



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

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

The office will be closed Fridays from Noon to 1 p.m.

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

June 2015

Programs for you . . .

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

- June 2.....**Scappoose Bay Watershed Council.** 7 p.m., Scappoose Bay Watershed Council's office, Warren
- June 4.....**Demonstration Garden and other MG Extension Projects Planning Meeting.** 10 a.m., OSU Extension Classroom, St. Helens
- June 4.....**Master Gardener™ Board Meeting.** 10:30 a.m., OSU Extension Classroom, St. Helens
- June 9.....**Lower Columbia Watershed Council.** 7 p.m., SWCD office-35285 Millard Rd., St. Helens
- June 10.....**OSU Strawberry Field Day.** 1-4:30 p.m., NWREC, Aurora. Call for Details. Or visit their website: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC/programs/berry-crops>
- June 17.....**Soil & Water Conservation District.** 7:30 p.m., SWCD office-35285 Millard Rd., St. Helens
- June 25.....**Master Gardener™ Chapter Meeting.** 6:30 p.m. Speaker will be Jim Gilbert, "Uncommon Fruit for the Home Gardener," OSU Extension Classroom, St. Helens. **The public is invited. Free.**
- June 25.....**Upper Nehalem Watershed Council.** 7 p.m., Vernonia Grange, <http://nehalem.org/> 503-429-0869
- June 27.....**Household Hazardous Waste Program.** 8 am to Noon, Columbia County Transfer Station, St. Helens, call 503-397-7207 or <http://www.co.columbia.or.us/files/lds/solid-waste/HHW-4-10-14%282%29.pdf>

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 seminars (which begin at 1:00 pm and are free unless otherwise indicated) are as follows: **June 7**, Clematis, A Passion Realized-Susan Toler; **June 14**, Ferns and Companions-Judith Jones; **June 21**, Garden Groundlings-Jolly Butler; & **June 28**, Hebes-Andy Stockton.

- July 1.....**OSU Caneberry Field Day.** 1-5 p.m., NWREC, Aurora. Call for Details. Or visit their website: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC/programs/berry-crops>
- July 8.....**OSU Blueberry Field Day.** 1-5 p.m., NWREC, Aurora. Call for Details. Or visit their website: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC/programs/berry-crops>
- July 18.....**OSU Day at Columbia County Fair!** - see back cover for details

Chip Bubl

Chip Bubl, OSU Extension Faculty, Agriculture



Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, Family and Community Health, 4-H Youth, Forestry & Natural Resources, 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

Pollen, flowers and pollinators

Flowers facilitate the movement of plant genes whether by wind, bees, ants, flies, birds, or other more obscure pollinator species like lizards. Gene exchange through pollen builds a more diverse genetic base in a population of plants. This increases the chance that the population will survive if the environment changes.



Flowers constantly evolve to improve pollen exchange. The male parts are called the stamen, consisting of the anther that makes and sheds the pollen and the filament that elevates the anther from the base of the flower. The female part is collectively called the pistil and is composed of the sticky receptive stigma that grabs pollen grains, the style which is a hollow stalk below the stigma through which the pollen tube grows and the ovary where fertilization takes place.

The inducements that keep the pollinators interested in the flower are the pollen itself, the nectaries that produce sugars (sometimes laced with other compounds like vitamins and/or stimulants), and the petals and sepals that entice and guide their preferred pollinator in.

Nectar is important to the pollinator since it provides the energy to keep foraging and can be turned into honey and other products.

Pollen grains are composed of protein (5-~30%), starches, fats, and sometimes precursor compounds for insect hormones. They are an important food source for both the pollinating insect and often its larva. Wind-distributed pollen usually doesn't have the

energetically rich compounds and travel quite lean.

If you put pollen grains under a high-powered microscope, you note an amazing array of shapes, hooks, dimples, and other adornments that cover the pollen surface. Each plant species has its characteristic pollen that separates it from all other species. Pollen that is hundreds of million years old can be analyzed to determine what plants lived on that land all those years ago. That analysis can also point to where oil might be found, since oil comes from the death and decay of ancient landscapes.

Pollen is usually brown, reddish-brown, yellow, white, or intermediates of these shades. It can be light and dusty (suitable for wind-pollinated plants) or heavy and sticky for those plant species that encourage a pollinator to visit. Wind-pollinated species produce huge amounts of pollen. Grass pollen is our most abundant type here and is the source of most plant pollen allergies west of the Cascades. Insect pollinated species produce far less (but much "richer") pollen because they employ a carrier (the insect, bird, etc.) that can take it to the right address.

Many modern ornamental flowers don't support bees or other pollinators!

Gardeners like novel flowers. But pollinators don't. Often, it is because flowers are "doubled". That means that the pollen producing structures are either replaced or obscured by the doubled flower (more than one row of petals). No reward, no bees. Some doubled flowers reduce the nectar production to the point that bees won't bother. Rugosa and species roses are the most interesting to bees. Modern petunias and dahlias are examples in which bee interest has been systematically bred out of them in the chase for showier flowers. This is a mistake.

When you're hot, you're hot

Pepper roots need more warmth (> than 60 degrees) than tomato roots (marginally happy at 52 degrees). Put into cold soil, they go into a pepper funk due to some hormone signals that don't reset quickly as the temperatures improve. It is possible to fool peppers with row covers or clear plastic soil mulches plus row covers. Mini cloches work well. If you already bought plants, I have found that you can put the flat outside in the day and bring the transplants in at night. That keeps them happy until planting.



If you plant your pepper plants into black containers that get plenty of sun, you are good to go. They love that root heat. Keep them watered but not soaked.

Dr. Jim Myers, OSU plant breeder recommends pinching off any blossoms or fruit that are already set when you plant your pepper. Others also suggest continuing that for about 2-3 weeks after planting to give the pepper time to really get a good root, stem and branch structure established. Some gardeners also pinch the top at planting to encourage branching.

Capsaicin is what makes peppers hot. The Scoville scale measures the perceived heat of capsaicin, with 1 being no heat and 100,000 a virtual inferno:

Scoville heat units:

Bell	0
Anaheim	255-1,400
New Mexico Chilies	250-1,400
Ancho	2,500-3,000
Poblano	2,500-3,000
Jalapeno	2,500-4,500
Hungarian	2,500-6,000
Serrano	7,000-25,000

Chile de Arbol	15,000-30,000
Cayenne	35,000
Chile pequin	40,000
Tabasco	30,000-50,000
Habanero	200,000 -300,000
Scotch Bonnet	200,000 -300,000

Scientists like to speculate about why plants favor genes that create some of these interesting secondary plant compounds. Perhaps most important is the fact that capsaicin has been shown to reduce a *Fusarium* fungal disease which, without capsaicin, might lower pepper seed vitality and number.

Another common theory says that since mammals "sense" capsaicin and birds do not, it favors birds feeding on the peppers and that aids in seed dispersal. If herbivore mammals ate hot peppers, their molars might grind the seeds. Deer will readily eat hot pepper foliage. There are deer repellents made from capsaicin which may have some modest deterrent effect but are generally less effective than the "rotten" deer deterrents that are also on the market.

Capsaicin is found mainly in the placental tissue of pepper fruit. The more of that tissue you remove with a fresh pepper, the lower the heat. Seeds are not supposed to contain any heat. But some placental tissue still surrounds the seed when it is dried. For this article, I tasted the seeds and dried flakes of a hot pepper mix separately. The seeds were far hotter.

Peppers will cross-pollinate. They are generally self-fertile but if persistent pollinator insects are around, hanky panky happens. The heat shouldn't change for that year since the placental tissue is from the female parent. But if the resulting seeds are planted, both parents' capsaicin genes mix and the heat might well increase.



That's the Way it Grows

Salad Bar

The deer have already found my newly planted heirloom tomatoes and my strawberry bed, as well as my pear trees and petunias. I'm pretty sure they think my yard is one big salad bar to browse from.

I'm sure we've all heard of many deer deterrents to hang, spray, or sprinkle. Some work in varying degrees; others not at all. They're always worth a try, though. One that has worked for me is to hang pantyhose sachets of blood meal in the branches. I hang one or two in my dwarf fruit trees and there seems to be less nibbling.



While the fruit trees will tolerate a bit of nibbling, the tomatoes will not. Eating the plants down to stubs pretty much means no tomatoes. I ran out of nylons to make new blood meal bags, and left the tomatoes unprotected. Of course, that's when the deer popped in for a bite.

To keep the deer away from the replacement heirloom tomatoes that I had to plant, I wrapped clear plastic around the support towers my hubby made me a few years ago. Made of rebar, they will last forever, and never flop over under the weight of a tomato plant. Wrapped thusly, they not only keep the deer from eating the plants. But act as mini greenhouses, giving my plants a boost.

The same deer protection can be made with any tomato support, or four stakes surrounding the plants, wrapped with clear plastic. Secure the plastic with clothespins or something similar, or even just string.

If your transplants are small, then a milk jug with the bottom cut off works as a greenhouse/deer deterrent. Just put it over the plant, leaving the cap off for venting. A branch or bamboo stick pushed into the soil from the spout will secure it.

Lovely Compost

Now is a good time to spread your compost. Mine has cooked all winter and the bottom half of the compost is ready to use.

Last summer, my father gave me several bags of wood shavings from his lathe to use in my compost. The shavings really sped up the process. I

usually have a good amount of kitchen scraps, and the wood shavings provided carboniferous material to balance the nitrogen in the kitchen scraps.

The small bits of wood gave the composting process a jumpstart because the total surface area of the material was larger for the microorganisms to work on.

I employ two methods for composting. One is a bin that I let sit over winter and slowly do its thing until spring, when I dump it all out, move the bin a few feet over in the garden, fork the chunky bits back into the bin (thus aerating) and spread the good stuff around. That is the slow method that doesn't require a lot of work.

The second method is a version of the spinning-barrel type composter that you crank to turn the material. That commercially-bought composter was plowed again into

by my 2nd son on the riding lawn mower. That was the last straw for that unit, and the stand fell apart. The barrel section is in great condition, but how to crank? I don't. I just roll it around every day or so to aerate. I can't believe how fast it's making compost! And it's just really fun.



Compost is a slow-release fertilizer, only giving up its nutrients as macro- and micro-organisms slowly digest the organic material.

I think one could argue that compost's greatest value is as a soil conditioner. The organic matter lightens up the soil and improves soil structure, increasing the pore spaces between soil particles, thus enhancing drainage so watering is more effective. Roots can penetrate the loosened soil easier. And all those microorganisms are beneficial to your plants. Many microorganisms assist plants in the extraction of nutrients from the soil.

—Lisa M. Long

Columbia County Master Gardener™

Compost, bark dust, soil and rock delivered 397-2989

JUNE

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.



Planning

- Construct trellises for tomatoes, cucumbers, pole beans, and vining ornamentals.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Prune lilacs, forsythia, rhododendrons, and azaleas after blooming.
- Fertilize vegetable garden 1 month after plants emerge by side dressing alongside rows.
- Harvest thinnings from new plantings of lettuce, onion, and chard.
- Pick ripe strawberries regularly to avoid fruit-rotting diseases.
- Use organic mulches to conserve soil moisture in ornamental beds. An inch or two of sawdust, barkdust, or composted leaves will minimize loss of water through evaporation.
- Blossoms on squash and cucumbers begin to drop: this is nothing to worry about. Cherries may also drop fruit: this is not a major concern.
- After normal fruit drop of apples, pears and peaches in June, consider thinning the remainder to produce a larger crop of fruit.
- Make sure raised beds receive enough water for plants to avoid drought stress. If a green lawn is desired, make sure lawn areas are receiving adequate water (approximately 0.5 to 1.5 inches per week from June through August). Deep watering less often is more effective than frequent shallow watering. Measure your water use by placing an empty tuna can where your irrigation water lands.
- **All of Oregon (Mid-June):** If green lawns are being maintained through the summer, apply 1 lb. nitrogen per 1,000 sq.ft. to lawns.

Planting/Propagation

- Plant dahlias and gladioli.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Continue monitoring blueberry, strawberry, cherry and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). If SWD are present, use an integrated and least toxic approach to manage the pests. To learn how to monitor and manage SWD, visit <http://swd.hort.oregonstate.edu/gardeners>.
- First week: spray cherry trees for cherry fruit fly, as necessary, if fruit is ripening.
- First week: spray for codling moth in apple and pear trees, as necessary. Continue use of pheromone traps for insect pest detection.
- Learn to identify beneficial insects and plant some insectary plants (e.g. Alyssum, Phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow, dill) to attract them to your garden. Check with local nurseries for best selections. See PNW550 (Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden) for more information.
- Monitor azaleas, primroses and other broadleaf ornamentals for adult root weevils. Look for fresh evidence of feeding (notching at leaf edges). Try sticky trap products on plant trunks to trap adult weevils. Protect against damaging the bark by applying the sticky material on a 4-inch wide band of poly sheeting or burlap wrapped around the trunk. Mark plants now and manage root weevils with beneficial nematodes when soil temperatures are above 55°F. If root weevils are a consistent problem, consider removing plants and choosing resistant varieties (See <http://bit.ly/oDOScK> for a list of rhododendrons exhibiting resistance to adult root weevil feeding.)
- Control garden weeds by pulling, hoeing, or mulching.
- Control aphids on vegetables as needed by hosing off with water or by using insecticidal soap or a registered insecticide.
- Watch for 12-spotted beetles on beans and lettuce and cabbage worms or flea beetles in cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts). Remove the pests by hand or treat with registered pesticides.
- Spray peas as first pods form, if necessary, to control weevils.
- Birch trees dripping a sticky fluid from their leaves means that aphids are present. Control as needed.
- Use yellow sticky traps to monitor for cherry fruit fly. About 1 week after the first fly is caught, spray cherries at appropriate intervals.
- Last week: second spray for codling moth in apple and pear trees, as necessary.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Move houseplants outdoors for cleaning, grooming, repotting and summer growth.



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



June 2015

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

I worked at the Demo Garden for the first time in three weeks, on Monday. We had a good turn out and lots got done. It is beginning to shape up for Fair time. We can always use more hands to lighten our load, stop in any Monday, other than holidays, at 10AM to help us out.

I think our lack of rain over the winter and spring is going to become more of a problem as summer sets in. As you likely heard Washington's governor declared his state to be in drought conditions.

Fruit trees appear to be three weeks to a month ahead of their normal condition for May so you may want to start thinning your apples and not wait for the normal June drop.

As for vegetables, tomatoes and peppers may thrive this year if we get our normal hot summer as folks have had an opportunity to start them early.

I don't suppose any of you have weeds, but I have spent a good amount of time weeding already because our unusual early warm weather gave them a leg up too. I will sign off now and get back out there to stave off the next growth spurt.

Gardening requires lots of water — most of it in the form of perspiration. ~Lou Erickson

-- Wes Bevans

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 PDF.

Calendar: At-A-Glance	
June 4..	Demonstration Garden and other MG Extension Projects Planning meeting, 10 a.m., Extension office
June 4..	Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m. Extension office
June 25	Chapter Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Speaker: Jim Gilbert, OSU Extension Classroom, St. Helens
Demo garden work days each Monday from 10 a.m. to Noon.	

Uncommon Fruits in the Home Garden

Join Jim Gilbert, June 25, as he shares with us his favorite fruiting plants for the home gardener, many of which he has introduced from his frequent travels around the world. Bring your check book, as he may bring some of his wonderful plants to sell.

Master Gardeners Contacts	
Officers for 2015	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Wes Bevans
Vice President.....	Joe Crisp
Past President.....	Dennis Snyder
Secretary	Susan Snyder
Treasurer.....	Peg Crisp
Historian	Lavina Patterson
OMGA Rep.....	Chuck Petersen
OMGA Alt. Rep.	Deb Broberg
Demo Garden.....	Linda Bainbridge
.....	Mary Newell-Dickenson
Spring Fair	Kathy Johnson
CCMG website: www.columbiacountymastergardeners.org	
Webmaster	Larry Byrum
OSU Extension Service:	
Extension Faculty	Chip Bubl
Secretary	Vicki Krenz
Guide to Plant Disease Control:	
OSU	http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu

Giant Hogweed

(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Giant hogweed is originally from Asia and was introduced as an ornamental. Spreading by seed, giant hogweed has escaped into numerous backyards, ravines, parks, abandoned lots, streams, woods, and roadsides. It can crowd out other plants and take over natural areas, especially in moist areas such as streamsides. Somewhat shade tolerant, giant hogweed can also thrive in full sun and has been known to even invade healthy turf.

Giant hogweed is an herbaceous perennial member of the parsley family with a slowly spreading tuber and seed dispersal for reproduction. It is a massive plant that can reach 10 to 15 feet when in flower. It has hollow stems, 2 to 4 inches in diameter, with dark reddish- purple raised spots and stiff bristle-like hairs. Coarse white hairs are also at the base of the leaf stalk. The sharply incised compound leaves grow up to 5 feet in width.

Giant hogweed blooms from mid-May through July, with numerous white flowers clustered in an umbrella-shaped head that is up to 2.5 feet in diameter across its flat top. The flowers are like an upside down soup bowl. The plant produces flattened, 3/8-inch long, elliptical to oval dry seeds. Giant hogweed is similar in appearance to our native cow parsnip, only it is much larger, the purplish blotches are more raised and

bumpy, and the hairs on the under surface of the leaf are shorter (about .25 mm long). Cow parsnip seeds also tend to be wider at the base whereas giant hogweed seeds are more often elliptical, the same width at the base and seed tip.



Giant hogweed is a public health hazard due to its clear, watery, and toxic sap that cause photo-dermatitis. Skin contact followed by exposure to sunlight produces painful, burning blisters that may develop into purplish or blackened scars.

Public and private landowners are required to control this plant when it occurs on their land. Because of the risk of injury when handling this plant and the difficulty of distinguishing it from the native plant cow parsnip, we recommend contacting either the Columbia

County Extension office of the Columbia SWCD for a positive identification and advice on control methods before removing. It has been found in Rainier, St. Helens, Warren, Columbia City, and the Clatskanie area. In some cases, it could be traced to gardeners but in others, its source was obscure.

It is illegal to transport, buy, sell, offer for sale, or to distribute plants or plant parts, seeds in packets, blends or "wildflower mixes" of this species, into or within Oregon. *Text adapted from King County WA material and photo from Oregon Department of Agriculture*

Farm and livestock notes

Organic certification reimbursements available

Oregon certified organic growers are eligible to receive 75% of their fees for certification or recertification up to a maximum of \$750. These funds are provided by the Oregon Department of Agriculture through a USDA program. Applications, which cover costs incurred between October 1, 2014 and September 15, 2015 must be received by October 31, 2015. The funds are available on a first come, first served basis. For more information, go to <http://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/marketaccess/macertification/pages/organiccostshere.aspx>

Farmers markets as incubators



With farmers increasingly looking to get closer to the consumer, farmers markets can be a great place to pick up new ideas, look for emerging trends, and develop

relationships beyond the market. There are two ways to approach this educational process.

One is to simply visit as many farmers markets as possible, looking at what fresh produce is being offered (or not), what the price points seem to be, what customers seem to be buying and how much, who are the customers, and the scope of value-added

products farmers are both producing and marketing.

You can learn a lot through the casual visit though the learning isn't as deep as you can get if you are actually a market participant. There you can directly engage with other farmers and the customers. You can test your business and marketing skills and establish relationships with buyers that you might not be aware of. I know several farms that have developed significant restaurant accounts through participation in a farmers market. In addition, you can see options and potential for value-added products. In one case, a booth at a major Portland market led directly to a value-added product now being sold nationally.

For information on the locations and dates of Oregon's farmers markets see <http://www.oregonfarmersmarkets.org/market-directory-2014/> (ignore the year – it is for 2015).

Early hay season

This is one of the best pasture years we have had in a long time. If you don't have some good grass now, you are overgrazing. This could be a good haymaking year. As I write this article, late week temperatures might hit 80 degrees for a few days. There is another good forecast for the week of June 8th through the weekend but long-term forecasts are always dicey. With the right temperatures and good winds, some nice hay might get made.

Grass is flowering ahead of schedule with the protein content and digestibility of the hay decreasing with each day now. So have your hay equipment, labor, and supplies ready for the next good weather pattern.

Mustard toxicity in pregnant mares

Pregnant mares, especially those in late gestation, will sometimes give birth to foals that are past their due date with deformities of their limbs, and jaws. They often have exceptionally silky hair.



Most of these foals are either born dead or have to be put down. Washington State University has tied this problem to late bred and thus, late foaling mares who have consumed significant quantities of mustard family plants in their last several months of pregnancy. The condition is called Congenital Hypothyroid Dysmaturity Syndrome. Glucosinolate compounds in the mustards create an iodine deficiency may or may not be part of the condition.

There is some evidence from other locales that nitrate poisoning and/or selenium deficiency could cause to the condition without mustards. However, WSU is quite sure that mustard family plants are the most likely reason the mares they examined were affected.

Mustard family plants are generally annuals or weak biennials. They need bits of bare ground to germinate. They can grow in barnyards and pastures. They are sometimes found in hay. Mustards are common in the spring/early summer and do well in any areas that have weak grass including newly seeded pastures, overgrazed fields, and waste areas around the barn. They go to seed by early summer. Mares may selectively graze it because it is fairly high in protein. They will also consume it in hay.

It is not clear that all mustards are problems for this syndrome but Shepard's purse, tumble mustard (Jim Hill mustard), and pennycress are found in Columbia County. We have a number of other mustards that

may or may not be a problem for this condition but there isn't any clinical data on them. That said, mustards are fairly easy to control in spring pastures with a broadleaf herbicide that has 2,4-D as part of the mix. A good stand of grass is always the best defense against weeds. For more information, see

<http://vcs.vetmed.wsu.edu/docs/librariespro/vider18/Docs-FDIU/mustardfoalsreport.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Rodent control on organic farms

Rats can be very hard to control on organic farms, especially those feeding livestock. Sanitation is the key to control. Traps are very important to organic producers. So is targeted tillage in the case of gophers (which are very rare in Columbia County but common in most of the Willamette valley) and sometimes rats. Certain dogs can play a role in rodent control.

But as yet, there are no organic rat baits. Oddly, strychnine is derived from a plant but has largely been removed from all markets due to non-target injury concerns.

For a period of time, propane was considered a legal organic control for use in fields. The propane was fed into holes and ignited. This couldn't be used near structures since it could damage foundations and cause other mischief. But that was deemed organically unsuitable a few years ago. There is now a petition to allow the use of exhaust gas (carbon monoxide) produced by internal combustion engines in organic production. This has split the organic community over both its effectiveness and its place in organic production systems. But it is clear that innovation in rodent control is important for organic field and vegetable crop farmers as well as organic livestock farms.

Benny Beaver set to entertain at 2015 Fair



Benny Beaver will be showing his trademark buckteeth and flat tail at the 100th Columbia County fair this year!

The OSU mascot will be trotting about the fairgrounds on Saturday, July 18th, starting at 2:30 p.m. with free photo opportunities and other events. He will be on stage with the Hit Machine at 4:30 p.m. and at the Rodeo Grand Entry at 7 p.m. If you are able to stop by the OSU booth near the pavilion, he will be handing out OSU swag for fair-goers.

Benny has a rich history with OSU and its culture. Beginning in 1908, “The Beaver” title was used as the school newspaper’s title and later as the yearbook title in 1916. Benny’s name came from a photograph of OSU students standing next to a beaver statue that was inscribed as “Benny Beaver” in the 1942 yearbook, but didn’t officially become the mascot until 1945. The first performance at an athletic event from the mascot was in 1952. Co-mascot, Bernice Beaver, joined the OSU team sometime in the early 1980s and mid-1990s.

The public is invited to meet Benny at any time throughout his itinerary, which includes the following stops:

- 2:30 p.m. – Meet and greet Benny near the gazebo at the Columbia County Fairgrounds
- 3:00 p.m. – Join Benny for a welcome reception and cake at the OSU Extension tent near to the pavilion
- 4:30 p.m. – Look for Benny with the Hit Machine – stage 1
- 6:00 p.m. – See Benny around the Columbia County Fairgrounds
- 7:00 p.m. – Benny opens the Grand Rodeo Entry

The Columbia County OSU Extension Service will have staff at their booth from 1 to 5 p.m. on OSU Day – prizes and cake will be handed out. If you have questions about Benny’s visit, contact Woody Davis at 503-397-3462 or woody.davis@oregonstate.edu.

We encourage all OSU supporters to wear ORANGE on Saturday of fair!

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran’s status. 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. This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request. Please call for information.

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