**BLUE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**

**INFORMATION FOR WEBSITE 2020**

Blue Mountain District is in the southeast portion of Washington State. In fact, the southern and eastern borders of the district are where the state meets Oregon on the south and Idaho on the east. It has a desert steppe climate which means that we receive most of our rainfall during the colder months of the year. The usual rainfall here for the year is between six and seven inches, but we are fortunate to have ample water most years for our gardens. Our cold hardiness designation is 7a that tells your we have cold weather, but nothing like those in the mountains or farther north. We have a long growing season with a variety of soils from sandy to partial clay so many plants thrive in this environment.

Our District consists of five diverse garden clubs. They are involved in many community service activities which benefit our area. Our clubs all meet monthly. We have two District Members meetings each year with all clubs to exchange ideas and discuss what is happening in our District. A part of this meeting is always great speakers and fabulous lunches! It is a good place to exchange ideas, meet our newest members, and just enjoy visiting with long time gardening friends. Gardeners always have something to share, and it might be new ideas or a fabulous plant!

Our main fundraiser for the district is our annual plant sale that happens the first Friday and Saturday in May. Our club members share plants from their gardens that they have divided or would like to pass along to other gardeners. They know the plants growing habits, color, height and width, and if it needs sun, shade or semi shade. This is so helpful for new gardeners when considering which plants to purchase for their gardens. We use the money raised by this sale for a yearly scholarship for a junior or senior college student continuing in the fields of horticulture, agriculture, ecology, forestry, and similar studies. We feel this in turn benefits us helping students who are in touch with our changing world.