



Country Living

Provided to you by the

OSU Extension Service Columbia County

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October 2009

Programs for you . . .

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

- Oct. 6..... **Scappoose Bay Watershed Council**. 7 p.m., Scappoose Bay Watershed Council's office, Warren
- Oct. 10-11..... **All About Fruit Show**. Sponsored by the Home Orchard Society. Washington County Fairplex, Hillsboro. See inside for details.
- Oct. 13 **Lower Columbia Watershed Council**. 7 p.m., Extension Conference room, St. Helens
- Oct. 15 **Fall Forage Day**. Sponsored by the Oregon Forage and Grass and Council. 1:00 - 8 p.m. Junction City. Call for details.
- Oct. 18 **Fall Mushroom Show**. Oregon Forestry Center (across from the zoo) Portland. Noon to 5 p.m. Sponsored by the Oregon Mycological Society. Get you mushrooms identified and see exhibits of already identified mushrooms and other interesting thing. Cost: \$5.
- Oct. 21..... **Soil & Water Conservation District**, 6:30 p.m., Annual meeting held at The Blue House Café in Vernonia. Notice earlier time for meeting.
- Oct. 22 **Master Gardener Chapter Meeting**. 6:30 p.m., Topic: Seed Saving, with speaker Robert Hammond from Honeyman Creek Farms. **The public is invited. Free.**
- Oct. 31 **Hazardous Waste Disposal**. 8 a.m. to Noon. Waste Transfer Station, St. Helens. If you have any questions about what is acceptable, call 503 397-1501
- Nov. 3, 10, 17 .. **Climate Change Series** - Linking Population Growth, Development and Global Warming AND Climate Models and Predicting the Future. Hillsboro, OR. See back page for details. We are looking to put together a bus or at least a carpool for these events. Contact our office if interested in attending.
- Nov. 4-6 **Fruit and Vegetable Processing Short Course**. OSU Campus, Corvallis. Early registration \$485. Call for details.

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

All About Fruit Show

This is the best darned show about growing fruit of all types that you could ever hope to find. The Home Orchard Society puts on this annual event. Here are some things you can do:

- Get your fruit variety identified (bring some good representative samples)
- Taste 100s of fruit varieties
- Attend some great seminars
- See lots of educational displays

For complete information, go to <http://www.homeorchardsociety.org/aafs/>

When: 10am-4pm Saturday and Sunday, October 10th & 11th

Where

Washington County Fairplex
Hillsboro, Oregon.

Admission

Members: Adults \$4, Family \$8

Non-Members: Adults \$6, Family \$10

Become a member at the show, and get in free!

Free Parking

Some important new insects

The last several months have brought us news of two insects.

The spotted winged Drosophila fly (*D. suzukii*) could have a significant home garden and commercial impact. Vinegar flies (of which this is one) generally lay eggs in decaying fruit. The small fruit flies in your kitchen are in this group. However, spotted winged Drosophila (SWD) females lay their eggs into intact ripe fruit. Their egg laying is quite prodigious. SWD females generally lay a couple of eggs per fruit, lay about 15 per day, and can lay almost 400 by the time they expire. More than one fly will lay eggs in each fruit if the populations are high. In similar climates, they average about 13 generations per growing season (April through No-



55b Azalea lace bug

vember). They prefer soft fruits like nectarines, cherries, plums, cane berries, strawberries, and blueberries. It is not clear if they attack grapes and have not yet been found in grapes in Oregon. They were reported first in California in 2008 and more recently in Washington and British Columbia.

Egg laying produces a small scar on the fruit surface and a subtle surface dimple as the maggots begin to feed. Diagnosis requires that suspect fruit be put in a container and the emerging adults are then identified after about ten days. Maggots of many species look much the same (except to their mothers) and thus are not good diagnostic candidates. SWD males have distinctive black spots on their tiny little wings and the females have a saw-like ovipositor.

There was a report from one processor of an almost total loss of one late season blueberry variety due to SWD. We have much to learn about their life cycle and what management options look most promising. For more information, go to

http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/docs/pdf/ippm_alert_d_suzukii.pdf

Azalea lacebug populations spiked this year adding to the damage already being caused by rhododendron lacebugs. Lacebug feeding causes leaves to turn light colored (almost bleached on some azaleas) with what is scribed as a stippled appearance. The undersides of the leaves are spotted with black lacebug droppings. There is some indication that both azaleas and rhododendrons

planted in the direct sun are more vulnerable to heavy lacebug feeding, perhaps because lacebug predators prefer the more shady sites. It is also clear that some varieties are more susceptible than others. The azalea lacebug prefers ever-green azaleas but will feed on deciduous cultivars and also rhododendrons. The rhododendron lacebug will also feed on azaleas, so there!

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/lacebugsonrhodies.htm>

More from the garden

Grapes for cooler climates

There is a lot of interest in growing both wine and table grapes in the cooler regions of western Oregon and Washington. The most important consideration is planting varieties that will reasonably mature their crop in most summers. The issue is not winter cold but summer cool. Each grape has its own heat unit requirements to develop the sugar/acid balance that makes for a fine wine or a good fresh eating or juice grape.

The landscape in Columbia County changes as we move down river towards Astoria and westward into the Coast Range foothills. The heat unit accumulation decreases substantially, thus limiting your choices.

For example, most of the conventional wine grapes grown in the northern Willamette Valley can be reliably grown in the Scappoose or St. Helens area. I would be reluctant to plant pinot noir past the Alston hills above Rainier and even there it might be dicey.

However, all is not lost. There are some good sources of research and information on varieties that may perform at the heat unit edges.

Lon Rombough is a passionate proponent of table grapes. He farms in Aurora and has collected, studied and published information on a number of juice/fresh market grapes. His information can be found in his book and from the variety descriptions on his web site:
<http://www.bunchgrapes.com/>.

Gary Moulton is a horticulturalist at the Mt. Vernon Experiment Station in Wash-

ington. He has been studying both table and wine grapes, including the affect of various rootstocks on maturity and pruning techniques. He has discovered some pinot noir strains, when grafted to certain rootstocks, will mature in the cool Puget Sound location for his research. His information can be accessed at:

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb2001/eb2001.pdf>

Some fruit enthusiasts also from the Seattle area report good luck with the following:

Table grapes:

Canadice: early, red seedless
Alden: late midseason seeded purple

Jovan: midseason seeded dark red

Boizeau: late midseason black

Wine grapes:

Agria: dark red wine type

Dornfelder: late midseason red

Ortega: early midseason white vinifera

ES5-14xOrange Muscat: hybrid midseason white with good brix.

Finally, there are two nurseries that specialize in fruit of all types (you will be astounded when you see their catalogs) for west of the Cascades locations:

<http://www.onegreenworld.com/>

<http://www.raintreenursery.com/>

Their catalog descriptions of varieties are very well written and should help you decide what might work in your particular location. If your site is cooler, look for the early maturing varieties. This is the time to start thinking and placing orders.

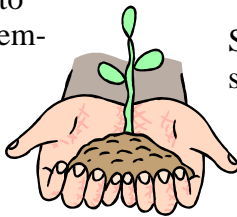


More from the garden

Raising stocky tomato starts

I recently heard a speaker from one of the companies that provided tomato transplants for the Spring Fair. Their plants were nice and stocky with a strong stem. Since many gardeners start their own plants, I thought it might be interesting to recap both his comments and what I have learned from others about growing a good tomato transplant:

- ❖ Start tomatoes in a warm environment (greenhouse, cold frame or even inside) in plug trays.
- ❖ Transplant the tomatoes into 4-inch pots once they get several sets of true leaves. Keep the plants spaced so that all are getting enough light!
- ❖ Once in 4-inch pots, begin to slowly lower the growing temperatures either by taking them outside during the day if it will be above 55 degrees or opening up the cold frame or greenhouse. Take care not to sunburn them the first several times you put them out by keeping them out of direct sun at first. Plants coming out of a greenhouse have modest cuticles and burn easily. They develop stronger cuticles relatively quickly. Again, keep the spacing open to allow all plants to get enough light.
- ❖ If they are not outside for part of the time where they are exposed to breezes, either brush them with your hand ten times each day when they are 2.5 inches tall or create air



movement in the greenhouse. This also develops strong stems.

Fall weeds

Fall seedlings become spring weeds. It is not hard to find young plants of such spring favorites as bedstraw (sometimes called the Velcro weed for the ability of the stems and seeds to stick to clothing), little bitter cress (with its white flowers and seed pods that explode their load when ripe) or groundsel (small yellow flowers and a chrysanthemum-like leaf).

Winter annual weeds germinate in the fall. They survive the winter without dying back. Then as the weather warms in the early spring, their growth rate accelerates. Most mature and shed seed by early June and are generally absent once the summer annuals take over. An exception is groundsel, which grows and seeds virtually all year.

So what is a gardener to do? One option is to spot spray the seedlings as they emerge over time. Another approach, either alone or in combination with spot spraying, is to lay down some mulch. Depending on the thickness of the mulch and the capacity of the weed seeds in the bed to germinate when covered, it can reduce winter annual weeds quite a bit. Cover beds to be planted next spring with black plastic to slow weeds.

There are several herbicides that can be used to eliminate germinating weeds or even some perennial weeds, depending on the product. Casoron is often used in woody landscape beds to control annuals and re-emerging spring perennials. It is best applied in November through mid February once temperatures have cooled. It is only safe around woody plants so use with the greatest caution and follow all label instructions.

FROM GARDEN TO TABLE **INCREDIBLE EDIBLES**

Just prior to dinner preparation the other day, I grabbed a basket and headed down to the garden to pluck a bowlful of sweet new garden lettuces. After taking what I needed, I then commenced poking around to see what I could find to add some interest and zip to these virgin greens. Arugula and mustard had just emerged so that was out. A little curly endive went into the basket along with a few fronds of sweet fennel and some sprigs of young chervil. Out of the corner of my eye I spied a patch of feral nasturtiums hiding behind the rhubarb. These flowers in stunning hues of gold, orange and red add spice and color as well.



“Flowers!” you say,
“Flowers in a salad!

You eat flowers?” You betcha! This is the same reaction I got the first time I graced a salad with flowers and served it to an unsuspecting dinner companion. Eating flowers is not as odd as you might think. Broccoli, cauliflower and artichokes are the unopened flower buds of these respective plants. The spice saffron is the stamen from a variety of crocus. Capers are the unopened flower buds of a bush native in the Mediterranean and Asian nations.

The use of flowers in cookery has fallen in and out of fashion since the height of ancient Egyptian civilization, but has remained in traditional use in the cuisines of China, the Middle East, India, and Latin America. Although particularly in vogue during the Victorian era in the western world, the use of flowers as food is not as popular today as it was several years ago.

Edible flowers are flowers that can actually be eaten. From drinks and syrups to jellies, soups, salads, confectionary, pastry, and main dishes, uses for these incredible edibles are numerous - chive blossom tempura, stuffed squash blossoms, dried day lily buds in hot and sour soup, rose petal jelly, just to name a few. Canned flowers, which make stunning pastry decorations, are crystallized using egg white and sugar. Edible flowers may be preserved by drying, freezing, or steeping in oil or vinegar.



As a general rule, flowers of most, but not all, vegetables and culinary herbs are safe to eat. **The best rule of thumb to follow is to always know what is edible.** Avoid the flowers of tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, eggplant and asparagus. Just because flowers are used as a garnish or decoration with food does not mean they are edible. Know your edible flowers as some chefs and cooks do not.

As a matter of fact, just because something is edible doesn't necessarily mean it's palatable. Some edible flowers are bland and tasteless, some are bitter, and some are just downright too strongly perfumed to be pleasing to the palate. Take lavender for instance. It's the little darling of modern chefs who use it in everything from sweets to savories. I personally (and this is just my humble opinion) feel the flavor and aroma are just too powerful and lavender is best left to the lingerie drawer of the lady's boudoir.

When dealing with edible flowers there are certain risks and rules to be aware of. The cardinal rule is to **be absolutely sure a flower is edible before consuming it.** If uncertain, consult a good reference book or webpage on edible flowers before consump-

tion. Some plants, such as poison hemlock, aconite and foxglove, are fatally toxic. Others may be edible only after appropriate preparations. Allergic reactions are possible, especially from eating pollen. Damaged, dirty; or insect-ridden flowers may be unsafe to eat. Some flowers are not safe if eaten often. Don't use flowers sprayed with toxic pesticides not meant for food crops. Don't eat flowers from florists, nurseries or garden centers for the same reason. Don't pick flowers by the roadside as they may have been exposed to herbicides or other toxic chemicals as well.



Pick flowers in the morning when the water content is highest. Wash and dry them well. Remove stamens and styles from the flowers before eating. Remove sepals of all flowers except violas, Johnny-jump-ups and pansies. Only

the petals of some flowers such as rose, calendula and chrysanthemum are edible. When using just the petals, separate them from the rest of the flower just prior to using to keep wilting to a minimum. Other flowers such as violets, Johnny-jump-ups, and chives can be eaten in their entirety. Some flowers such as roses, dianthus, English daisies, and chrysanthemums have a bitter white part at the base of the petal that should be cut off before using.

With all the risks and rules you might be asking "why bother with eating flowers?" Used appropriately, edible flowers can add a new dimension to your culinary repertoire. Just remember, as with anything you eat, **be sure it is safe and edible before you consume it** and enjoy the delicacy of these incredible edibles. Bon appetite!

(For more information and a comprehensive list of edible flowers and their uses visit my culinary colleague Linda Stradley's website: <http://whatscookingamerica.net/EdibleFlowers/EdibleFlowersMain.htm>)

Robert Hammond
Columbia County Master Gardener™





That's the Way it Grows

The sun has started to slant a bit now, casting beautiful shadows across the landscape. It's getting cooler, and the sunlight isn't so hot on the skin. Mornings are almost downright nippy these days. All this means that it's my favorite time of year again—*Fall!*

Just because the days are getting shorter doesn't mean you can't do any gardening. I'm seriously getting the itch to go to the nursery. I've got this huge new planting area next to the patio to landscape, and I can't wait to start.

Fall is arguably the best time to plant landscape plants, as they will have several months' worth of root growth to support the spring flush of vegetative growth and bloom. Plus, you won't have to spend several months watering the new plants so they don't croak on you. I don't know about you, but after this summer, I am pretty sick of watering.

One fall chore that shouldn't be neglected is the cleanup after fruit-bearing trees, vines and shrubs. Fruit left on the ground will harbor insect pests, where they will over-winter, only to emerge in the spring and wreak havoc with next year's crop. Be sure also to rake and dispose of leaves, whether in a hot compost pile to kill pests and disease pathogens, a burn pile or other yard waste disposal. I don't know what I ever did without that brown can.

Speaking of compost, fall is the perfect time to make a pile, with all the yard cleanup. It's best to contain it, and put a cover over it to keep it from getting waterlogged. But a plain ol' pile will still do the job, eventually. I could go on at length about the science behind the composting process, but simply put, the process speeds up significantly with sufficient amounts of air and moisture.

Fall

Since I don't have one of those cool compost bins that spins or rotates, and don't have unlimited energy to stir the pile often (and I can't bribe the kids to do it), I find the easiest way for me to aerate my compost pile is to move the bin around. I just lift the plastic bin off the pile, set it to the side, and use my spading fork to refill the bin. The compost is mixed and aerated (fluffed, to aficionados), and the worms have a new spot in my garden to work their magic.

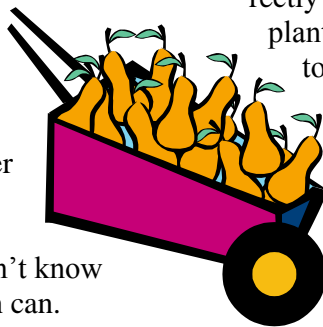
Another important task in the fall is to mulch your plantings. The heavy rains we have during the winter splash soil on leaves that can contribute to disease and fungal issues. The rain also causes the soil to form a crust, which means the water can run off and erode the beds, instead of absorbing into the soil. Mulch blocks sunlight from weed seeds, which is always a good thing, in my opinion.

I prefer to use composted yard waste as mulch, because it stays dark and amends the soil as it works in. I have used it to plant directly into, but I found it lacks the nutrition for plants to thrive. My apologies to folks I've told to do so. You'll need to fertilize.

Now is the time to divide perennials and pot them up, plant them, or give them to other gardeners. Fall is a great time to share your bounty. Extra squash, apples, pears and pumpkins make appreciated gifts, and you don't have to ring the bell and run, like with zucchini.

Have a great time gardening this Fall!

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



OCTOBER 2009

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Preventative pest management is emphasized over reactive pest control. Identify and monitor problems before acting, and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem. First consider cultural, and then physical controls. The conservation of biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) should be favored over the purchase and release of biological controls. Use chemical controls only when necessary, only after identifying a pest problem, and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. Least-toxic choices include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides — when used judiciously. Recommendations in this calendar are not necessarily applicable to all areas of Oregon. For more information, contact [your local OSU Extension Service office](#).

Planning

- If needed, improve soil drainage needs of lawns before rain begins.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Drain or blow out your irrigation system, insulate valve mechanisms, in preparation of winter.
- Compost disease-free plant material and kitchen vegetable and fruit scraps.
- Use newspaper or cardboard covered by mulch to discourage winter and spring annual weeds or remove a lawn area for conversion to garden beds.
- Clean and paint greenhouses and cold frames for plant storage and winter growth.
- Harvest sunflower heads; use seed for birdseed or roast for personal use.
- Dig and store potatoes; keep in darkness, moderate humidity, temperature about 40°F. Discard sprouted potatoes. Don't use as seed potatoes for next year.
- Harvest and immediately dry filberts and walnuts; dry at 95° to 100°F.
- Harvest and store apples; keep at about 40°F, moderate humidity.
- Mulch roots of roses, azaleas, rhododendrons and berries for winter protection.
- Trim or stake bushy herbaceous perennials to prevent wind damage.
- To suppress future pest problems, clean up annual flower beds by removing diseased plant materials, overwintering areas for insect pests; mulch with manure or garden compost to feed the soil and suppress weeds.
- Cover asparagus and rhubarb beds with a mulch of manure or compost.
- Clean, sharpen and oil tools and equipment before storing for winter.
- Store garden supplies and fertilizers in a safe, dry place out of reach of children.
- Prune out dead fruiting canes in raspberries. Train and prune primocanes.
- **Western Oregon:** Harvest squash and pumpkins; keep in dry area at 55° to 60°F.
- **Western Oregon:** Spade organic material and lime into garden soil.

Planting/Propagation

- Dig and divide rhubarb. (Should be done about every 4 years.)
- Plant garlic for harvesting next summer.
- Propagate chrysanthemums, fuchsias, geraniums by stem cuttings. Place hanging pots of fuchsias where they won't freeze. Don't cut back until spring.
- Save seeds from the vegetable and flower garden. Dry, date, label, and store in a cool and dry location.
- Plant ground covers and shrubs.
- Dig and store geraniums, tuberous begonias, dahlias, gladiolas.
- Pot and store tulips and daffodils to force into early bloom, indoors, in December and January.
- Check/treat houseplants for disease and insects before bringing indoors.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Remove and dispose of windfall apples that might be harboring apple maggot or codling moth larvae. Rake and destroy diseased leaves (apple, cherry, rose, etc.), or hot compost diseased leaves.
- Spray apple and stone fruit trees at leaf fall to prevent various fungal and bacterial diseases. See *Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards* (EC 631)
- If moles and gophers are a problem, consider traps.





The Grapevine

News for Columbia County Master Gardeners™

www.columbiacountymastergardeners.org

October 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

We got some rain during the week of September 5th and 6th. What a welcome relief. It just seemed like ages since the last time I smelled rain in the air. My neighbors must have thought I was a bit off, seeing me stand in the rain. Mr. Johnson sighed with relief. He told me, "You won't have to water for a couple of days." Boy, my water bill this summer! Despite my best efforts, I still had burnt leaves due to the unbelievable heat this summer. There is nothing like working in your yard with this heat and to be sweating so bad that it drips off your eyelashes. Reminds me of Nebraska.

It is a stellar year in tomatoes. Not only have we enjoyed this wonderful fruit, but so have my neighbors and everyone at my dentist office.

I have been very excited to see all the bees this year. I have seen lots more honey and bumble bees compared to last year. I stand under my trumpet vine and hear the hum of all these bees just makes me stand and do the happy dance to know they found into my yard. --Kathy Johnson

From the Garden

During the month of September, the volunteers have been "dead heading" perennials, weeding, and harvesting blackberries, tomatoes, cantaloupes, snake gourds, grapes, and vegetables from the Victory Garden. Mapping plant locations for the signage project has been started.

A novelty in the garden this year were the snake gourds. On September 14th, Sue and Dennis Snyder harvested 17 gourds which weighed between 5 to 6 pounds each. The longest gourd measured 56 inches. Sue dries the gourds. This takes about a year. She then paints them to look like a snake before placing them in her yard.

This year the best and most unusual raised bed award of \$25.00 is awarded to Sue Snyder for her snake gourds.

Calendar: At-A-Glance

- Oct. 1.. Demonstration Garden and other MG Extension Projects Planning meeting, 9:00 a.m., Extension office
- Oct. 1... Board Meeting, 10 a.m. Extension office
- Oct. 22. Chapter Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Extension office

Painting and repairing the picket fences around the garden has been completed. Work left to be done is putting the garden to bed for the year which is scheduled for October 5th. This will be the last work session for the year.

If you are missing a beige baseball cap with Oregon on the front or two pot holders left at Snyder's potluck, contact Kathy Phelan. Also, if you borrowed any tools from the Demo Garden Shed, ie hand pruners, etc., please return.

Thanks to those volunteers and mentors for working throughout the growing season this year at the Demo Garden. Hope to see you all next year supporting the new coordinators. --The Demo Garden Crew, Andy Robinson and Kathy Phelan

The Year of the Acorn

The first couple of years I lived here I had no acorns to speak of on my oak trees. The trees are my pride and joy. One year there was an infestation of aphids on the oaks and everything in the garden was coated in honeydew including my dogs. That was interesting and very sticky. I know there have been a few acorns produced because I have several one and two year old seedlings scattered around that I need to deal with before they get too big. They hide well in amongst other plants. Maybe the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council will want them if I can get them out intact. Experience has taught me that they have long tap roots and are impossible to get rid of if they get too big. What we have are little bitty trees with great huge roots that establish a death grip on Mother Earth as soon as they sprout. It's a great survival strategy, but a tad frustrating for gardeners. And it must be in "the rules" somewhere because they

never pop up in the empty spot where you'd like another tree.

Anyway, it seems that 2009 is the year of the acorn. My dogs bring them into the house to toss around and chew - try stepping on one with a bare foot - ouch! Like mini-bombs they hit the metal roof on the garden shed both day and night with a regularity that's startling and very, very loud. These are not particularly large oak trees on the property. A friend described them as sticks with leaves. The trees are fairly tall but haven't begun to spread out the way oaks do as they mature. So, how many acorns can they have on them? I smash a dozen or more every time I motor over the driveway. I find them in windrows along garden paths. And unlike last year's puny nuts, the acorns this year are huge. Was it all that heat we had?

Here's my whine: obviously there aren't enough wood rats, squirrels or other critters around to deal with the problem, and with my luck they're all extremely healthy nuts so if I don't pick the dogged things up chances are I'll have a bumper crop of new seedlings to deal with next year. They're even trying to grow in my raised beds out back. One was peaking out from under a Hubbard squash plant and another was in with the bush beans. Know anyone who'd like a few hundred acorns? I'll deliver. --Jean Landers, 2007 Class

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.

For an electronic form go to:

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

COLUMBIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION

Summary, Sept. 2009, Board Meeting

HOUSEKEEPING

Secretary's Report: Diane Schnur - Accepted as presented with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Jackie Kennedy - Accepted as presented with corrections. A motion was passed to move \$5,000 from checking into savings.

Correspondence: Kathy Johnson - Cards from Oregon gardens and Col. County Fairgrounds.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wreath Party: Yankton Grange is reserved for December 3 at 10 a.m. Members can decide if they want to go back to Ida's Wreath Shop.

OMGA: Chuck Peterson will report at September meeting. Gave report about mini college.

County Fair: Chuck Peterson had idea to buy misters to use during county fair on hot days.

Website: After much discussion about CCMG having a face book page, MOTION DENIED. Webmaster Larry Byrum will post the officers and new graduates pictures on our website.

Saturday Market: Per Dennis Snyder, things are slowing down, will approach Chip about having a booth only in the early season and not late in the season. Awning has been purchased. Dennis will budget for more books.

Speakers: Sept will be Dan Bramberger and he will be speaking about tomatoes.

Library: Jim Gillam presented a list of books available in the library. Will talk to Chip about what is considered a reference book as those can not be checked out. Larry Byrum will put the list on the website.

Demo Garden: Hours are back to 10 a.m. to Noon. Last day to put beds to rest will be October 5th. New labels are being worked on, samples will be shown to the membership in September, Kathy Phelan advised about starting a log book of the raised beds for crop rotation. Working on the budget. Some painting left to be done. It was decided that maintaining the picket fence is cheaper then replacing with recycled plastic.

Picnic: great success, under budget, next one will be August 23, 2010

Spring Fair: April 24th, 2010, orders due by October 1. Some labeling issues.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Graduation 2010: Chip will arrange for a speaker at the meeting in January for the graduates. Kathy is asking for suggestions.

Nominating Committee: Committee is working on getting list of people running for office.

By-laws: new ones on the web are current. State has added new policies, we will review and they will be added, 41) whistleblower, 2) record retention, 3) conflict of interest.

The natural world

Cedar flagging

Our western red cedars often show a peculiar (and not totally understood) condition that is called “cedar flagging”. It appears not to harm the trees. What you generally see are small limbs/twigs scattered throughout the tree that turn bright red-orange. Adjacent small limbs are fine. There is some feeling that dry summers and fall contribute to this problem. We are currently about nine inches below normal rainfall for this time of year (based on the water year). Anyway, no one has ever figured out how to manage it other than possibly irrigating some years for cedars in the landscape. This is obviously impractical for forest trees. Here is a discussion from our plant disease handbook about the condition: <http://ipmnet.org/plant-disease/disease.cfm?RecordID=66> . The condition is abundant this fall.

When trees age

Natural forests are complex in both age classes and species. Trees go through life stages over extended time horizons. Within a stand, there may be many age classes from young shade tolerant seedlings to mature trees. As trees weaken, they begin to support a whole new population of insects, birds, mammals and other species.



Holes are dug in the bark by woodpeckers and many other bird species in search of insects or to develop nesting sites. Thinning trees serve as perches for raptors. Woodpeckers drum on the trees to communicate their territorial rights.

As the tree center rots, and the top breaks out, species adapted to those sites will begin

to colonize them. Vaux swifts use hollow tree trunks (once they look like chimneys) to build their nests. The lack of such long-standing trees in our modern forests have pushed swifts into the urban landscape and fireplace chimneys as a substitute. Bear, fox and coyotes are among the many mammals that like a hollowed out tree for shelter.

Ultimately, the tree topples. As it rots, it provides a whole new set of species with cover and food. As it decays, the tree releases over many years the minerals locked up in its wood. The tree incubates almost uncountable numbers of fungal, bacterial, and insect species. After a period of time (and it is different between species) the tree is broken down enough to become as fertile bed for new seedlings of many of the species found in that forest.

Dead wood is important. Don't feel that it all needs to be cleaned up. Leave snags if they won't damage anything if they fall. And take some time to observe the teeming life found in dead and dying wood.

Male and female trees?

Most plants have male and female floral parts in the same flower. Some plants have male and female flowers separated but on the same plant. Squash, alder and hazelnuts (filberts) are good examples of that. Finally, there are some plants that have male and female flowers on separate plants. Landscape tree examples include ginko, holly, juniper, and some maples, though not out native species.

Some native trees that are dioecious (which is what this business of having male and female plants is called by botanists) include Oregon ash, black cottonwood, and Pacific yew. The yew has the interesting trait of being able to revert to having flowers of both sexes on a tree that up to that point had only male or female flowers.

Farm and livestock notes

Soil sampling and phosphorus

In my article on fall fertilization last month, I neglected to mention an important piece of information from some OSU research. Gene Pirelli and John Hart have been looking at the phosphorus (P) status of pastures. They found that if you take soil plugs 6 inches deep for a soil test, the pasture often appears to need P. But if you sample the top 2 inches, there is plenty of P to support the plant growth. Most of the P supplied to pastures comes as top-dressed balanced fertilizers like 16-16-16 rather than incorporated into tilled ground for a new seeding. The evidence is clear that much of the top-dressed P stays near the soil surface in enough quantity to both confuse the soil test results with standard sampling protocols and to provide the pasture plants with adequate P without adding as much as a standard would recommend. Good soil test information could save you a lot of money.

Planning to prevent grass tetany

Now's the time to evaluate the mineral needs of your herd and to decide an appropriate strategy to reduced the risk of grass tetany next apring. Grass tetany (also called hypomagnesemia) is a metabolic disease of cattle usually associated with grazing lush pastures.

Several factors are important in causing grass tetany, some of these are:

Low magnesium (Mg) and/or high potassium (K) content of rapidly growing grasses and pastures.

High crude protein content of grasses and pastures.

Bad weather, storms, stress, etc., that cause cattle to be "off feed" for 24 to 48 hours.

Lactation due to high losses of Mg and calcium (Ca) in the milk.

Ammonia fertilization of pastures or grasslands.

Various combinations of the above factors resulting in low blood Mg and Ca.

Magnesium is a required mineral for all cattle. Magnesium requirements for growing cattle are 0.1 percent of their diet (on a dry matter basis or DMB) and for lactating beef cattle 0.2 percent of their diet DMB. The absorption of Mg in the rumen can be interfered with by potassium (K). Since rapidly growing plants have a high content of K there is considerable interference with Mg. Another interference problem exists with high levels of crude protein in the diet.

Just as the requirements for Ca increase during lactation, so do the requirements for Mg. Therefore, lactating cattle are at increased risk of grass tetany. The heavier milkers are at greater risk of grass tetany. Growing cattle are less prone. [Editor's note: Many beef specialists suggest culling cows that have developed grass tetany, assuming they survive the event.] Stress or fasting decreases

both Ca and Mg levels, so bad weather (storms), trucking, and other stressors that cause cattle to stop eating can precipitate grass tetany.

A mineral supplement is generally the fastest and

most certain method of preventing grass tetany. Cattle should consume 1 ounce of magnesium oxide daily, and their intake should be checked frequently. Magnesium is not stored in the body long, so daily consumption is important. Supplemental magnesium can be provided by several methods. Supplementation should begin 2 to 3 weeks (or longer in Western Oregon) before tetany is likely occur. Numerous commercial mineral supplements are available that contain all needed minerals with additional magnesium. At least 12 percent actual magnesium



is recommended. Check with your feed salesman for specific products available to you.

Probably the most economical way to feed supplemental magnesium is a 1:1 mixture of trace-mineral salt and magnesium oxide (60 percent magnesium). Cows do not like the taste of magnesium oxide and they may not eat enough. Consumption can be improved by mixing equal parts by weight of ground corn, trace-mineral salt, and magnesium oxide. Other grains or dry molasses that are high in energy may also be used to increase consumption. Do not use protein supplements, meals, or any sources of non-protein nitrogen. High nitrogen feed ingredient would tend to aggravate the grass tetany problem.

--Jack Whittier, Colorado State University

Some important budget tools

Farmers have to be good biologists, mechanically savvy, and top-notch managers. As someone said to me, there are no knucklehead farmers. Farm managers employ dollars, time, labor, equipment, and land to produce good crops and a decent farm income. Tax returns require a financial look at the whole year. But two other budgets can help steer the enterprise: the cash flow and enterprise budgets. They have different functions but both are important.

In the simplest terms, the whole-farm cash flow budget allows you to project (as realistically as possible) monthly expenses and returns. If well done, it will highlight where there are short-term deficits and allow to

plan ahead to secure the resources to make it through that period. Since many farmers realize their income in big chunks as crops and animals mature and are sold, those funds need to be managed to cover production cycle costs for a two-year horizon (the current year and the following crop year). Ironically, big crop years with high harvest costs can sometimes put a farm in jeopardy unless the crop can be sold and dollars put back into the checkbook quickly.

The enterprise budget looks at each type of crop production on a farm, allocating costs and returns to among them. A beef farm might have a cow/calf operation as the base business but might also purchase feeders to background. A vegetable farm might grow a number of crops. Each may be necessary to the product mix the farm needs to market but it is worth knowing what the high cost crops are. Sometimes there are options to improve efficiency or substitute a different crop and still maintain market viability.

A final hybrid budget looks at the total and family labor/time demands both through the year, like a cash flow budget, and in total, like an enterprise budget. Farmers are not afraid of long hours, but it makes sense to use in-house talent in the most effective and healthy way possible.

For information on the enterprise and cash flow budgets, see the following:

<http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/pubs/FASTtool.asp?category=financial>





Climate Change Series

Free, public seminar series focusing on aspects of climate change
Charles D. Cameron Public Service Building, Shirley Huffman Auditorium
155 N. 1st Ave. - Hillsboro, OR
7 to 8:30 p.m. each evening

- Tuesday, November 3, 2009 – *Linking Population Growth, Development and Global Warning*, Derric Jacobs, Ph.D. Candidate, OSU College of Liberal Arts
- Tuesday, November 10, 2009 – *Climate Models and Predicting the Future*, Karen Shell, Ph.D. OSU College of Atmosphere Sciences
- Tuesday, November 17, 2009 - TBA

We are looking to put together a bus or at least a carpool for these events.
Contact our office if interested in attending.

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