



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/>

March 2014

Programs for you . . .

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

- Mar. 4 **Scappoose Bay Watershed Council**. 7 p.m., Scappoose Bay Watershed Council's office, Warren
- Mar. 6 **Demonstration Garden and other MG Extension Projects Planning Meeting**. 3:15 p.m., OSU Extension Classroom, St. Helens
- Mar. 6 **Master Gardener™ Board Meeting**. 3:45 p.m., OSU Extension Classroom, St. Helens
- Mar. 8 **Tree Seedling Sale - Columbia County Small Woodlands Association**. 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Lawrence Oil, St. Helens - Arrive early for best selections! See back page for details
- Mar. 11 **Lower Columbia Watershed Council**. 7 p.m., SWCD office-35285 Millard Rd., St. Helens
- Mar. 15 **Pruning Demonstration**. 10 a.m. to Noon, Master Gardener Demo Garden, Columbia County Fairgrounds. See back cover for details. **Public welcome!**
- Mar. 15 **SBWC Native Plant Sale**. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Behind Scappoose High School, Scappoose
- Mar. 19 **Soil & Water Conservation District**. 7:30 p.m., SWCD office-35285 Millard Rd., St. Helens
- Mar. 27 **Master Gardener™ Chapter Meeting**. 6:30 p.m. Speaker will be Harry Olson, "Taking Vegetable Gardening to New Heights," OSU Extension Classroom, St. Helens. **The public is invited. Free.**
- Mar. 27 **Upper Nehalem Watershed Council**. 7 p.m., Vernonia Grange, <http://nehalem.org/> 503-429-0869
- Apr. 3 **Homesteading in St. Helens: Producing Food on a Small Lot**. 7 p.m., St. Helens Public Library, see the back page for more details.
- Apr. 26 **19th Annual Spring Garden Fair**. by Columbia County Master Gardeners™. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Helens High School. Over 5,000 tomato plants from 30 varieties at \$1.50 a plant.



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

Tomatillos

Tomatillos (*Physalis ixocarpa*) are relatives of the tomato. They are the stars of Mexican salsas and sauces and could have at least a bit part in your vegetable garden. Our climate generally suits them if you start them early like you would tomatoes and peppers and transplant them out when the weather warms up. They like as much sun as they can get. They are reputed to be a bit more drought resistant than tomatoes. They do not like soggy poor draining soil and thus benefit from raised beds or rows.

The plants are multi-branched and bushy and are generally staked/caged to improve air circulation and keep the fruit off the ground. They do not weigh as much as tomato plants so the cages or stakes can be less substantial. They are usually two to four feet tall and just as wide so they do need space. One important thing to note is that they are very pollen self-incompatible so you need two or more types of tomatillos next to each other to get good pollination and fruit set. Once they start fruiting in 75 days or more after transplanting, they will continue until fall rains and/or frosts.

Tomatillos (and their ground cherry relatives) produce their fruit inside a papery husk. Fully ripe fruit will fall easily off the plant when picked. The husk must be removed before eating or cooking them. Fruit can be as small as one-inch in diameter or up to 2-3 inches depending on variety. Fruit color ranges from green to yellow to red to purple, depending on variety and



ripeness. The red and purple ones tend to be a bit sweeter. The “Mexican strain” (Territorial), Pineapple (both ground cherry and tomatillo versions), Toma Verde, Miltomate, and Purple are all worth trying if you have the space.

Physiological tomato disorders

Can you tell we are tired of winter? Looking toward summer, here is an excellent (and slightly edited) discussion from *Growing Produce* magazine about some of the non-disease issues common to tomatoes. Dr. Chris Gunter from N.C. State University provided the content:

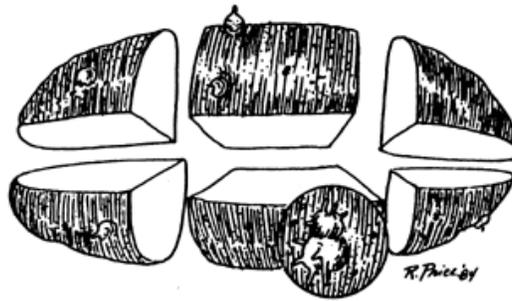
1) **Blossom End Rot:** This disorder is often seen early on and is characterized by a premature reddening, and a leathery spot on the bottom of the fruit that develops and later dries out. It is not a disease but a localized calcium deficiency caused by an interruption in the supply of water and calcium, which moves in the water stream of the plant. When that supply is stopped, the deficiency and thus symptoms can occur. The leathery spot can dry out and may sometimes turn fuzzy, which is not a disease, but a secondary infection. Causes of blossom end rot include a local calcium deficiency, fluctuations in soil moisture, drought, root uptake, and excessive fertilizer.

2) **Sun Scald:** This problem occurs when tomato fruit are exposed to direct heat from the sun. This intense heat damages the fruit cells and can be lethal to the fruit tissue. To reduce the chances of sun scald, make sure plants maintain healthy foliage to provide shade to developing fruit. Also, remove scalded fruit to redistribute the nutrients to undamaged fruit.

3) **Zippering:** Zippering is when an anther sticks to a developing ovary, and causes

damage as the fertilized ovary expands into tomato fruit. It usually starts when the fruit is green and later appears to be a long zipper on the fruit that extends from the tip of the scar to the blossom end of the fruit. Sometimes a hole develops, leaving the fruit open to disease. Choose varieties not prone to the disorder.

4) **Fruit Cracking:** Cracking of the fruit can either be radial or concentric. Radial cracks form near the stem and may appear all the way from the top to the bottom of the fruit. Concentric cracks usually form on the shoulder of the fruit appearing as rings of brown scar tissue. Tomatoes are most vulnerable to cracking during the fruit expansion stage. Environmental conditions that slow growth and then return to normal growth may be a part of the problem. To prevent cracking, maintain consistent soil moisture and water supply during periods of hot, dry weather.



5) **Graywall, or Blotchy Ripening:** Externally, graywall is characterized by a lack of pigment in the developing fruit. Internally, dark necrotic areas are visible in the vascular tissue of the outer walls. It typically develops when the fruit is still green but it can also develop later. Graywall can be caused by environmental conditions, which include prolonged cloudiness, low light, high humidity, and low temperatures. It can also be caused by high soil moisture, soil compaction, and excessive fertilization. Maintain the crop with as few growth disruptions as possible because rapid changes during the production cycle cause the disorder.

6) **Catface:** “Catface” is a general term used to describe a tomato fruit that has suffered major deformities. There is typically no open wound and it usually appears on the blossom end as a large scar-like indentation and multiple growing nodes. The exact cause of catfacing is unclear, but low temperatures (below 60°F) three weeks before bloom is a possible contributor. There are significant variety differences in tomatoes prone to catfacing in early summer Oregon conditions.

Cutting “seed” potatoes

As all gardeners know, potatoes are clones, planted from tubers or pieces of tubers grown and stored from the year before.

“Seed” potatoes that are larger than eggs are generally cut into egg-sized pieces before planting. This saves on the seed needed since one large potato could easily provide four seed pieces. The process of cutting and curing the cut seed is

important. First, never use a potato with any signs of disease, either cut or uncut. Second, after cutting, let the potatoes cure in a paper bag at 50-65 degrees for 4-6 days (gently shake the potatoes at day two) to develop the “corky” texture over the cut surface that will help protect the seed from disease once it is planted. Third, consider dusting the seed pieces with sulfur at planting to further reduce disease concerns and to help protect the plant from potato scab. Finally, plant as soon as the potential for a 28-degree frost is over (usually around the third week in March but no guarantees). Cover with row covers if a frost is imminent.



That's the Way it Grows

Don't Dig in Wet Soil!

February was crazy weather, no doubt about it. The good news is that all that snow and rain has added to the glaciers, and perhaps we won't have drought issues this summer.



But I'm gonna hazard a guess here and say it's probably too wet to plant any seeds in the ground. If your soil is not waterlogged, then now is the perfect time to plant bare root trees, roses and cane berries.

These can tolerate more wet planting conditions.

If you've got waterlogged soil, meaning quite muddy as you dig, then stop digging and wait. Any digging you do when the soil is soggy will result in compacted soil around the roots, and the plant will struggle.

Waterlogged soil has no pore spaces—the water has forced the air out from between the soil particles. Soils with good tilth generally are 40-60% pore space. Plants roots and organisms that contribute to the soil structure breathe just like you and I, and need these this aeration. Digging and firming muddy soil around roots ruins the soil structure, suffocating roots and making it extremely difficult for new rootlets to push out into the soil.

The best way to improve your soil structure is to add composted organic matter to the soil. But of course, we will have to wait a while until the soil dries a bit. Avoiding tillage and allowing worms to burrow help the soil structure and drainage. The worst thing we can do to soil structure is add sand. No amount of sand added will result in improved soil. In fact, adding sand to clay soils can result in concretion of the soil. The huge sand particles give the tiny clay particles something to stick to, and it's near impossible to break up. You cannot make sandy loam out of clay soil.

Your best bet is to have a compost pile and regularly add well-composted material to your soil whenever you dig or till. I usually have an enormous pile of garden mulch/organic matter in my yard, but have finally used it all up and planted some grass in its place. I'm sure this spring my new grass will be covered and my cats will again enjoy digging in the mulch I so nicely deliver to them. I should get a pile of sand just for them.

Dreaming of Summer

I am especially glad that I took the time to cover my vegetable garden with heavy black plastic last fall. I will be able to work the soil much sooner than if it had been left uncovered to the snow and rain. The soil will also be warmer, which will jump start transplants and seed germination.

I am currently planning my vegetable garden, since I can't go outside and dig. If I'm honest, I don't like playing in the dirt when it's cold and wet anyway. I'd much rather stay indoors during the winter, which is why I usually put off pruning my fruit trees. Which I have to start getting done soon...

Last year, I purchased my tomato starts from the Master Gardeners' Spring Fair, as always. I was pretty impressed with the San Marzano paste tomatoes. The plant was absolutely loaded with fruit all summer. They lasted on the vine without going soft until I felt like picking. They are quite big, with thick walls, and have excellent flavor. They are perfect for sauces because they are so easy to peel and have few seeds. I don't put them through a food mill at all, just blanch and peel, seed, then chop them in the food processor. San Marzanos are considered by chefs and aficionados as the best tasting paste tomatoes. They may be right about that.



I always plant a beefsteak tomato, because it's just not summer without a thick slab of tomato with fresh mozzarella and basil. My favorite is still the heirloom Brandywine. It produces huge, meaty and flavorful fruit. The vines are indeterminate and sprawl unless staked. They will grow 6-10 feet tall. Beefsteaks don't produce a huge crop, so I plant two.

All this thinking about tomatoes has me anxious for summer. Hurry up Spring!

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

MARCH 2014

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

- Plan the vegetable garden carefully for spring, summer, and fall vegetables that can be eaten fresh or preserved. If you lack in-ground gardening space, plan an outdoor container garden.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. Some cool season crops (onions, kale, lettuce, spinach) can be planted when the soil is consistently at or above 40°F.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Lawn mowing: set blade at 0.75 to 1 inch for bentgrass lawns; 1.5 to 2.5 inches for bluegrasses, fine fescues, and ryegrasses.
- Compost grass clippings and yard waste, except for clippings from lawns where weed-and-feed products or herbicides (weed killers) have been used.
- Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.
- Prune gooseberries and currants; fertilize with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees, only if needed. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- If needed, fertilize rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blossoms fade.
- Fertilize caneberries (broadcast or band a complete fertilizer or manure).

Planting/Propagation

- Divide hosta, daylilies, and mums.
- Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
- Plant insectary plants (e.g. Alyssum, Phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow, dill) to attract beneficial insects to the garden. See PNW550 (Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden) for more information.
- If soil is dry enough, prepare vegetable garden and plant early cool-season crops (carrots, beets, broccoli, leeks, parsley, chives, rhubarb, peas, radish). Plant onions outdoors as soon as the soil is dry enough to work. Plant berry crops (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, and other berry-producing crop plants). See OSU Extension publications for varieties.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Spray trees and shrubs for webworms and leafrollers, if present.
- Protect new plant growth from slugs. Least toxic management options include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; iron phosphate baits are safe to use around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits, or any other chemical control.
- Learn to identify the predatory insects that can help to keep aphids and other pests under control.
- Spray to control leaf and twig fungus diseases in dogwood, sycamore, hawthorn, and willow trees.
- Prune ornamentals for air circulation and to help prevent fungus diseases.
- Monitor for European crane fly and treat lawns if damage has been verified.
- Start rose blackspot control tactics at budbreak. Control rose diseases such as black spot. Remove infected leaves. Spray as necessary with registered fungicide.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Trim or shear heather when bloom period is finished.
- Start tuberous begonias indoors.
- Take geraniums, begonias, and fuchsias from storage. Water and fertilize. Cut back if necessary. Move outdoors next month.





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



March 2014

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

Greetings - This past month we had our graduation ceremony at the monthly chapter meeting. During the evening, we were able to recognize members who had completed their hours and those who had done exceptional work as Master Gardeners.

Chip presented certificates for those completing the required hours. Receiving certificates were: *Scott Bauska, Joe Crisp, Peggy Crisp, Carole Davidson, Rose DeFreece, Colleen DeLong, Ernie Fiori, Jessica Hall, Shirley Harrison, Jerry Keenon, Mary Newell Dickinson, Michele Rae, Mary Woiccak, and Gail Zmok.*

Green Thumb and Awards of Appreciation went to *Scott Bauska, Shirley Harrison, Mary Woiccak, Colleen DeLong, Jessica Hall, Carole Davidson, Mary Newell Dickinson, Peggy Crisp, Ernie Fiori, Rose DeFreece, Sue Hart, Michele Rae and Debi Brimacomb.*

Master Gardener of the Year for 2013 were presented to *Lavina Patterson and John Salmon.* BeJewelled Award to *Carey Bowen* and Behind the Scenes Award to *Jan Campbell.*

Congratulations to all of you. With all of your hard work and efforts we are able to not only have a successful chapter but make a positive impact in our communities. Thank you.

--Dennis Snyder



Notes from your Treasurer

If you will make approved purchases and will expect reimbursement, remember to get your receipts to me within 90 days. Board Policy states "*No requests for reimbursements will be paid without a receipt detailing the expense. All receipts*

Calendar: At-A-Glance

- || Mar. 6.. Demonstration Garden and other MG Extension Projects Planning meeting, 3:15 p.m., Extension office
- || Mar. 6.. Board Meeting, 3:45 p.m. Extension office
- || Mar. 27. Chapter Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Speaker: Harry Olson, *Taking Vegetable Gardening to New Heights*, OSU Extension Classroom, St. Helens

== must be submitted within 90 days of the expenditure and within the same calendar year to be valid. ==

Thanks to all who have paid their membership dues. As of this writing we have 58 members. For those of you who have not yet sent your \$10 checks, make them payable to CCMGA, mail to me at 265 S.13th St., St. Helens, 97051, turn them in at chapter meetings, or drop them off at the Extension Office. Remember to include any changes in your contact information for the Roster that will be published in early April. **You must pay your dues by March 31 to be included in the 2014 Roster.**

--Gail Martyn, Treasurer,
CCMGA.Treasurer@comcast.net, 503-397-5537

Calling All Master Gardeners

Raffle tickets are now available for the Columbia County Master Gardener Annual Spring Fair to be held April 26 at the St. Helens High School from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Just \$1.00 each for a chance to win some terrific prizes, including plants, planters, potting table, fertilizers and tomato cages. Check out a few bundles of tickets to offer to gardener friends. Tickets are available at Chapter meetings, Extension Office and by calling Debbie Broberg at 503-366-7850.



Where the wild things aren't

Killing English ivy

English ivy is on a trajectory to become the dominant plant in our forest understory over the next 50 years. It spreads easily by birds that eat the berries and deposit the seeds. It is quite tolerant of low light conditions and is able to outcompete anything native in our forest floors. Nothing really eats it (more on that in a minute) and it seems perfectly adapted to our climate.

It is unclear why the pace of invasion is picking up but it is probably due to a combination of the standard geometric increase process common to all seriously invasive species and perhaps also to climate change.

So what are our options? If the plants are small and few in number, hand removal is an option. Just remember that any portion of this wicked plant that was left can regenerate roots and resume growth without much apparent effort. Hand removal on a large scale is challenging and can require a huge number of volunteer hours (volunteers because you couldn't afford to pay for this effort) over a number of years.

Deer (allegedly), cattle, sheep, and goats can all consume ivy but it is not a preferred food and it is unclear whether there might be health or nutritional consequences from targeted grazing of an ivy stand over long periods of time. The problem with grazing is that it relies on carbohydrate starvation of the roots and crown by the continuous removal of the ivy leaves. The animals would have to be returned to the stand fairly quickly and on multiple cycles to get any impact. It is unclear if a stand grazed hard and then left alone for six months would



be any worse for the grazing. I would bet on the ivy in that circumstance.

This gets us to chemical control. Again, ivy seems to hold all the cards. Between the elaborate root systems, the dense multi-storied foliage, and the waxy leaves, chemical control has been quite iffy.

The Nature Conservancy did quite a bit of English ivy herbicide work about ten years ago and felt that they got fair to good results by spraying glyphosate (the active ingredient in Roundup™ and other products) between October and March. A recent thread from a group of very smart weed “warriors” in northwest Oregon tried to consolidate what they had learned. Most had been using a mix of triclopyr (Garlon 3a™ and others) with glyphosate in a July-September and January-February windows with a suitable surfactant at 1%. On colder days, they upped the surfactant concentration to 2% to improve leaf penetration. Some reported a significant drop in efficacy of the winter applications with July perhaps being the best month.

If these herbicides are being used in forests, make sure they are labeled for that use. Always read and follow all label instructions. Most heavy stands of ivy suppress all other understory growth. Thus there would be little non-target injury in either time frame. If there are spring ephemerals or other herbaceous perennial plants you want to protect, look to the winter timing when they are dormant. Neither product is residual. It was also clear from their comments that results on ivy are still somewhat unpredictable and more information is needed.

Ultimately, we as a society will need to urge our legislators to invest in biocontrol options to reduce the vigor and spread of this most pernicious weed.

Farm and livestock notes

Cold winters make larger calves

There is a fair literature indicating that colder winters tend to produce larger calves in spring-calving herds. In fact, the relationship show that there is a one pound increase for every one degree decrease in average winter temperatures from the long-term winter months averages. It might be worth calculating the average for your area and compare it with the monthly averages.

Where this could make a difference are with the first calf heifers. They are generally structurally smaller than they will ultimately be which can lead to calving complications. Larger cows that may be a bit short on condition at this time may fatigue more quickly at calving. Both may require assistance and the earlier that assistance is given when it is clearly needed, the better the outcome for both the calf and the cow.



What is the right weight for lambs?

Lambs generally dress out at 50% of their live weight. An optimal size is the size your market wants and generally, one that, for your herd, is the point where the right amount of fat “cover” is present but not into the weights where additional feed is being turned into more fat than muscle. For many of the traditional small to medium sized breeds, that is between 90-110 pounds live weight. For bigger framed lambs, especially Suffolks, that optimal live weight could be as high as 130-140 pounds.

Why is this important? At a certain point in the lamb’s growth and development, more feed is going proportionally to fat and to

muscle growth. With additional feed being converted by the lamb into excess fat, someone will have to remove much of it when the carcass is broken down into the various primal or finished cuts. That can be expensive and will often lower the live weight price paid per pound significantly. The over fat lamb may provide the consumer with a less optimal experience when cooking and eating it. That may dampen their enthusiasm for lamb. In addition, if you purchased extra feed for those extra “fatty” pounds, the math gets even worse.

Some of the most competitive lamb exporters in the world are Australia and New Zealand. Australian lamb carcasses average 39-52 pounds and those from New Zealand 35-44 pounds. Most are completely grass-finished. They know what they are doing. As a side note, one study some ten or so years back indicated that it cost less to ship a lamb carcass from New Zealand to San Francisco by ship than one from Oregon to San Francisco by truck. The energy costs of ship transport are very favorable.

Grass tetany season

Pastures are slower to get started this year. At some point, lush pasture growth will return and along with that growth comes the threat of grass tetany, a metabolic disorder of cattle (especially), sheep, and goats. Spring growth dilutes magnesium in the grass. That can lead to a magnesium imbalance in the livestock and then to tetany, a fatal condition if not treated immediately by your vet. Fertilizing your pastures with nitrogen may aggravate the potential for grass tetany.

It is very important that you feed magnesium supplements now and through the late spring. In addition, if possible, feed hay before putting animals out to pasture in

the morning. For more complete information on tetany, visit with your veterinarian. Be watchful and learn the tetany symptoms. For more complete information, go to the following web site for a publication on grass tetany and other useful information:

<http://www.csubeef.com/dmdocuments/627.pdf>

Feeding cows before calving

We are down to crunch time with our cows. Their nutritional needs up to calving and into nursing are the highest they will be all year. To make matters worse, as this is being written, we are getting hard rain and temperatures 5-10 degrees below normal for this time of year. This adds to the stress on the cattle.

There are several things you need to do. First, take a body condition score for your cows when they are inside feeding. They should be at least at BCS 5.5 and 6 would be better. If you don't know how to use this simple system, learn it. See this great publication:



<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsw eb/Get/Document-1965/ANSI-3283web.pdf>

If their condition seems to be fine, keep doing what you are doing. Add extra feed if the weather is nasty. If their condition is marginal or poor, immediately up the amount and quality of what you are feeding. Alfalfa fed alternately with grass hay in about the same ratios will help. So will adding a 16% protein soy/grain ration at about four pounds/head/day along with your

hay. This has to be done now. It is very hard to improve a cow's condition once she starts nursing her calf. And with the higher value of those calves in the current market, it doesn't make any sense to cut corners on feed.

Finally, there is a real misunderstanding that "overfeeding" a cow can cause calving difficulties. That is only true if the cow is way over-fat, say a BCS of 8 or 9. In my experience, that is rarely the case here.

Cows that are underfed can result in:

- ❖ Increased calving difficulties due to lowered energy reserves and less ability to push out the calf
- ❖ Calves that are less vigorous and may take longer to start nursing
- ❖ Poor quality colostrum and less milk
- ❖ Increase calf scours
- ❖ Reduction in overall calf immune response
- ❖ Slowing the time it takes them to come back into heat again for breeding
- ❖ Poor first-calf heifer development

If this doesn't convince you to feed appropriately, I don't know what will. So get your calving barn space ready, have all your supplies on hand, feed magnesium supplements to slow grass tetany (see above) and have enough feed available for the worst of conditions. With any luck, the weather will brighten, the grass will grow, the calves will drop effortlessly (from your standpoint, anyway), and the calves will make you feel sort of rich.



Tree Seedling Sale – Saturday, March 8th

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Lawrence Oil, 845 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens

AVAILABLE: Elite Douglas fir*, western red cedar*, ponderosa, giant sequoia, Oregon ash, coastal redwood, grand fir, Pacific madrone, incense cedar, quaking aspen, sugar maple, eastern redbud, red Japanese maple, dawn redwood, Chinese dogwood, sweet gum, red elderberry, red flowering currant, June berry, white oak and noble fir. (*=bag quantity limited). Be sure to arrive EARLY for BEST selections. For more info: 503-556-8800, 503-369-9592 or 503-543-2434. Be sure to arrive early for best selections.



Pruning workshop on March 15th

The Columbia County Master Gardeners™ are putting on a pruning workshop on March 15th from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Columbia County Fairgrounds. Topics covered will include pruning fruit trees, small fruits including grapes, roses, and other woody plants. There will be a brief discussion about fruit tree diseases and insects. **The event is free and open to the public.** Dress for the weather and bring pruning tools if so inclined.

Homesteading in St. Helens: Producing Food on a Small Lot

Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m.

This program will cover producing and preserving food for your family and friends. Topics covered will include vegetable crops for small spaces, extending the gardening year, soil preparation, growing fruit in small places, foraging beyond your yard and food preservation options. Speakers are Chip Bubl, Dennis Snyder and Sue Snyder. Held at the St. Helens Public Library, 375 S. 18th St., St. Helens, 503-397-4544.

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