need a burst of flavor or fragrance.

Ann Geyer

Ann is a brand new graduate of the Master Gardener class 2016. We are lucky to have her aboard!

Some Common Herbs to Enjoy



Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)

Prefers sun to part shade, regular water, and rich, well-drained soil. Look for varieties with different fragrances: cinnamon, lemon, or licorice. Snip off flower stalks to extend plant life.



Cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*)

Prefers sun to part shade, regular water, and average to rich soil. A staple for Mexican, Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, Indian, and South Asian cuisines. Harvest the leaves for cilantro or let the plant go to seed for harvesting coriander seeds..



Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*)

Prefers sun, regular water and average soil. Chives can take a long time to mature but are long lasting provided they are harvested or pruned frequently. This herb is pretty enough to be grown as an ornamental, but that would be a shame. Chives have a subtle onion taste. You can use both the leaves and flowers for salads, baked potatoes, soups, and spreads.



Spearmint (*Mentha spicata*)

Prefers afternoon shade, average soil and ample water. Mint is invasive so plan ahead. Plant in a spot where it can spread or put it in a container. Prune often to control size. With so many varieties, there is a mint for every taste. Use in salads, desserts, or just make fresh mint tea.



Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)

Prefers sun, minimum water, and poor to average soil. Rosemary can be a backbone of the garden since it is drought, deer, and rabbit tolerant. Just one plant in the herb garden is all you will need for even the largest family. Comes in both upright and prostate forms.



Sage (*Salvia officinalis*)

Prefers sun, minimum water, and average soil. Be sure to get a culinary variety of sage if you plan to use for cooking. Sage has a strong flavor so a little goes a long way. It's a nice plant to include in potpourris to introduce a woodsy fragrance.



Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)

Prefers sun, minimum water and average soil. There are so many varieties of thyme that you will want several. Use thyme in Italian dishes, corn, breads, soups, and stews. It also makes a good tea. And you'll have the benefit of a nice border plant for the garden.



Lemon verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*)

Prefers afternoon shade, regular water, and average soil. Best to harvest plant leaves when plant is flowering. Makes a wonderful tea alone or in combination with other herb flavors. Gives vinegars and oils a nice lemony touch.

Demonstration Gardens Highlighted

-michellechristy



Lincoln City Demonstration Garden

Established in 2010, the Lincoln City area demo garden is sited at the Oregon Coast Community

College North Campus located on High School Drive. It consists of four raised beds: one of which is a cloche; another an herb garden. A greenhouse with a solar collector for the water system and rain water collection barrels compliment the greenhouse. There is an area of natural plants on one end and the other end has a selection of grasses, and an individual compost area. It is a wonderful example of a "small area" garden.



The following is an excerpt from the Search for Excellence Application in 2012.

In January 2010, Patrick O'Connor, Sam Angima, and LCMGA entered into an agreement to designate a section of OCCC



at Lincoln City as a demonstration garden. Lincoln City Demonstration Garden at OCCC is located on campus, serves north county residents of Salishan, Nelscott, Oceanlake, Lincoln City, and other towns and consists of approximately 1,200 square feet.

The site, protected from coastal winds and salt spray, is adjacent to the main entrance and parking area and is handicap accessible.

The garden strives to provide a site for master gardener program

participants to develop and test skills learned in class and to provide college students and the public with a learning/teaching garden of sustainable coastal gardening practices. Lincoln City Demo Garden has partnered with a local paving and wood mill company for the framing and construction of the greenhouse/shed and assistance in garden installation. A use agreement with the association and water payment is provided by OCCC.

MG Diane Gettis and her husband milled the wood for the raised beds and greenhouse, (Gettis Construction and Paving). MGs constructed the raised beds and greenhouse.

In this small area there are three raised beds: one cloche, one greenhouse, composting bins, a native plant garden and a deer resistant garden. There is a rain barrel system for watering and solar power to charge the battery for the drip watering system.



Input provided by Claudette Schroeder and Ron Woodward II

Oregon Coast Community College
3788 SE High School Drive
Lincoln City, Oregon
Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Choose the Right Tomato for YOUR Space

Written by Sally Reill

There literally are 1000s of varieties of tomatoes! A few guidelines will help **YOU** choose which type is right for your garden space. All tomatoes will do best with a protective cover to keep them warm, even early in the east county. Most will do well in the greenhouse and some are bred for those conditions. Small fruited, cherry and grape types are likely to ripen earlier than large slicers. Always choose the fewest number of days to maturity. That information should be on the seed packet or in the catalog description. Adding 15-20 days will allow for our cooler coastal climate.

GROWTH HABIT

Understanding the “**growth habit**” of tomatoes can help you choose which type is best for you. **Determinate (DET)**, sometimes called “**bush**”, are shorter plants that set a good crop of fruit and then stop growing upward. Many of these are very productive, most will fit in a large tomato cage. **Indeterminate (IND)** varieties continue growing upwards and setting fruit; they can get quite tall, should be staked and caged, or tied up on a trellis. Most (not all) heirloom varieties are **IND**. Some varieties may be described as **short-IND**, or **semi-DET**, they are mid-sized plants. There are **Dwarf** varieties available, and others that are bred specifically for small containers or hanging baskets.

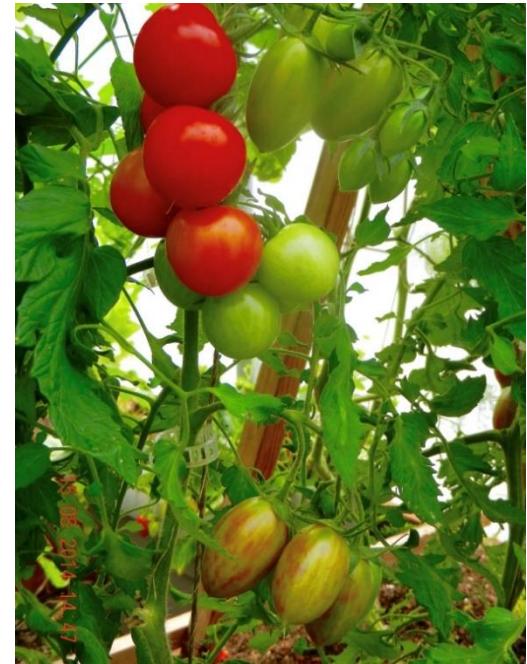


Hybrid, “Heirloom”, OP, and more: **Hybrids (Hyb)** are crosses of two or more varieties. They are bred for specific attributes such as superior flavor or disease resistance. “**Heirloom**” varieties have been handed down for generations. Many folks consider them to be superior to hybrids; however, it is a personal preference. They may be less productive than hybrids. **OP (open pollinated)** varieties include all heirlooms and some open-pollinated hybrids.

Hybrids can be grown out several generations and re-selected until they are stabilized, become **OP**, and will come true from saved seeds. There are a couple of interesting new types: “**Artisan**” and “**Heirloom hybrids**”: These crosses are bred using traditional methods. Parents are chosen for particular qualities and are likely to be more vigorous and productive than either parent. Artisans are bred for interesting color combinations and shapes; some are excellent quality.

Two final things:

- **The sweetness and flavor of tomatoes is largely dependent on how much sun and heat the plant gets.**
- **There are no GMO seeds available to home gardeners!**



There is NO CORRELATION between the size of the fruit and the size of the plant!

Sally Reill

Sally describes herself as a really old, obsessive tomato grower!



Want to learn more? Check out Sally's attachment, *Our Favorite Tomatoes and How to Grow Them.*

Just Another Sign of Spring

Written by Sharon Casteel

Originally printed in 2013

We are officially into spring, according to the calendar. I have another way of telling.

Every year around the middle of March I have tiny, little black ants come visit me. They enter through an electrical outlet in my bathroom. This is their choice, not mine. Since I love fresh air, my windows and doors are frequently open; so they could enter through any door, but no, they prefer that bathroom plug outlet.

They spend several days wandering around my bathroom, crawling over my sea shells, and bottles of bubble bath. They must not be narcissist as they go behind my mirror, and not on the ledge in front of it. (That's a little fact I bet you didn't know about ants.) After several weeks of bathroom exploration, they magically find their way through my bedroom, down the hall, and into the kitchen. Once in the kitchen, they go immediately to the cat's dish. So for the next week or so, I place her dishes in pie tins filled with water. Apparently they don't like to swim either.

I really don't want to hurt these tiny creatures, so I have tried a variety of ways to discourage them from visiting me each year. Someone told me to sprinkle talcum powder around, as they won't cross it. Now I have tiny black ants roaming around with little white feet. Cute! I have even tried talking to them, thinking that on some unknown level, they would tune in and scram. Now, I have discovered vinegar. Put it around the entrance they are using, and they will stop coming in that way. (Although sometimes they find another entrance.)

Then suddenly, they will be gone. Is it something I said? Where did they go? Hmm!

Sharon Casteel

Sharon has been a Master Gardener since 2004 and is a frequent contributor to the newsletter.

Recipe of the Month

The Whole Enchilada

Mary-Ellen Townsend

Ah! The sign of an excellent recipe is an empty dish!

Mary-Ellen served us this delicious casserole for our 2016 Graduation Potluck. Many of you asked me to publish the recipe. I have attached the recipe as an attachment to the newsletter email. It is a whopper!



Happy Eating!



The full recipe for The Whole Enchilada is included as an attachment with your newsletter email.

April LCMGA Board Meeting Agenda

April 11, 2016

Newport Library

Call to Order (10:00)	Donna D.
Approval of Minutes	Karen J.
General Meeting Minutes	
Approval of budget	
Financial Reports	Emily B.
Plant Sale Update	
Seafood and Wine Update	
Scholarship Update	
Program Coordinator	Liz O.
New Business	
Adjournment (12:00)	

LCMGA Officers — 2016

President	Donna Davis	lcmgdonna@gmail.com
Past-President	Pat Shaw (Lincoln City)	shaw.pat25@gmail.com
Vice President	Dawn Henton	dawn.henton@gmail.com
Secretary	Karen Jones	karenjon@gmail.com
Co-Treasurer	Emily Blume	sparkse12@hotmail.com
Co-Treasurer	Vacant	
Historian	Mary Ellen Townsend	maryellentownsend@gmail.com
OMGA Representative	Heather Fortner	heatherfortner@hotmail.com
MG Program Coordinator	Liz Olsen	Liz.Olsen@oregonstate.edu



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