



# Country Living

Provided to you by the

**OSU Extension Service Columbia County**

505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens OR 97051

Phone: 503.397.3462 ▪ Fax: 503.397-3467

Email: [chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu](mailto:chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu)

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Office closed on Fridays from Noon to 1 p.m.

Website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/>

## April 2009

## Programs for you . . .

Listen to the Gardening Spot on KOHI (1600 am) radio - Every Saturday, 8:05 to 8:15 a.m.

- Apr. 2 ..... **Demonstration Garden and other MG Extension Projects Planning Meeting**. 9 a.m., Columbia County Extension Conference room
- Apr. 2 ..... **Master Gardener™ Board Meeting**. 10 a.m., Columbia County Extension Conference room
- Apr. 7 ..... **Scappoose Bay Watershed Council**. 7 p.m., Scappoose Bay Watershed Council's office, Warren
- Apr. 14 ..... **Lower Columbia Watershed Council**. 7 p.m., Extension Conference room, St. Helens
- Apr. 15 ..... **Soil & Water Conservation District**, 7:30 p.m., SWCD office, St. Helens
- Apr. 17-18 ..... **Non-timber Special Forest Products**. Eddyville, OR. \$15 registration, deadline 4/10/09, call for form, call Jim Reeb for more info 541-574-6537 ext 15 or [jim.reeb@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jim.reeb@oregonstate.edu)
- Apr. 22 ..... **Mold in Buildings: Assessment, Prevention and Resolution**. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., PCC Rock Creek, Register before April 15, Washington County Extension, 503-821-1150 or [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington/family\\_home/mold](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington/family_home/mold)
- Apr. 23 ..... **Master Gardener™ Chapter Meeting**. 6:30 p.m. Our speaker will be from the Ruhl Bee Supply, Topic: *Honeybee's, benefits of hives in the backyard, etc.* Extension Conference room, St. Helens. **The public is invited. Free.**
- Apr. 25 ..... **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Garden Fair**, by Columbia County Master Gardeners™. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Helens High School
- Apr. 25 ..... **Hazardous Waste Disposal**. 8 a.m. to Noon. Waste Transfer Station, St. Helens. Columbia County is offering free household hazardous waste disposal the last Saturday of each month at the waste transfer station in St. Helens (paints, cleaners, automotive chemicals (though not waste oil), pesticides, fluorescent lights, and many other items). If you have any questions about what is acceptable, call 503 397-1501.
- May 16 ..... **Early Melon Strategies**. 10 to 11 a.m., Columbia County Fairgrounds, Master Gardener™ Demo Garden, St. Helens. How you can grow cantaloupes, watermelons and other heat loving crops like tomatoes, peppers and eggplants. **The public is invited. Free.**



*Chip Bubl*

Chip Bubl, OSU Extension Faculty, Agriculture

Agriculture, Family and Community Development, 4-H Youth, Forestry, and Extension Sea Grant Programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Columbia County cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

## In the garden

### Some like it hot

Soil temperature can have a huge impact on seed germination. Inexperienced gardeners often plant heat-loving vegetables like corn, beans, and the squash/melon family before the soil is warm enough for rapid germination. In such conditions, the roots and shoots may emerge slowly. The longer the process takes, the greater the chance the seed will mold or be eaten by soil insects.

A soil thermometer is a great gardener's gadget. To get good information, measure the soil temperature at a two-inch depth at 9:00 am over several days. Without a soil thermometer, you can estimate that the soil temperature will be a week behind the average air temperature.

Here are some minimum germination temperatures for seeds in well-drained gardens:

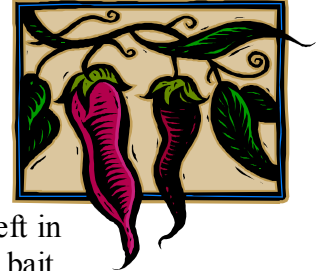
Basil	60-65° F
Beans	48-52
Cabbage	38-40
Corn	46-50
Melons	55-60
Onions	34-36
Peas	34-36
Peppers	55-60
Tomatoes	50-55

It is possible to warm the soil before seeding (or transplanting) by covering it with clear or black plastic. Clear plastic warms more but it also stimulates weed growth. Raised beds drain off excess moisture and, as a result, warm more quickly.

Once the seed is in the ground, it is not unusual for the weather to turn cold and rainy. Newly planted rows could be covered with plastic tunnels or floating row covers to keep them warm until the seeds germinate.

Plastic on wire hoops works well but must be lifted on sunny days to avoid frying the plants underneath.

Floating covers can be left in place but don't forget to bait for slugs.



Finally, treated seed can slow the damage from disease and soil insects. Several years ago, I planted the same variety of bean in a set of comparison rows, one with treated seed and the other with untreated seed. The weather turned cool and wet after planting, which made for a good test. The final plant count was much better in the treated versus the untreated row.

### Starting corn

The "high-sugar" corn varieties are outstanding in quality. However, they are more sensitive to poor germination conditions (cold, wet soils). It is not uncommon to lose a third or more of the seed planted.

You can reduce the problem by

- Waiting until the soil is warm before planting.
- Warming the soil with clear plastic prior to planting.
- Covering the corn rows with floating row covers to warm the soil and reduce soil "crusting".
- Consider using treated seed.

Plant enough seed so that even in a bad year, you will still have a stand.

## More from the garden

### Winter damage unfolds

Evergreen plants tend to show winter damage fairly quickly. Leaves turn brown, on sensitive trees or shrubs like eucalyptus or hebes; needles fall off less hardy conifers, leaving them very bare. Some plants are clearly dead. Others may recover from the roots, though the time it takes them to mature into decent landscape specimens may be longer than you are willing to wait.

Deciduous trees are slowly emerging this spring. As a result, some damage may still show up. Gardeners are spot-checking their plants with their fingernails to see if there is green tissue under the bark. Figs look fine, at least in most locations. There do seem to be developing wound tissues on trunks and scaffold limbs of some tree species.

Younger trees are most affected. Often a damaged tree will grow but the wound remains. Bark sloughing years later is common.

Which brings us to whitewash or tree wraps for winter protection. Most bark injury is caused by sunburn. In winter, you get sunburn when snow is on the ground. The snow-reflected light of a cold, clear day can warm the tissues of the trunk, bringing them a bit out of dormancy. When the temperature drops that evening, those tissues can rupture. When the cells rupture, the canker or injury develops.

The same thing can happen in the summer. The southwest side of a young tree is the most vulnerable. Sun rays, directed at the bark during the hottest part of the day, can lead to lethal temperatures for the cells. The injury shows up the following spring. Whitewash used to be mixes of slaked lime, casein, and water. Now, farmers and gardeners use white latex paint either diluted 50-50 with water or undiluted. The white

colorant in the paint reflects the light both winter and summer offering a lot of protection to young tree bark. Tree wraps do the same thing. The wraps can be taken off while the paint has to weather away. Sunburn protection is something to consider for the new trees you buy this spring.

### Rose types

- **Hybrid Tea Roses (HT):** This is the most popular type of rose for the home garden. These are the roses that most people think of when you say rose. Tall growing, 4-6 feet and about 3 feet wide, they produce blooms on long stems, suitable for cutting. The classical definition is one bloom on the end of a long stem, but it is often necessary to remove the two or more buds that form just below the main bud to get the desired long stem effect. Flowers can have from as few as 5 petals to over 100 and they come in the complete rainbow of rose colors. Favorites include Gemini, Elina, Peace, New Zealand and many others.
- **Grandiflora Roses (Gr):** This is a category found only in the U.S. All other countries consider Grandiflora roses as HTs. These by definition are taller and bloom with candelabra sprays of flowers. You may have a stem that terminates with 5-10 roses each on a rather long stem. Treat these as you would the HT. Favorites here would be Fame, Oktoberfest, Dream Come True, Queen Elizabeth and many, many more.
- **Floribunda Roses (Fl)** These roses are valued for their colorful addition to the landscape. Blooms come in clusters of from 3 to a dozen or more and are usually thought of as being smaller than HTs, but a number of Floribundas have large blooms. These tend to grow a little shorter than the HTs but there are some individual



varieties that can become quite large. They are great for cutting because you get an entire bouquet on one stem. Petal count and colors encompass the full range as with the HTs. Favorites include Playboy, Lava Glut (Lava Glow), Julia Child, Moondance, Kimberlina and others.

- **Shrubs (SH):** These roses are great for landscape color. Many often have blooms that are nondescript, but some are quite beautiful. They can range in size from short to very tall with a full range of color and flower styles. Some popular ones currently are Knockout, Sally Holmes, and many of the Austin English type roses (they are almost all classed as shrubs).
- **Climbers (CI):** This is the class for almost all roses that routinely grow over 7-8 feet tall. They can be moderate growers or they can consume your landscape with vigorous growth. Read the descriptions of these to choose one that will fit your needs. Climber blooms come in all variations of petal count and colors. Some favorites are Altissimo, Westerland, Dortmund, Soaring Sprits and many more.

#### **Miniature Roses and Mini Flora Roses:**

These roses reflect all of the beauty of the other classes of roses but on a relatively miniature scale. While the bushes are generally less than 2 feet there are some that are climbers and some that are very short. The color range and flower style of these beauties contain the complete palate that are present is all of the others. These are becoming a favorite as they fit into smaller places better than their larger relatives. Classics include Jean Kenneally, Irresistible, Rainbow's E.

*From Rich Baer in the Portland Rose Chatter, via Kathy Johnson*

## FROM GARDEN TO TABLE THE CASE OF THE CURIOUS CUCURBITS - EXPOSÉS

4:00 a.m. After a restless night I sit and review the data thus far collected. The stage is set. The necessary cultural information lies before me but something essential is missing. Suddenly a light comes on. Aha! I need a defense. What problems might I encounter in my endeavors to grow any of these illustrious Cucurbits?

As Cucurbits are subject to several wilts, viral and fungal diseases, bacterial wilt and powdery mildew are common problems. Most can be controlled with good soil management, proper rotation, garden sanitation, and avoiding overhead watering methods. Insects such as cucumber beetles, vine borers, and squash bugs can be worrisome. Cucumber beetles infect plants with devastating bacterial wilt disease. Insect pests, especially cucumber beetles, can be controlled with insecticides or using floating row covers (removed when the plants are blooming), and keeping garden borders mowed.

Now that defense plan has been established, it's time to profile of those curious Asian Cucurbits. The lineup of suspects begins:

#### **Oriental Cucumber** (*Cucumis sativus*) 65 days

A prolific producer, this long slender Asian variety is equivalent to the western cucumber and has a thin skin, a small seed cavity and tender, sweet, burpless flesh. Use it like any western cucumber (although not a good candidate for pickling) or in a variety of Japanese, Chinese, Indian or Thai recipes where it is popular in soups, cool yoghurt raitas, or stir-fried dishes. Cucumbers are a natural coolant to the palate during the hot summer. Trellis the five foot vines to obtain the straightest fruit.

#### **Armenian Cucumber** (*Cucumis melo*, Flexuosus group), a.k.a.: snake melon 60 days

Not a cucumber but a melon originating in the Middle East, this muskmelon cousin develops slightly ribbed, spineless cucumber shaped fruit that grows 2-3 feet long and 2 inches in diameter. These light green delicacies are best eaten when 12-15 inches long, and are bitter-free and burpless to boot. Use like Oriental cucumbers. Trellis the vines.

**Oriental Pickling Melon** (*Cucumis melo*, Conomon group) a.k.a.: pickling melon, oriental melon, yue gua, bai gua 70 days  
This vigorous grower also looks like a cucumber but belongs to the melon species. Considerably larger than the western cucumber, young melons are used mainly for pickling but can be eaten raw or added to salads. More typically they are stuffed with meats, pork, chicken or vegetables and braised or added to stir-fried dishes.

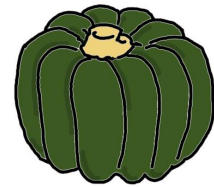
**Tinda Squash** (*Citrullus vulgaris* var. fistulosis) a.k.a.: tinda melon, tinda gourd, apple gourd, akra tinda, baby India pumpkin 60 days  
Some research indicates this small round, apple-sized melon belongs to the *lanatus* species, the same one occupied by watermelons and citron melon. It is used in its young, immature state like summer squash in curries or combined with other vegetables like potatoes, eggplants or peas.

**Kabocha Squash** (*Cucurbita maxima* and *Cucurbita moshata*, and some hybrids between the two) a.k.a.: Japanese pumpkin, Kuri Kabocha. 100-110 days

Kabocha, a Japanese variety of winter squash, has come to mean simply winter squash to many English speaking growers and buyers. Highly prized in Japan (some cultures consider it an aphrodisiac), this two to three pound squash is similar to buttercup squash but without the characteristic cup on the blossom end. Sweeter than a butternut squash, the moist, fluffy texture is often likened to a roasted chestnut.

When first harvested, Kabocha will be dry and bland-tasting. In order to transform it into the

smooth, sweet and succulent squash for which it is revered, it needs to be ripened in a warm place (77° F) for about 13 days so some of the starch content converts to sugar. Then it should be transferred to a cool place (50° F) and stored for about a month to complete the transformation. A fully ripe Kabocha will have a reddish yellow flesh, a hard skin and a dry corky stem, reaching its peak of ripeness 1.5-3 months after harvest.



Although pumpkins are most often associated with sweet dishes, the Kabocha is delectable in savory dishes as well. As a vegetable braise in soy sauce, rice wine and garlic or use for tempura, stuffing, side dishes, soups, curries, bean stews, or grain porridges (Kasha).

**Oriental Melons** (*Cucumis melo* and *Citrullus lanatus*) 40 to 65 days after fruit set

With names like Ginkaku, Ichiba, Himekansen and Hakacho there's more to the melon family than cantaloupes, honeydews and watermelons. Developed in and for the Asian market, these fragrant, sweet tasting aromatic melons are a sensory delight. With colors of juicy flesh ranging from red to salmon-orange to pale yellow and white, these melons have been bred for crispness and sugar content with brix over 16%.

My list thus far appears to be rather unassuming, but is quite interesting nonetheless. My inquisitiveness is not yet satisfied. There isn't enough information; the list isn't complete; there must be more! As new information is discovered, more exotic varieties are unveiled. The Case of the Curious Cucurbits continues to unfold. (*To be continued*)

--Robert Hammond, Columbia County  
Master Gardener™



# *That's the Way it Grows*

## **The Patient Gardener**

Two of my phalaenopsis orchids are blooming at this moment. Their amazing blossoms appear delicate, but are long-lasting. This I am grateful for, since the blooms that opened today are the very first ever to appear on that plant—a plant I have cared for since it was a seedling 15 years ago. Growing orchids is not for the impatient.

Gardening itself is not compatible with impatience. Plants and flowers and trees don't just pop up with the wave of your hand (but wouldn't it be nice at times?) Gardening takes effort, planning, maintenance and most of all, patience.

My asparagus bed will take at least another year before I get any spears of harvestable size. The seven fruit trees I planted last year will take several years before bearing. The grapes I planted six years ago just had their first harvest last summer. As the man said, "Patience, Grasshopper."

My youngest son and I started seeds for our vegetable garden today. He's the patient one. He's the one who reads the symbols on the seed packets to see how deep to plant and how many days until harvest. He'll be a Master Gardener yet. He tucked the seeds into the soil with his little fingers, patted soil over them and sprayed them with water.

There is a lot of promise in those seeds. If we give them the right conditions—keep them in a warm spot, keep them moist but not wet—something amazing will happen. The seed coats will crack and a tiny root will emerge, pushing its way down into the soil against gravity. Then, tiny stems will crane their necks upward, seeking the sun to nourish cotyledon leaves—the very first to emerge.

These tiny plants know exactly what they need to do to grow and survive, and all the genetic information to tell them how to grow, and

what to grow into, is packed into is packed inside those tiny seeds we lovingly tuck into the ground along with our hopes for a good harvest or show of blooms. It's a little like raising children—an exercise in patience if ever there was one!

We live in an impatient world these days. Everyone is rushing here and rushing there, watching the clock instead of their speedometer. We gardeners have found an off ramp from that hectic pace. We have the patience to watch our plants grow, our trees mature and bear fruit, and to enjoy the wildlife that graces our gardens. We have learned that growing and tending a garden is good for our bodies and our minds. The body may complain when we over do it, but the health benefits of exercise and fresh produce make up for that.

I believe it is the benefit to the mind—to the soul—that makes gardening so good for us. Digging and planting and tending keeps us grounded, literally, and teach us to look at the big picture, at the pace of the seasons instead of at the clock. Gardening gives us patience. Whether we like it or not. We have no choice but to wait out the weeks, months, seasons, years, to see the fruits of our labor.

Being a gardener teaches us that patience is a virtue. The payoff is that first juicy peach from a young tree, or that first ripe tomato you eat right in the garden. It's the first daffodil to peek out from winter's landscape, or the orchid blossom you've been waiting 15 years to see. It's watching a little boy painstakingly count out three seeds to press into each peat pot with slow, deliberate movements. I am so thankful to be a gardener, to have learned the patience to sit back and watch my little boys grow, too.

—Lisa M. Long  
Columbia County Master Gardener™  
Compost, rock and bark dust delivered;  
397-2989



# APRIL 2009

## Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Always identify and monitor problems before acting. First consider cultural controls; then physical, biological, and chemical controls (which include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides). Always consider the least toxic approach first.

All recommendations in this calendar are not necessarily applicable to all areas of Oregon. For more information, contact your local office of the OSU Extension Service.

- ❖ Early April: fertilize lawn, let spring rains carry the fertilizer into the soil.
- ❖ If lawns are becoming thin and sickly, consider overseeding with a mixture of perennial ryegrass and fine fescue.
- ❖ Protect dogwood trees, as they begin growth, against anthracnose diseases. Apply a copper fungicide or Daconil. Rake and destroy fallen leaves spring through fall.
- ❖ Help youngsters start a garden this year with carrots, chard, lettuce, onions, and peas.
- ❖ Bait for slugs; iron phosphate baits are available that are safe for use around pets. Clean up hiding places for slugs, sowbugs, and millipedes.
- ❖ Allow foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to brown and die down before removing.
- ❖ Prune and shape or thin spring-blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.
- ❖ Control rose diseases such as black spot and powdery mildew. Remove infected leaves. Spray as necessary with registered fungicide. Prune ornamentals for air circulation and to help prevent fungus diseases.
- ❖ Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate generous amounts of organic materials and other amendments as needs are shown by soil analysis.
- ❖ Use floating row covers to keep insects such as beet leaf miners, cabbage maggot adult flies, and carrot rust flies away from susceptible crops.
- ❖ Monitor strawberries for spittlebugs and aphids; control if present.
- ❖ Cut and remove weeds near the garden to remove sources of plant virus diseases.
- ❖ Spray for apple scab, cherry brown rot, and blossom blight. See EC 631, Controlling Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards.
- ❖ Apply commercial fertilizers, manure, or compost to cane, bush (gooseberries, currants, and blueberries), and trailing berries.
- ❖ Plant gladioli, hardy transplants of alyssum, phlox, and marigolds, if weather and soil conditions permit.
- ❖ Prepare raised beds in areas where cold soils and poor drainage are a continuing problem. Add generous amounts of organic materials.
- ❖ Place compost or well-decomposed manure around perennial vegetable plants.
- ❖ Watch for botrytis blight on peonies.
- ❖ Check started seeds for damping-off.
- ❖ Cover transplants to protect against late-spring frosts.
- ❖ Plant these vegetables:
  - ❖ *Western valleys, Portland, Roseburg, Medford*: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, spinach, turnips.





**The Grapevine**  
 News for Columbia County Master Gardeners™  
[www.columbiacountymastergardeners.org](http://www.columbiacountymastergardeners.org)



**April 2009**

Deadline for THE GRAPEVINE - All materials will need to be into the OSU Extension office no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**President's Corner**

Would you believe it, that darn ground hog was right, six more weeks of winter! Who would have believed snow in March?

I keep trying and trying to get outside to work in my yard but that darn cold weather keeps driving me back into the house. I only have about a fourth of my roses pruned. You know at this rate, its going to be June before I get my yard clean up. Where is this darn global warming? [snicker]

Wow! The month of April is going to be an interesting and very active one for Columbia County.

The first item is the completion of classes by the 2009 Master Gardener™ trainees. Congratulations and we are all excited to have you join us!

Next is a new project, a photo contest, that was presented to the membership at the March meeting by Larry Byrum. This is going to be so much fun.

Kym Pokorny spoke at the March Meeting on her Favorite Plants - *For the Moment*. Ruhl Bee Supply will be at the April meeting to talk about honeybee's, this will be fun, as well as interesting.



April 6<sup>th</sup> will be the opening of the Demo Garden -every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. Several new projects are planed for this year. You're encouraged to come out and see the demo garden if you haven't for a period of time and to chat with your fellow Master Gardeners™.

The Demo Gardener Coordinators once again plan to have lunch time Garden Tours of fellow Master Gardener's™ yards; and one is even planned from my humble yard. This is all ways a big hit, lots of fun and very informative. You're all encouraged to join us.

**Calendar: At-A-Glance**

- || Apr. 2.. Demonstration Garden and other MG Extension Projects Planning meeting, 9 a.m., Extension office
- || Apr. 2.. Board Meeting, 10 a.m. Extension office
- || Apr. 23. Chapter Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Extension office
- || Apr. 25 Spring Fair, St. Helens High School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Don't forget, starting April 6, each Monday from 10 a.m. to Noon work is done at the Demo Garden.**

Lastly, Spring Fair - April 24<sup>th</sup> is setup of Spring Fair at the high school from 3:30 p.m. until it's completed. Then the big day, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We're going to have over 6,000 tomatoes to sell and about 50 varieties. Please plan to help out, a signup sheet for those able to help will be at all the meetings. We need your help to make this a success! See you there!!

--Kathy Johnson

**Volunteer Payback**

LOG YOUR HOURS, and turn them into Extension office. Hours worked by veteran as well as new Master Gardeners™ accumulate to justify continuance of our program through OSU.

*To get a form off the web:*

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/Agriculture/mastergardeners.php>

choose Master Gardener™ Volunteer Log Sheet – word document or to get an electronic form go to:

[www.columbiacountymastergardeners.org](http://www.columbiacountymastergardeners.org),

choose Chapter News, Select a Topic, and then choose either the electronic file or printable form.

## Chapter Meeting Speakers

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Speaker: *Ruhl Bee Supply*.

The topic will be: Honeybee's, benefits of hives in the backyard, attracting pollinators and colony collapse disease.

*Ruhl Bee Supply* has been supporting beekeepers of the Northwest for 110 years. It is the place to go for all beekeeping supplies. They provide everything a beekeeper needs to keep healthy and productive bees, including beehives, clothing, tools, educational material, medication, food supplements, and honey processing equipment and classes.

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** - Speaker: *Anne Jaeger*. **Mark your calendars!** Anne teaches gardening weekly on-line for the Oregonian Newspaper Homes and Gardens of the Northwest. New "How To" videos appear every Thursday and are featured in the Oregonian magazine. Check her out at: <http://www.gardengal.tv>

--Alta Lynch

## Spring Fair 2009

The Columbia County OSU Master Gardener™ Association 14<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Fair is will be held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Set up starts at 6 a.m.



**Here Is the Progress** - There are over 50 varieties of heirloom and modern tomatoes that will sell for \$1.25. We have vendors selling plants or garden related merchandise. Advertisements for our event are appearing all over the county from newspaper articles, radio, reader boards, flyers and TV.

Here is some additional information:

All volunteers signed up to work the morning hours are to report to St. Helens High School, Commons area, at 6 a.m. on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Afternoon volunteers are to come at **noon**.

Please wear your Master Gardener badge and your Master Gardener t-shirt if you have

one. Ladies, don't forget to leave your purses at home.

From 6 a.m. on the April 25<sup>th</sup> until 9 a.m. we will be unloading and setting up the Fair. Fair will open at 9 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. When the doors close at 3 p.m. clean up of the high school will begin.

All committee chairs will have prepared for each of the Volunteers a "**TO DO**" list that will be handed out either at the business meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> or on the morning of Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. This "**TO DO**" list will advise you what is expected in the areas for which you volunteered.

Volunteers who wish to help with the setup on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the high school may show up at 3:30 p.m. and work until finished.

Keep track of the hours spent working the Spring Fair; this can be used as payback. If you would like to sign up to work at the Spring Fair - it's not too late.

Last of all, thank you for your help, enthusiasm, and support. Have fun everyone, I and the Spring Fair Committee Chairs will see you on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

--Katherine Johnson, Spring Fair Chair

## Spring Fair Raffle Prizes

We have a lot of great prizes for the Spring Fair Raffle this year with a special drawing just for ticket sellers only. You can get tickets at the OSU Extension office or call Sheryl Putnam at 503-543-5841.

Some of the prizes available are: a *garden cart*, *gift certificates*, a *lovely metal garden screen*, *plant food*, a *wooden trellis*, *bird houses*, *planters*, *garden décor and pottery*, *gardening books*, *plants and herbs*, and much, much more.

Be sure to get your tickets early so you can be eligible for the special drawing or buy a ticket or three for friends and family. If they win it's a nice spring garden surprise from you. Tickets are still only \$1 a piece.

--Sheryl Putnam, Spring Fair Raffle Comm.

## Volunteers Needed

Fellow Master Gardeners,

I'm looking for some volunteers to assist with a clean-up and planting at Meadow Park Care Facility in St. Helens, Oregon.

Chip has approved that this can be used for pay back hours since we will be working with Meadow Park staff to train them in garden development and maintenance.

The facility has a patio area with raised beds and ground beds, and a small pond. We will assist with clean up and identification of what they do have and the recommendation of what would be suitable for the area. I do have a list of plants that Patty Cassidy has suggested which are used in Senior Care Gardens and also includes in Memory Gardens. The facility has the list of recommended plants to review.

We would do this area as a one-time basis and they will continue from there. It is a lovely area to work with and would provide much joy for the residents to enjoy this summer and years to come.

### Following is a brief description of a seminar being held this June:

On June 5, 2009, in Portland, there will be a seminar called Gardens in Senior Living (includes memory care communities) which teaches why gardens in senior facilities are important and therapeutic--not only for elderly residents but for the staff as well. They also discuss research that supports the need for gardens and horticulture and offer other very practical ideas like designing a 12-month garden/nature program that a facility can do that is both economical and easy.

I have information on the seminar, and am pleased to say that 2 persons from Meadow Park will be attending this! Anyone interested can contact me. Thank You.  
--Alta Lynch, 503-543-3437

## COLUMBIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION

Feb. 26, 2009, Chapter Meeting

### HOUSEKEEPING

- Secretary's Report- Diane Schnur, Accepted as presented.
- Treasurers Report- Jackie Kennedy, Accepted as presented, 74 paid members.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Demo Garden** - Kathy Phelan advised that 48 people attended the pruning class at the fairgrounds. The work days will start April 6, every Monday from 10 a.m. to Noon.
- **Farmers Market** - Dennis Snyder advised, there are still opportunities available.
- **Website** - Larry Byrum, there is a new comment form for website suggestions; also a new picture gallery of the 2008 demo garden.
- **Spring Fair** – Kathy Johnson, all is moving along, prices raised from \$1 to \$1.25. Sign-up sheet is available for those who wish to help. Tomato training will be April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 p.m. at OSU Extension office.  
--Diane Schnur, CCMG Secretary

*A revision to the bylaws, to be voted on at the next Chapter meeting April 23, 2009:*

#### ARTICLE X:

*Section 7: . . . In the event of dissolution of the Association, assets shall be distributed to the Oregon Master Gardener Association, a tax exempt organization, or for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for the public purpose.*

## Farm and livestock notes

### Funds available to help with organic certification

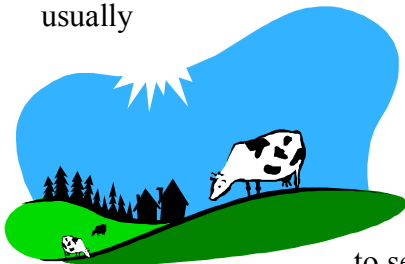
The Federal Farm bill has made funds available to assist producers, handlers, and processors of products in gaining organic certification. The funds target anyone who was certified by a USDA approved certifying organization between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2009.

The reimbursements are will pay up to 75% of certification costs for two years, not to exceed \$750 for each year.

The program is being administered through the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Contact them at 503 872-6600 or download the form at [oregon.gov/ODA/ADMD](http://oregon.gov/ODA/ADMD) .

### Plan now for fall pasture seeding

Ground that you intend to plant to a new pasture this fall should be worked this spring. This gives the existing sod and weeds some time to decompose. Grass usually



doesn't do well seeded into rough ground.

Often, there is an advantage to seeding down a crop of oats after plowing and disking this spring. The oats can stand the rough seedbed and will give a nice crop of hay in July/August. Some nitrogen fertilizer will be needed to get good production.

After the oats are removed, continue to disk periodically to kill weeds and to further break down the old sod. Plan on seeding the pasture in about mid to late September.

### Control tansy ragwort this month (and thistle in May)

In the lower elevations from Scappoose to Clatskanie, mid April to early May is the best time to spray tansy ragwort. This assumes that the weather will cooperate. Best chemicals are 2,4-D and the dicamba/2,4-D mix called Weedmaster.

### Our cattle must perform on grass

No one in western Oregon will make any money with cattle that need lots of expensive feed to do well. The farmer must select animals that consistently breed and calve on the resources largely available on the farm. The farmer, of course, has to ensure that good pastures are maintained.

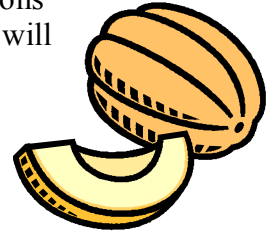
Too often, show ring characteristics can only be demonstrated with a lot of expensive purchased feed. These animals are a waste of time and money.

### Other livestock chores

- o Get hay equipment ready
- o Worm animals now
- o Do any vet work need on bulls
- o Stay current on vaccination programs for calves and lambs
- o To prevent grass tetany, keep magnesium blocks in front of herd and feed hay before turning animals out onto lush pastures.

### Melon madness event

The Columbia County Master Gardeners™ are holding their third annual "Melon Madness" event. This program will describe how you can grow cantaloupes, watermelons and other heat loving crops like tomatoes, peppers, eggplants. The program will be on **Saturday, May 16th** from 10:00 am until 11:00 am at the Columbia County Fairgrounds MG demonstration garden in St. Helens, Oregon. The program is free and open to the public. Forty started melon plants will be given away on a first-come basis. For more information, call the OSU/Columbia County Extension Office at 503 397-3462.



### Something to Consider:

Plant extra garden vegetables for the Food Bank in your community.

---

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials—*without discrimination to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, or disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status*—as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer. OSU Extension programs will provide reasonable accommodation to persons with physical or mental disabilities. Contact the Columbia County Extension office at 503.397.3462 to request reasonable accommodation.

Presorted Non Profit  
Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
St. Helens, OR  
Permit #002

Oregon State University  
Columbia County OSU Extension Service  
505 N. Columbia River Highway  
St. Helens, OR 97051  
Return Service Requested