



Country Living

Provided to you by the

OSU Extension Service Columbia County

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August 2009

Programs for you . . .

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

- Aug. 11 **Lower Columbia Watershed Council**. 7 p.m., Extension Conference room, St. Helens. Dr. Michael Blouin, Oregon State University zoology professor will be the featured speaker. Dr. Blouin and associates have recently completed a study on the reproductive fitness of wild-born offspring of hatchery fish. The study concludes that, Steelhead trout that are originally bred in hatcheries are so genetically impaired that, even if they survive and reproduce in the wild, their offspring will also be significantly less successful at reproducing. This is important research that we all need to know something about. The public is welcome. If you have questions or would like additional information please contact Margaret Magruder, Coordinator at 503-728-9015 or magruder@clatskanie.com.
- Aug. 19 **Soil & Water Conservation District**, 7:30 p.m., SWCD office, St. Helens
- August 20-..... **Farwest Nursery Show**. Oregon convention Center in Portland. This is an important show for
22 the nursery industry. There are a series of seminars on a variety of nursery topics ranging from plant trends and marketing to pest control and propagation/production issues. This show is aimed to the commercial industry. For more information, go to the show website at <http://www.farwestshow.com/>
- Aug. 23 **Columbia County Master Gardener's Annual Picnic**. 1 p.m., Scappoose Bay Marina, Old Portland Hwy, Warren. RSVP to Kathy Johnson by August 20 at 503-289-4894.
- Aug. 29 **Hazardous Waste Disposal**. 8 a.m. to Noon. Waste Transfer Station, St. Helens.

FOOD SAFETY/PRESERVATION HOTLINE - July 15 through October 15, 2009

1-800-354-7319

9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.: MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, except holidays

Certified Family Food Educator volunteers and OSU Extension staff will answer your questions.

You can get the OSU Extension Service publications at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog>, click on nutrition and foods for publications on canning, drying, pickling and freezing too!



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

Harvesting potatoes

Early potatoes should be ready any day now. When vines have died, the potatoes are ready for harvest. Dig carefully to avoid bruising or cutting the skins. Potatoes can be brushed off or washed to remove dirt. Potatoes should not be exposed to light. They should be dried in a dark place and then put into storage. If they develop extensive “greening”, they should be discarded.

It is difficult to store potatoes for an extended period of time. Our winter temperatures are not cold enough for good storage. I have seen people use small garbage cans with potatoes placed in layers and covered by sand or sawdust. Some store them in a box with a tight fitting lid. The most important advice is to eat the potatoes fairly quickly. They will sprout as the winter progresses. Sprouts from one potato encourage sprouts in neighboring spuds.

Check the potatoes at regular intervals to remove sprouts and rotten tubers.

Plan to transplant this fall

Fall is an ideal time to transplant evergreen shrubs and perennial plants. The trick is to get the beds ready now.

Remove the existing sod and work the ground. It may help to water the area at least eight hours before you start to till so that the soil isn't so hard.

Amend soil generously with good compost (four inches worked in) and lime (if the shrubs or plants like lime). The beds can be covered with clear or black plastic to try and reduce the number of weed seeds.

Then, as the weather starts to turn cool and moist, transplant, divide and conquer.

Sunburn and heat

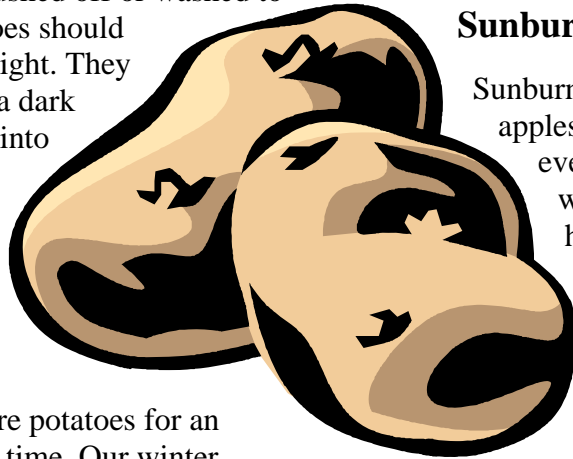
Sunburn will be a problem on apples, peppers and broadleaf evergreens. The 100+° weather was too much to handle. Most of the damage is on the south or west side of a plant.

Damaged apples will not mature normally and will often fall off.

Pepper plants that flop over as they get bigger will expose the fruit to direct sun. Brown circles on the shoulder or side of the pepper are signs of sunburn. If nearly mature, they can be eaten after cutting out the damaged tissue.

Green bean flowers don't do well when temperatures climb past 90 degrees. You won't see the damage, but many of the pollinated flowers will abort in response to the heat stress, leaving a gap in your green bean harvest 10 days or so later.

Damaged rhododendron leaves are browned at the tips, midribs or margins. They look bad but generally don't constitute more than a cosmetic concern. If all the leaves were affected, the plant was grievously short of water or something is wrong with the roots. That plant may be in trouble.



More from the garden

Summer care for sick cherry and plum trees

For four years, we have had cool and wet spring weather. While this year was drier than the previous three, there still was plenty of rain. Fungal and bacterial diseases thrive in that weather. Dead limbs and twigs are evidence that the diseases have been there.

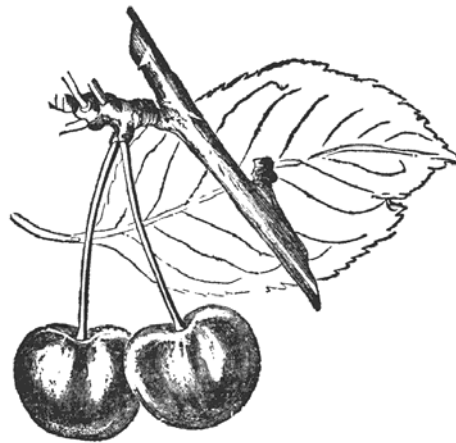
Ornamental plums and cherries are affected along with the fruiting varieties.

This is an excellent time to prune out dead wood. Disease, which might enter the pruning wound in February, will not be as likely to do so now. Cut limbs that have died back down to live wood. Consider, especially for the flowering plums, thinning limbs in the interior of the tree to get better air circulation. You can cover the pruning wounds with white latex paint if you wish to.

You should disinfect your pruning saw with denatured alcohol when moving from tree to tree to avoid spreading any disease.

Finally, get a copper fungicide like *Kocide*[™] or *Lily-Miller Micro-cop*[™] and spray the trees completely in early October and again in early January.

After several years of consistently following this program, the trees should show real

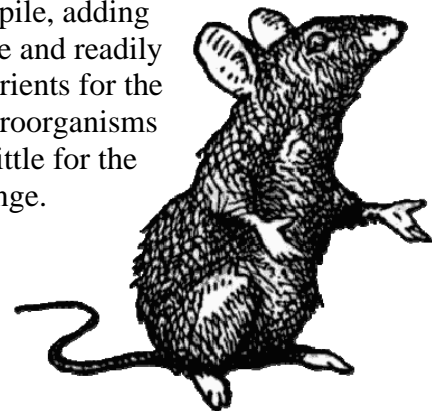


signs of improvement. An exception is when the bacterial disease *Pseudomonas*, also known by the delightful name of “gummosis”, has invaded the water conducting tissues of the tree trunk. Infected trees generally show sudden wilting of most or all of the branches. Generally, such trees don’t have long to live.

Rats and compost

Rats can be a problem in compost piles when you compost vegetable and fruit wastes along with landscape pruning debris and weeds before they set seed. If the density of fresh fruit and vegetables trimmings is attractive to them, they will spend much time in the pile. Unfortunately, they can also explore your garden itself or your house if they think there is food or shelter to be had.

You can reduce your problems by having a tight cover your compost pile and some screen like expanded metal underneath. Turning the pile often reduces problems. Some gardeners choose to use worm bins for their food waste and compost their yard waste separately. That is generally a safe (from a rat invasion perspective) procedure. I know at least one gardener that puts their vegetable and fruit waste into a blender every day and makes a “compost smoothie” out of it. The blended liquid is poured into the compost pile, adding both moisture and readily available nutrients for the compost microorganisms but leaving little for the rats to scavenge.



More from the garden

Watering vegetables in hot weather

The past few days of 100+ temperatures gave us a lot of opportunity to test our watering skills. If you were seeding vegetables for fall harvest, it was a challenge to keep the soil surface evenly moist to support germination. Surface mulches helped, as did the use of soaker hoses or drip systems turned on frequently.

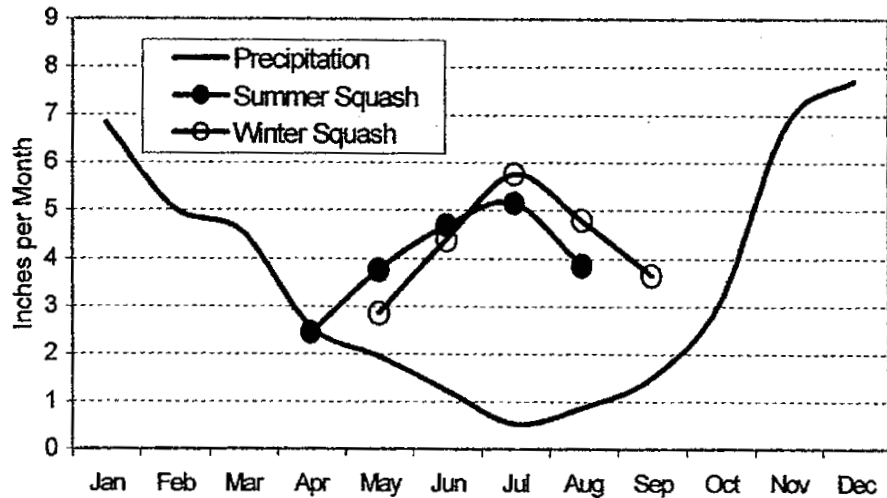
Overhead irrigated seeds on un-

mulched clay soils tended to have a hard time pushing through the soil crusts that formed. Crusts develop from the physical impact of water droplets combined with sun baking of clay.

In the vegetable garden, many crops are in crucial production stages. All vegetables that produce bulbs, flowers, fruit, or seed as the edible part (i.e. beans, squash, tomatoes, peppers, corn, broccoli, onions etc.) experience their highest demand as that edible portion is maturing. Even and ample water is a must.

The evapotranspiration rate of a crop is the amount of soil moisture evaporating through plant leaves (which is most of the water as the crop canopy matures) and directly from the soil. Normal evapotranspiration averages for vegetables in July/August are about 1.50 inches per week (or about .22"/day). But we

had some days where the rates exceeded .30"/day or about 2.25 inches per week. The chart below shows the water demand for winter squash (butternuts, acorns, Hubbard, etc.) and summer squash (zucchini, patty pans, etc.) Note the different planting dates



Typical precipitation and squash evapotranspiration (ET) in the Willamette Valley. Tabulated values of ET are provided on the back of this sheet.

projected. The difference between the rainfall received and the crop demand at any point in time is what you have to provide.

Deer resistant flowers

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Yarrow (<i>Achillea</i>) | Daffodils |
| Lavender | Potentilla |
| Mint | Poppies |
| Columbine | Candytuft |
| Wormwood | Primrose |
| Globe thistle | Painted daisy |
| Coneflower (<i>Echinacea</i>) | |
| Coreopsis | Lupine |
| Chive | |
| Hellebores | |
| Astilbe | |
| Bee Balm (<i>Monarda</i>) | |

Sadly, not all deer follow rules.

FROM GARDEN TO TABLE **A FALL AND WINTER GARDEN** **MEANS SUMMER PLANTING**

To encourage settlers to come to Oregon, government promoters touted that three crops [rotations] could be had in the valleys west of the Cascades per year. Pioneers were drawn to its rich, fertile lands, water, timber, a relatively mild climate and the abundance of foodstuffs that could be had throughout the year. These rugged individuals came driven by the notion of settling in this new paradise and land of plenty, a remarkable feat given the arduous and dangerous journey overland from St. Louis to Oregon.

Times have changed. It's no longer necessary to produce our own food merely to survive. I realize many gardeners are content to plant a spring and summer vegetable plot driven by a yearning to taste the sweet victory that follows. A fall and winter garden means summer planting. I also realize that after eight months of arduous work, most of us are just too tired to keep going. And it's especially hard to think about planting for another season when we're knee deep in produce while the hot sun beats down on our sweaty brow. Gardening throughout the year, however, improves our ability to be independent and self-sufficient like our pioneer predecessors by enabling us to produce a bounty of fresh food throughout the year.

In the mild winter areas of the Pacific Northwest, fall and winter gardens are possible. Many crops withstand frost, growing well during the cool days of autumn, some lasting through the winter and into early spring. Many of these vegetables actually improve in sweetness and flavor once kissed by Jack Frost. Successful

gardening for this time of year does require planning, choosing varieties wisely and giving proper care to plants. With a little extra effort, you can enjoy fresh garden vegetables almost year round.



The key to a successful fall and winter garden is location, location, location. Choose a warm one that gets as much sun as possible, such as a south facing slope, but don't plant in a spot prone to early frost such as the bottom of a hill or one exposed to the wind. Make the garden accessible to minimize trudging through rain and mud. Above all, practice crop rotation to reduce disease and insect

problems. In other words don't plant the same plant varieties that occupied the same garden bed in spring or summer.

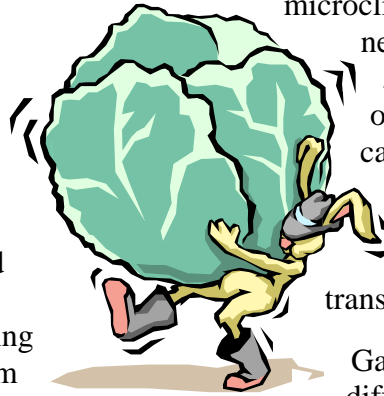
Garden soil needs good drainage, particularly given the soggy nature of our fall and winter weather. Raised beds are best with plenty of organic matter worked in to ensure good drainage and vigorous growth. As the soil becomes cold, soil biological activity is lower. Fall applications of organic fertilizer will have little chance to be broken down into forms that the plant will be able to use so soil fertility needs to be managed year round. An application of fertilizer and a source of calcium at planting are important, especially with heavy feeders such as cole crops or spinach. The amounts of fertilizer to use will vary from plant type to plant type. Do not fertilize over-wintered crops in late fall. Too much nitrogen encourages a spurt of new growth that could freeze.

Poor soil fertility can stunt the garden any time of the year. You should have a soil test

performed every two or three years. If a portion of your garden is going to lie idle during the fall and winter seasons, build up the soil by planting cover crops. These are fast growing plants that can be turned into the soil in spring adding green organic matter that will compost into rich, black humus. The earthworms will just love you for it. Fall sown cover crops can include oats, tyfon, various types of clover, annual rye grass, Austrian' peas, favas, winter wheat and hairy vetch.

Although many cool weather crops can withstand some frost and some are quite hardy surviving temperatures well below freezing, some like salad greens, spinach and Swiss chard can be damaged, however, by temperatures below 30° F. Giving your plants some protection from our incessant rains or periodic freezing temperatures can extend the life of your garden. Prolonged rain saturates soil, creates an environment for disease and encourages those nasty slugs. Covering crops with cloches, row covers or cold frames, (they don't have to be fancy), can extend the growing season, particularly for the less hardy plants.

Plant vegetables that you like to eat and choose varieties that are best suited to fall and winter harvest. Varieties suited for spring planting may not do well in the fall garden. Crops for cool and cold weather include various cole crops and Asian greens (broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi), root vegetables (beets, carrots, parsnips, radishes, turnips), leafy greens (salad greens, spinach, Swiss chard, collards, kale, mustards), alliums (garlic, leeks, onions, scallions, shallots), legumes (peas and fava beans), fennel, celery root, and Jerusalem artichokes.



Time of planting can be tricky. It will vary according to species and variety. Plant too early and the crop will wilt or go to seed from the summer heat. Too late and they don't produce. It is helpful to know the average date of the first killer frost since you need to plant early enough for the plants to reach a relatively mature state before that happens. Weather conditions vary from year to year as do individual garden

microclimates, so some experimentation is necessary. Planting occurs from late June through September depending on the plant being grown. Some can only be direct seeded into the garden bed, but you can get a head start on many vegetables by starting them indoors and transplanting at the proper time.

Gardeners and cooks know the difference between flavor packed produce from their own gardens and ones found at the supermarket, trucked in from hundreds of miles away. Imagine dining on your own fresh salad, vibrant green broccoli, creamy white cauliflower, savory leeks or sweet parsnips from autumn into early spring bringing an element of freshness to an otherwise dreary time of the year. Despite how weary we are once the summer garden is done, planting a garden for fall and winter is well worth the effort even though it does mean summer planting.

(For more information on fall and winter gardening, specific plant varieties and times to plant consult gardening catalogues such as the one from Territorial Seed or the OSU Extension publication:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/pnw/pnw548.pdf>

--Robert Hammond, Columbia County Master Gardener™



That's the Way it Grows

Timing It Right

I've often heard a tidbit of gardening yore that says you shouldn't plant your vegetable garden until Memorial Day. *What?* That's just nuts. I mean, that's the end of May—practically June—and you should plant until *then?*

Being a Master Gardener, and therefore infallible, I always ignore that piece of gardening lore and get my veggie garden in as soon as the soil isn't muddy.

And then every year I sit back and fret about why my veggies are growing so s-l-o-w-l-y. Is it nutrition, seed starting mix, temperature, seed brand, what? My plants never seem to take off until June.

This year I made a conscious effort to stop and ponder the problem. June...June...what is it about June? Could it possibly be the amount of sunlight? So I did some late-night research and found the answer. Plants (and animals) have the ability to detect changes in day length, called Photoperiodism. This ability enables plants to detect seasonal changes and respond to them. Flowering is a response to changing day length as the season progresses.

But it isn't the amount of daylight hours that is detected. It is actually the number of uninterrupted *nighttime* hours that triggers responses such as bloom formation, stem lengthening, and loss of leaves. Photoreceptor proteins in leaves allow plants to determine the duration of nighttime darkness. Phytochromes are sensitive to red and far red in the light spectrum, while cryptochromes detect blue and phototropins are sensitive to the ultraviolet regions of the spectrum.

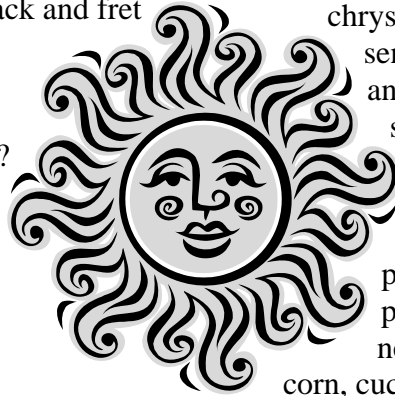
Each plant species has its own requirement of uninterrupted darkness that triggers flower bud formation. Photoperiodic response for flowering is characteristic of plants native to temperate and arctic habitats where day length varies greatly with season, and promotes cross-pollination. We categorize plants into two categories by their requirement. Short-day type plants respond to the shortening day lengths of late summer and fall, and include Christmas cactus, poinsettias and chrysanthemums. Long-Day type plants sense the lengthening days of spring and early summer, and include many summer-blooming flowers and garden vegetables.

Near the equator, there is little change in day length, so tropical plants are generally not controlled by photoperiod. These so-called day-neutral type plants include tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, and some strawberries.

Producers of floral crops have long manipulated plants with light to induce or delay flower production for holidays.

So I finally put the obvious together and figured out the physiology behind why my irises bloom only in May, why the June-bearing strawberries produce right on time in June, and why the lettuce and spinach always bolt. That's what they are *supposed* to do. It's why we have autumn golds and reds, and why we have apple blossoms in early spring, and poinsettias at Christmas. And it's why every year from now, I will be planting my veggie garden right about Memorial Day.

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



AUGUST 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.

- Check apple maggot traps; spray tree if needed.
- Make compost of lawn clippings and garden plants that are ready to be recycled. Do not use clippings if lawn has been treated with herbicide, including weed-and-feed products.
- Control yellow jackets and wasps with traps and lure as necessary. Keep in mind they are beneficial insects and help control pest insects.
- First week: spray for walnut husk fly.
- First week: second spray of peach and prune trees for root borers.
- First week: second spray of filbert trees for filbertworm.
- Check for root weevils in ornamental shrubs and flowers; codling moth and spider mite in apple trees; scale insects in camellias, holly, and maples. Treat as necessary.
- Plant winter cover crops in vacant space around the vegetable garden; plant winter kale, Brussels sprouts, turnips, parsnips, parsley, and Chinese cabbage.
- Dampwood termites begin flying late this month. Make sure your home is free of wet wood or places where wood and soil are in contact.
- Watch for corn earworm on early corn—treat as needed.
- Begin soil preparation for planting new lawn.
- Fertilize cucumbers, summer squash, and broccoli to maintain production while you continue harvesting.
- Clean and fertilize strawberry beds.
- Control caterpillars on leafy vegetables, as needed, with Bt or by hand picking and removal.
- For mites on ornamentals and most vegetables, hose off foliage, use miticide if needed.
- Monitor garden irrigation closely so crops and ornamentals don't dry out.
- Use mulch to protect ornamentals and garden plants from hot weather damage.
- Camellias need deep watering to develop flower buds for next spring.
- Prune raspberries, boysenberries, and other caneberries after harvest.
- Corn may need protection from earworm. Spray new silks with appropriate pesticides if necessary.
- Midsummer planting of peas, use enation-virus-resistant varieties; plant fall crops of cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli.



Joy Creek Nursery Seminars

We are fortunate to have such an exceptional nursery like Joy Creek in our county. They have an outstanding series of seminars most Sundays throughout the summer. You can visit their website www.joycreek.com for a complete list. The **August** Seminars (which begin at 1:00 pm and are free unless otherwise indicated) are as follows: Aug 2: Planting Under Big Trees, *Russell Graham*; Aug. 9: Eco-roofs, *Jim Siehl*; Aug. 16: Ornamental Grasses, *Maurice Horn*; Aug. 23: Behind the Scenes: Garden Tours, *Mike Smith and Maurice Horn*, tours leave at 10, Noon and 1; Aug. 30: Gardening on Slopes, *Richie Steffen*.



The Grapevine
 News for Columbia County Master Gardeners™
www.columbiacountymastergardeners.org
August 2009



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

President's Corner

Hello Everyone. Well, we are home! It's good to be home but don't get me wrong, what a wonderful, once in a life time trip, 17 states and 6,170 miles! We saw everything from Hoover Dam, Grand Canon, Yellow Stone Nation Park to the International Metal Museum in Memphis. We were lucky enough to see all kinds of great wild life, from skunks to buffalo.

I now know TV doesn't do any of these sites justice. The one place that took my breath away was the Grand Canyon. Oh My! The one item that made me concerned and sad was to see the destruction of the forests in Wyoming due to a little beetle. I had thought that a fire had killed these trees but to find out that it's a beetle! I wonder how soon this little bugger will be in Oregon? I was told by a forestry person in Wyoming that there is no treatment for this pest. Ick!

It has taken me two weeks to get my yard back into shape. That will teach me to be gone for 3 weeks! (Note to self: next time only go away for one week, no catching up to do.) I had next to nothing in the way of tomatoes when I got home, but in the past two weeks the plants have really exploded.

By the time everyone gets this newsletter the Columbia County Fair will be over. I am in great hopes you will have come to the Fair and seen what a great job the Demo Garden workers have accomplished. It looked great! Thank you everyone for all of your hard work and great effort.

I am in hopes that I will see many of you at OSU's Master Gardener Mini College in Corvallis the first week in August. It

Calendar: At-A-Glance

- || **Aug. 5-7** Master Gardener Mini College at OSU ||
- || **Aug. 6.** Board Meeting, 10 a.m. Extension office ||
- || **Aug. 23** Annual Picnic for Columbia County Master ||
- || Gardeners and Immediate Family, Scappoose Bay ||
- || Marina, 1 p.m. hamburgers, buns, condiments, corn on ||
- || the cob and Soda provided. Bring your own dish to ||
- || share and your own eating utensils (plates, silverware, ||
- || glasses). You must RSVP with Kathy Johnson by ||
- || August 20th. ||
- || **Don't forget that each Monday from 10 a.m. to Noon** ||
- || **work is done at the Demo Garden.** ||

promises to be wonderfully educational. It's an event worth attending each year.

Our next event is our Annual Picnic at the Scappoose Bay Marina on Sunday, August 23. Eating will commence at 1 p.m. If you would like to attend please let me know so we have enough corn and hamburgers for you. See you all there!
 --Kathy Johnson

From the Garden

Summer has finally come to the Demo Garden and it looks wonderful.

The County Fair is winding down and we have had over 1,000 visitors' tour the garden this year. We've had so many nice compliments from the public saying the garden is the nicest they have ever seen it.

As I stand here at the entrance to the garden, with fresh barkdust, replaced broken pickets and painting of the fence, I can see why the public continues coming year after year. Not to mention the Butterfly Garden, again a big success, with the girls handing out necklaces and insect stickers for the children.

Victory Garden demonstrating that yes you can grow your own garden and how easy and fun it can be. Eileen and her crew had a ripe tomato they had to guard with their lives. Sue Snyder planted a snake gourd; this drew a lot of attention and questions. Dennis planted cantaloupe and watermelons and showed how to keep soil warm. Jim Gilliam with demo on staking tomatoes, planting marigolds to attract leaf miners, keeping them off the tomatoes.

We received many questions about plant identification, beneficial insects, rainwater collection, using treated lumber for raised beds and you name it.

Thank you to all the terrific volunteers and many, many hours spent getting the garden ready for the fair.

To the volunteers working during the fair and answering so many questions and to Chuck who organized it all. You all made the Demo Garden a big hit again this year.
--The Demo Garden Crew, Andy Robinson and Kathy Phelan

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/master-gardener-volunteer-program> choose Master Gardener™ Volunteer Log Sheet – word document or to get an electronic form go to:

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

CCMG Annual Picnic

August 23

The Annual Picnic for Columbia County Master Gardeners and immediate family is on August 23rd at the Scappoose Bay Marina, 1 p.m. Hamburgers, buns, condiments, corn on the cob and Soda will be provided. Please bring your own dish to share and your own eating utensils (plates, silverware, and glasses). You must RSVP with Kathy Johnson by August 20th.



COLUMBIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION Summary, June 2009, Chapter Meeting

Committee reports:

Demo Garden: Kathy Phelan reported that July 6 and 13th are final cleanup and barkdust days to prepare for county fair. Help is needed.

OMGA: Chuck Peterson advised that MG's need to register by Friday July 26th to get a reduced rate to OSU's Master Gardener Mini-College. He attended the quarterly meeting.

Speakers: Robert Hammond will be our October speaker.

Tours: July 22 is the date to go to the Oregon Gardens, carpool will leave from the Columbia County Extension office at 8:30 a.m. Cost is determined by attendees.

WEB: Larry Byrum announced, the Spring Fair Photos are on the CCMG web site.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

OSU Master Gardner Mini College: coming up August 5-7, 2009. Register on line for it. We have four \$50 scholarships to help with tuition. First come and have not gone before.

Help Needed: Byron Ohler advised that the community gardens at the senior center need help; also the food bank garden behind the senior center

The natural world

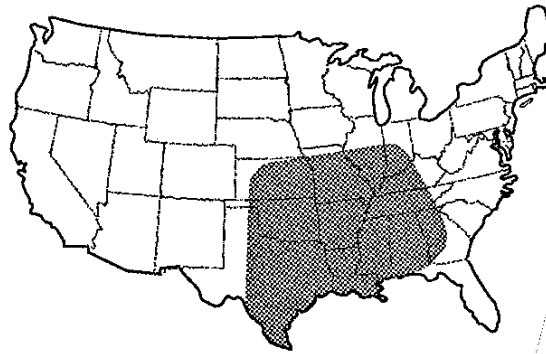
We do not have brown recluse spiders!

Spiders provoke a lot of anxiety. Some people seem to be hard-wired for arachnophobia. A lot of spiders are brought into the Extension office to see if they are poisonous ones. In a fair number of cases, there is concern that a wound or a bite is from the spider in the jar. The client generally wants to know if it is a brown recluse spider. When we explain that there aren't brown recluse spiders in

Oregon, they are stunned. The map shows the range of the brown recluse. There is another recluse population (not shown on the map) along the U.S. -Mexican border region from San Diego into Arizona and extending north into the Los Angeles basin.

Here is the local story. There are two spiders that can cause serious injury found in Columbia County: the black widow (uncommon but not unknown) and the hobo spider, also known as the Aggressive House spider (*Tegenaria agrestis*). Both can be found in structures. It is the hobo spider that is confused with the brown recluse, not because they look alike but because both can cause wounds that fail to heal. By all accounts, the bite of the brown recluse is more serious but a hobo spider bite can be very serious as well.

It is worth noting that all spiders inject powerful digestive enzymes into their prey. Any spider can potentially bite a human if the situation is right (rolling over on a spider, for example). Most people have little or no response to those bites from the non-poisonous species but some will react more dramatically with swelling, redness and the like. Generally that is as far as it goes. Basically, this is an immune response to the spider enzymes. People show the same differential sensitivity to mosquito, flea, or bedbug bites. Scratch the bite, though, and bacterial infections can be induced.



If you get a skin wound that doesn't heal promptly, get medical attention. Don't go in convinced it is a spider bite because that might skew the diagnostic process. A review of the real threat posed by the hobo spider published in the medial

journal *The Lancet*, found that significant conditions such as skin cancers and staph infections went under-diagnosed if spider bites were suspected.

There are hobo spiders here. They are probably responsible for a significant percentage of the actual spider bites. But most of those bites don't seem to progress to medically serious conditions. When in doubt, see a doctor. To complicate matters, there are two closely related species, the common house spider (*Tegenaria domestica*) and the giant house spider (*Tegenaria gigantea*) that look very similar to the hobo spider but appear to be completely harmless.

Farm and livestock notes

The cinnabar moth reappears on tansy ragwort

Many of you have no doubt noticed that tansy ragwort has rebounded in the last four years. This livestock poisoning plant had been laid low through a combination of two biological controls, the cinnabar moth and the tansy flea beetle. Both these insects had been collected from the part of the world where tansy ragwort was native (southern France and northeastern Spain along the Mediterranean). The insects prospered, eating only tansy and a few closely related plants. When the tansy population eventually declined, so did the insects.



Unfortunately, there was plenty of tansy seed left in the soil. Log the property or graze it too hard and the tansy sprang right back. It took a lot longer for the cinnabar moths to return. They don't like wet springs and there is considerable speculation that the moths were hurt by some successive wet spring weather. While part of this spring was wet, we did have a warm weeks in May. This may have been a critical time for the moths. Or maybe their numbers were increasing anyway. In any case, I saw a lot of moths flying in May and early June and I am getting quite a few reports that there are bunches of caterpillars on the tansy, at least in some locations. This is good news.

Summer stress

August and September can be stressful to livestock. Dust can cause lung problems. Hot days and cool nights can foster pneumonia. Weaning is always hard on both mother and offspring. Trips to fair can bring stock into contact with new diseases.

What can you do as a prudent stockperson?

- ❖ Spend some time every day watching your animals. Note changes in behavior. Respond promptly
- ❖ Make sure adequate water is available. There must be enough water that the herd isn't standing in line to have a drink. Cows still nursing can easily use 20-25 gallons per day. Shy animals must be watched to see that they are getting a chance to drink.
- ❖ Pay attention to the food available. As the pastures dry up, there may be very little residual value out there. It does not pay to allow the animals to lose condition. Ewes, in fact, need to be "flushed" or put on great feed in early September so that they will send down more eggs at breeding and thus have more lambs in the spring. The point is that you must feed for performance.
- ❖ Postpone all operations that cause bloody wounds until after fly season. This would include castrations and dehorning.
- ❖ Continue to monitor and treat worms. Manage flies.

Cow/Calf: Low-stress management

A common misconception is that "low-stress" must mean "no pressure." That is absolutely false. Cattle, like all other animals, respond to appropriate application and release of pressure. There are times when significant pressure must be applied to get the animals to move how and when you need. Pressure, used appropriately, does not cause long-term, harmful stress.

A good cattle handler understands two key principals: flight zone (the "bubble" around an animal that, if invaded by a handler, will cause the animal to move away) and point of balance (the point, usually around the front shoulder, at which pressure in front of that point will cause the animal to stop or back up, and vice versa). When a stockman is at the edge of the flight zone and properly balanced, only slight movements are needed to control the animals in a low-stress manner. To make cattle speed up, walk against their direction of travel; to make them slow down, walk with them. As you pass the point of balance, notice how each animal responds to your movement and position.

A good stockman or woman will stay quiet when working cattle. If cattle aren't doing what you want, it is not because they can't hear or see you. It is because you are in the wrong place doing the wrong thing. Don't yell and scream, and don't make wild movements. Move calmly, purposefully and in straight lines.

Cattle will be able to predict your movements and respond appropriately to them. If you move like a predator (hesitating, followed by sudden movements and in curves around them), the cattle will treat you like a predator.

A good stockman is patient. The cattle don't care that you are late for dinner. Keep doing the right things until the cattle respond correctly. After you have mastered the art of stockmanship, you can usually work cattle quickly when you need to. But realize that if you make cattle do something before they are ready to do it, then it is no longer low-stress handling.

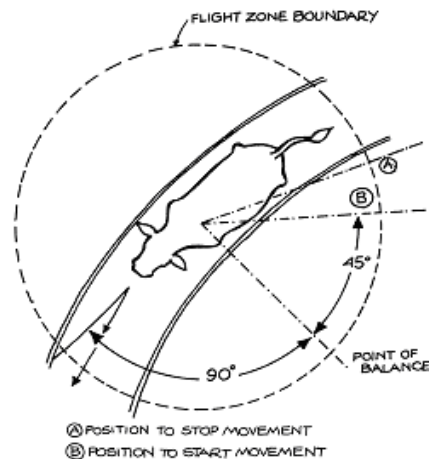
Train cattle how to behave every time you are with them. Go to the pen or pasture, and use these techniques to just move them around, teaching them to respond. If possible, move cattle through your corrals on their way to feed or to another pasture. Always make your cattle walk past you, single file, out of a gate. Don't let

them run wildly, or they will hurt themselves and you, tear up your gates and be stressed when they finally stop.

When moving cattle from a pasture, ignore the few cattle that quit the herd. If you drive the main herd in a low-stress manner, and don't chase the few on the edge, they will usually come back to the herd of their own volition.

Work to incorporate these habits, and they will make you a better cattle handler. And don't say, "I'll try." "Try" is an excuse to fail.

Source: Ryan Reuter and Kent Shankles, Noble Foundation



Introductions are in order - I realized the other day that I haven't introduced our two newest staff members.

Jenny Rudolph joined our office in November of last year. She is responsible for the Family and Community Health program, which includes foods and nutrition education (especially to low income families), food preservation, family health issues, and a small piece of the 4-H Youth program focusing on personal finance and foods and nutrition. Jenny was raised in Texas, received her undergraduate degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Oklahoma, did a year-long study program in Ecuador, is fluent in Spanish, and recently received her Masters in Public Administration from Portland State University. She had worked as an educational assistant for OSU Extension in Washington County teaching pesticide safety in Spanish and foods and nutrition classes to low income audiences. She has a husband named Ben and a rabbit named Sam.

Amy Grotta is our new Extension Forester whom we share with Washington County. Amy replaced Chal Landgren who served here almost 30 years. Amy has her undergraduate degree from U.C. Berkeley (as did Chal) and her Masters degree in Forest Science from Oregon State University. She spent two years with the Peace Corps in Paraguay so she also has significant Spanish language skills. Amy worked the last five years as the WSU Extension forester in King County, Washington. Her goal is to provide resources and assistance to enable all woodland owners to manage their lands productively, sustainably, and according to their objectives. Amy is married to David Dreher and they have two children, a daughter and a son.

Amy and Jenny are great additions to our office. They are both very energetic, exceedingly knowledgeable, and they are excellent teachers. You will enjoy getting to know them.

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