



Country Living

Provided to you by the

OSU Extension Service Columbia County

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

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

May 2014

Programs for you . . .

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

- May 1 **Demonstration Garden and other MG Extension Projects Planning Meeting.** 3:15 p.m., OSU Extension Classroom, St. Helens
- May 1 **Master Gardener™ Board Meeting.** 3:45 p.m., OSU Extension Classroom, St. Helens
- May 6 **Scappoose Bay Watershed Council.** 7 p.m., Scappoose Bay Watershed Council's office, Warren
- May 8 **Homesteading in St. Helens, Part 2: Foraging for Food.** 7 p.m., St. Helens Public Library. The class will describe the variety of plants, animals, waterfowl, game birds, and fish that can be harvested within Columbia County. There will also be a follow-up discussion on raising meat on your property within the city limits or outside of them. Presenters: Dennis and Sue Snyder, OSU Extension Master Gardeners and Chip Bubl, OSU Extension agent. The program is free and open to the public.
- May 10 **2014 Garden Fair & Plant Sale.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Vernonia High School Commons, see back page.
- May 13 **Lower Columbia Watershed Council.** 7 p.m., SWCD office-35285 Millard Rd., St. Helens
- May 15 **Spring Forage & Livestock Health mtg.** 6-9 p.m., Clatsop County Extension office, Astoria. OSU Extension & Clatsop SWCD are co-sponsoring. Gene Pirelli, regional OSU livestock agent will speak on coast-adapted forage species and the management approaches to get the most out of your forages; Chip Bubl, OSU Ag Extension agent will speak on pasture weed management and livestock poisoning plants; and Russ Hunter, Knappa DVM will discuss livestock health topics pertinent to this time of year. For more info contact Wendi Agalzoff at Clatsop SWCD 503-325-4571 or OSU Extension - Clatsop County at 503 325-8573. **Free.**
- May 21 **Soil & Water Conservation District.** 7:30 p.m., SWCD office-35285 Millard Rd., St. Helens
- May 22 ... **Master Gardener™ Chapter Meeting.** 6:30 p.m. Speaker will be Jolly Butler, "*Making the most out of Small Gardens*," OSU Extension Classroom, St. Helens. **The public is invited. Free.**
- May 22 ... **Upper Nehalem Watershed Council.** 7 p.m., Vernonia Grange, <http://nehalem.org/> 503-429-0869
- May 29 ... **Soil! What it is and how it works!** 6-9 p.m., Clatsop Co. Extension office, Astoria. James Cassidy from the OSU Crop & Soil Science Dept. will present a program suitable for both farmers and gardeners on the complex nature of soils. This program is being co-sponsored by Clatsop Soil & Water Conservation District and OSU Extension. Cassidy's program will cover how soils are formed, soil health and microbiology, and how farmers and gardeners can best make productive use of this precious resource. He is a great teacher. Chip Bubl, OSU Agricultural agent from Columbia County will be there to answer crop/soil fertility questions and describe how to interpret a soil test. For more info contact Wendi Agalzoff at Clatsop SWCD 503-325-4571 or OSU Extension - Clatsop County at 503 325-8573. **Free.**

Chip Bubl

Chip Bubl, OSU Extension Faculty, Agriculture

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

In the garden

Vegetables are hot

A recent survey of national greenhouse growers revealed that the fastest growing product lines are vegetables and herbs. Both the sheer volume and the diversity of commercial vegetable/herb starts have been climbing. This trend has been in place for several years.

Corralling moles

Is it possible to fence out moles? My sense is that it is possible but not at all easy. Digging a three-foot trench and putting tight mesh stainless steel fabric into it won't stop moles from crawling above ground and past the fence. And leaving a six-inch metal lip would be an accident waiting to happen, unless the lip was tied into a deer fence.

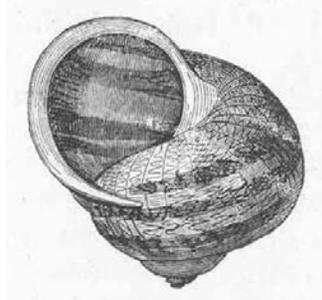
For individual wooden-sided raised beds, it is possible to attach ¼ inch stainless steel netting onto the underside of the frame. This has helped several gardeners I have visited with to reduce their mole activity to the paths in between (or far under) the beds. This will also keep rats and voles out as well. I have seen costs of ~\$60 for a 48" by 25 feet roll.

Several gardeners have installed tall (10-12 inches high) wooden-sided raised beds on a 10-12 inch deep layer of 1-2 inch crushed rock and felt that it effectively deterred moles.

Slug and snail notes

People hoping to make a fortune selling escargot introduced the European garden snail to North America. There are parts of Oregon (the Eugene/Springfield area and the Clatsop plains) where they are well established. They are voracious pests, eating plants with the same vigor as slugs. There are some isolated (so far) populations in Columbia County. My best guess is that these snails came in containers, either as adults and/or eggs. Snails

are common in California and a significant amount of nursery plant material comes north.



I believe it is prudent to slug/snail bait around new container plants at installation and during the first year to prevent the

introduction of these pests. However, pay attention the next paragraphs to avoid any injury to pets, especially dogs, when slug/snail baiting.

Metaldehyde-based slug/snail baits have been around for a number of years. It is in a number of different trade-named products, both as pellets and an emulsion that you squeeze out. To know whether the bait you are considering for purchase contains metaldehyde, read the active ingredient statement on the container.

Why is this important? There is a long veterinary history of dog and cat poisoning with "meta". One study indicated a fatality



rate of 8-9% of animals affected and brought in for treatment. There are thought to be numbers of cases where treatment

is not sought and the cause of death is never determined. Dogs are much more often poisoned than cats, probably due to their greater consumption of the baits. The size of dog makes little difference in poisoning cases.

In recent years, some of the garden companies have tried to reformulate their "meta" baits to make them very bitter. It isn't yet clear how this has affected inadvertent pet feeding. "Meta" baits can be used safely only if you are thoughtful about potential pet issues.

There is another slug/snail toxicant that seems to be largely pet safe. The active ingredient is iron phosphate. It is found in several trade names including *Sluggo*. Iron phosphate is equally effective against slugs and snails though they may take a little longer. As with all crop protection products, read and follow the label directions for safe and effective use.

Tomatoes that won't ripen

The tomato information booth at the recent OSU Master Gardeners Spring Fair had a number of questions about tomatoes that failed to ripen. Last year was interesting because we had excellent tomato weather from April through mid-May. Then we got hit with two weeks of cold, cloudy weather that affected tomato vigor during some of the longest days (and most important) tomato growing time of the year.



Then we had good tomato growing weather with a couple of hot days. So how did the weather affect tomato growth and how did those effects ripple through the season? And what else can affect ripening?

Many tomato varieties won't set fruit if night temperatures are below 55°. Once a tomato fruit is set it takes 40 – 50 days to ripen. So last May, we lost several weeks of fruit that would have matured in mid-July if the weather hadn't turned. It compressed later fruit loads, leading to greater competition for sugars and pigments between more fruits and longer times for individual fruits to ripen. Use of varieties that set fruit in cooler conditions, like most of the OSU varieties and some others like *Stupice* and *Glacier*, might have smoothed this problem out. So would the use of cloches, walls of water or other techniques to keep the plants warmer in their formative

months. A warm tomato is a happy tomato.

While we think of tomatoes as hot weather plants, ripening slows down when air temperatures stay at 85°+ degrees during the day and into the evening and/or soil temperatures peg above 80°. The warmer it gets, the worse the effect. One theory is that the plant starts growing deeper root systems at the expense of sending the sugars and red pigments that characterize a ripe tomato to the developing fruits. I think that this tends to be less of an issue in western Oregon because our night temperatures drop significantly on hot days. But there were a few stretches of hot days where the night temps stayed near 80°.

That can disrupt the ripening cycle. And there are varietal differences in how tomatoes individually respond to heat.

Excess nitrogen fertilizer, especially applied after early July, can cause the plant to become more vegetative and produce fewer flowers and divert its sugars to more stems and foliage and not into the fruits.

Selective removal of some foliage (especially lower leaves which can be disease reservoirs and new side branches) may help ripening but it needs to be done carefully since it is the leaves that do the heavy lifting making the sugars and red pigments. And leaves protect the fruit from sunburn if it gets very hot.

Taking in to account that fruit takes 40-50 days to ripen, it does make some sense to start removing some small fruit in September. But it is worth the gamble to allow some to continue. We have had years where we got tomatoes ripening into late October. So watch the weather forecasts.

When tomatoes turn from a dark green to a lighter yellow-green, they will ripen inside. If a big rain is coming, pick that fruit and bring it in to ripen. Check frequently for fruit decay.



That's the Way it Grows

Permanence and Going in Circles

Nothing in the garden need be permanent. That's the operating standard I've planted by for many years. It's a concept quite freeing for a gardener. It has allowed me to buy lots of plants and stick them in the ground any old place, sometimes just to get them planted (I usually buy the plants first and then try to figure out where to put them). This has not always been a good thing.

The problem with sticking a plant in the ground and thinking, "Well, I can always move it," is that one day you probably will have to move it. That's what I'm faced with of late.

Over the last month, I've been out edging, weeding, seed starting and looking out the window a lot when it rains, trying to envision what the perfect landscaping would look like in my yard. Just like I do every day of every year. I just can't stop myself from planning and wanting more. More beds, more trees, more fruit, more perennials . . .

So many plants, so little yard. And with everything exploding into bloom, I'm getting that familiar excitement that always leads to a plant buying frenzy.

Much to my dear husband's dismay, I've got more plans for the yard this summer. I need more room for my perennial starts and the dozens of iris seedlings that will eventually grow into full-size rhizomes and increase exponentially. (Yikes! What did I get myself into?)

The first part of my plan is to build a low stone retaining wall along the side of my yard and backfill with good soil. Then I can fill it with the plants I need to move, and a several still languishing in their pots.

I have two apple trees that will be quite close to the wall and make it difficult to mow, but creative use of mulch will solve the problem. I can remove one peach tree because the cats used it for a scratching post and have mutilated the bark to the extent that the tree no longer puts on leaves. I may have to remove the other peach tree as well, because I haven't sprayed early enough each year, and peach leaf curl has a death grip.

Of course, before I get my retaining wall built, I have to relocate the raspberry row, currently in the way. And I have an arbor to build so I can plant and train my two new grapes—still in their nursery pots.

Before I can put up the trellis, I have several perennials to dig up and move, because they are right where the arbor is going. But then, I am worried that the dogwood tree, the very first thing I ever planted in my yard, will eventually

crowd the grape arbor where I want it. I could move the arbor when the tree gets too big, but then I'd have to move the grapes.

And just where do I put those perennials that I dug up for the arbor? Hmm, how about in that retaining wall planter . . .

Oh, dear. I've done it again. I've got myself going around in circles. Maybe I should return the box full of unbuilt arbor, and just go outside and pick weeds or compost something. I get myself into more trouble looking out the window and plotting, er, planning what I want in the yard. I really should lay off those garden makeover shows.



—Lisa M. Long

Columbia County Master Gardener™
Smashwords.com/profile/view/LisaMarieLong

MAY 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

- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. Wait until the soil is consistently above 70⁰F to plant tomatoes, squash, melons, peppers and eggplant.
- Place pheromone traps in apple trees to detect presence of codling moth. Plan a control program of sprays, baits, or predators when moths are found.

Maintenance and Clean Up

- If needed, fertilize rhododendrons and azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal. Remove spent blossoms.
- When selecting new roses, choose plants labeled for resistance to diseases. Fertilize roses and control rose diseases such as mildew with a registered fungicide.

Planting/Propagation

- Plant dahlias, gladioli, and tuberous begonias in mid-May.
- Plant chrysanthemums for fall color.
- Plant these vegetables (dates vary locally; check with local gardeners):
 - Mid-May, transplant tomato and pepper seedlings.
 - Snap and lima beans, Brussels sprouts, cantaloupes, slicing and pickling cucumbers, dill, eggplant, kale, peppers, pumpkins, summer and winter squash, onions, potatoes, tomatoes, watermelon.



Pest Monitoring and Management

- Monitor blueberry, raspberry, strawberry and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). To learn how to monitor for SWD flies and larval infestations in fruit, visit <http://swd.hort.oregonstate.edu/gardeners>.
- If an unknown plant problem occurs, contact your local Master Gardener or plant clinic for identification and future management options.
- Manage weeds while they are small and actively growing with light cultivation or herbicides. Once the weed has gone to bud, herbicides are less effective.
- Trap moles and gophers as new mounds appear.
- Leaf-rolling worms may affect apples and blueberries. Prune off and destroy affected leaves.
- Monitor aphids on strawberries and ornamentals. If present, control options include washing off with water, hand removal, or using registered insecticides labeled for the problem plant. Read and follow all label directions prior to or using insecticides. Promoting natural enemies (predators and parasitoids that eat or kill insects) is a longer-term solution for insect control in gardens.
- Spittle bugs may appear on ornamental plants as foam on stems. In most cases, they don't require management. If desired, wash off with water or use insecticidal soap as a contact spray. Read and follow label directions when using insecticides, including insecticidal soap.
- Control cabbage worms in cabbage and cauliflower, 12-spotted cucumber beetle in beans and lettuce, maggot in radishes. Control can involve hand removal, placing barrier screen over newly planted rows, or spraying or dusting with registered pesticides, labeled for use on the problem plant. Read and follow label directions when using insecticides.
- Tiny holes in foliage and shiny, black beetles on tomato, beets, radishes, and potato indicate flea beetle attack. Treat with Neem, *Bt-s*, or use nematodes for larvae. Read and follow label directions when using insecticides.
- Prevent root maggots when planting cabbage family, onions, and carrots, by covering with row covers or screens, or by applying appropriate insecticides.
- Monitor rhododendrons, 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 with beneficial nematodes when soil temperatures are above 55⁰F. 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 slugs with bait or traps and by removing or mowing vegetation near garden plots.



The Grapevine
 News for Columbia County Master Gardeners™
www.columbiacountymastergardeners.org
May 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 gardeners! It's a cool, rainy day - not good for yard work but just right for catching up on inside tasks - like writing this column.

Previously, I mentioned the hoop house we put in with some raised beds. We have been enjoying salads with lettuces and spinach for well over a month. What a treat - freshness, just picked. We have zucchini that will be ready soon as well as cabbage and onions. You don't have to have a hoophouse to do this - a raised bed with a cover will work fine.

For those of you who try to raise peaches, you know how much spraying it takes to prevent leaf curl. I got two dwarf peach trees from Raintree Nursery that only grow 5' tall. Since they don't get rained on they won't get the fungal spores that cause the leaf curl.

In the future, I'll let you know how the peaches work out. Gardeners are always looking for ways to get an edge on Mother Nature - we'll see if this is one of them.

Happy Gardening!
 --Dennis Snyder

Making the Most of Small Gardens

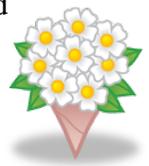
For the May chapter meeting, Master Gardener Jolly Butler will guide us through the special design considerations, consideration of scale, soil needs and the many plant options available for creating a delightful small space garden. Jolly became familiar to gardeners throughout the Portland area through her "Gardening 101" column in Garden Showcase magazine. Many gardeners learned their gardening basics in her classes at Portland Community College.

Calendar: At-A-Glance	
May 1 ..	Demonstration Garden and other MG Extension Projects Planning meeting, 3:15 p.m., Extension office
May 1 ..	Board Meeting, 3:45 p.m. Extension office
May 17	CCMG plant clinic booth begins at the Scappoose Saturday Market – call or email Dennis Snyder to help during the season
May 22.	Chapter Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Speaker: Jolly Butler, OSU Extension Classroom, St. Helens
Demo garden work days each Monday from 10 a.m. to Noon.	

Thank you!

Every year I am totally amazed at how wonderfully smooth the Spring Garden Fair runs. It's not due to anything I have done, but the efforts of my committee chairs and all the volunteers! Once again you have gone above and beyond your duties and have done a wonderful job – Thank you!

--Katherine Johnson, Spring Fair Coordinator



**Master Gardeners Contacts
 Officers for 2014**

Title	Name
President	Dennis Snyder
Vice President.....	Wes Bevans
Past President	LeRoy Schmidt
Secretary	Susan Snyder
Treasurer.....	Gail Martyn
Historian	Kit Gardes
OMGA Rep	Kathy Johnson
OMGA Alt. Rep.	Larry Byrum
Demo Garden	Linda Bainbridge
.....	Kit & Chip Gardes
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.ipcc.orst.edu

Weed topics: Weeds in commercial vegetable crops

With a few exceptions (asparagus, horseradish, and rhubarb), most vegetable crops are annuals. That means they are either direct-seeded or transplanted into tilled ground. Any field will inevitably have a population of weed seeds that were produced over a number of earlier production cycles. This seed burden can be modest or extensive. It may consist of less than ten species or a regular weed smorgasbord, again depending on past history.

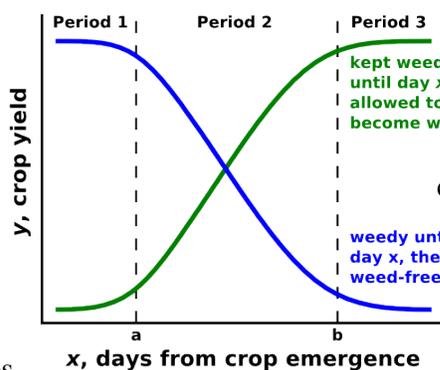
In annual cropping field, most of the weeds will be annual or sometimes biennial species like pigweed, lambsquarters, hairy nightshade, proso millet, and other usual suspects. That is because it is difficult for perennial weed species to withstand the normal herbicide and cultivation practices in vegetable farming for too long. However, there are some significant exceptions like field bindweed and a few others.

Within the annual weeds, there are summer annuals that germinate as the soil temperatures warm in the spring. That first flush of competition will be followed by other flushes again and again as the summer progresses. As we get closer to fall, winter or cool-season annual weeds show up more.

Direct-seeded vegetable crops need a virtually weed-free period to develop normally. For some weak competitors like carrots, parsley, and onions from seed, that period is up to a minimum eight weeks. Heavy competition from germinating annuals can capture the sun and suppress the crop past any point of recovery. When that happens, the time has been wasted while the field is replanted. Even a tougher plant like cabbage needs a five-

week period of weed-free growth for best yields. Ultimately, the crop will be large enough to capture the space and shade out competing weeds. If nutrients and moisture are not limiting, those later cycle weeds are a problem due to the seeds they will spread and for any impact they will have on harvesting operations.

For conventional growers, the herbicide choices can be extensive or limited depending on a given crop and the products labeled for that crop. If you know what your weed populations are likely to be, the choice of herbicide should be reasonably straightforward. New fields can often surprise you with a weed that escapes your herbicide profile of activity. The sooner you are aware of what you are dealing with, the sooner you can look at post-emergent options or cultivation and hand weeding to save the crop.



Taking good notes on the weed populations over the years in specific fields can help with crop rotation and the ability to use certain herbicides to clean up a field. Pay attention to the plant-back crop intervals. Talk to your agchem rep about your production cycle plans. The worst case is to plant a crop into a field with a known population of a very competitive weed and have no or poor herbicide options for its control. Then you have to rely on cultivation and/or hand labor to get your crop off to a good start. Where transplants are an option, you can buy some time and competition.

Fields that may be out of production for 30 or more days in the summer, will benefit from a competitive cover crop like buckwheat, phacelia, or sorghum/sudan as long as you don't let the buckwheat go to seed.

For more information on commercial vegetable weed control, see <http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/horticultural/vegetable-crops>

Farm and livestock notes

Alpaca collapse

In 2006, I wrote an article that questioned the foundations and assumptions about the value of alpacas. This article created a bit of a stir because essentially, I said that any business that makes 95% of its money selling breeding stock to others selling breeding stock that then sell to others sellingetc. is doomed to crash. I tried to discover if there really was a market for the end product (i.e. alpaca fleece), what was the extent of that market, what were the actual returns to the alpaca owner, what was the competition, and what were the costs. The reason I went through that effort was that eventually, everyone who wanted an alpaca was going to have one and the breeder market had to collapse unless the fleece market was really taking off. What I found was that the market for alpaca fleece was there but modest (at the high value end, only by direct marketing to fabric artists like knitters) and that the effort to transform the fleece into a saleable product and market to that community was very high. Fleece yields per alpaca were low and the end price of the fleece was constrained by fleeces coming in from Peru selling for (at the time) about \$6 per pound.

But people marketing alpacas wanted to hear none of this. They were sure I was wrong but never provided any answers relative to where the price would drop to when you couldn't make much money selling breeding stock. I did an unpublished analysis that indicated at most they would be worth \$800 and probably half that or less, that you would need 4-800 animals to be a viable economic unit, and that you would need good cheap land to graze

them on. Well, the bubble did burst. Alpacas are dead as an agricultural industry except for a few niche players. Many animals can be had for \$300 or less or can be picked up on Craig's list for free. They are now largely in the pet category (they are cute) and they cost, like dogs, about \$400 per year to take care of. I still think of the conversation I had with someone in Columbia County (whose name I never got) that had about eight alpacas with an estimated value at the time of about \$105K (her estimate). I urged her to sell them and pay off their mortgage with the proceeds. I hope they did get out. Many did not. I guess they had never heard of the chinchilla, nutria, llama, ostrich, or emu boom-bust cycles. Or somehow thought this one was going to be different. It wasn't.

Mixed species grazing

A number of small farms are using mixed species grazing to produce more saleable meat while improving the pastures. Cattle,



sheep and goats are the most common pasture mates. Each has their preferences: cattle prefer grass; sheep pick the most palatable materials and will graze a number of broadleaf weed species as well as grass; goats eat grass, weeds, and woody browse like blackberries

or wild rose. Careful attention to the composition of each pasture and the amount of preferred feed available to each species is important. Overgrazing can throw the predicted feed consumption patterns off.

The social aspects in mixed species grazing seem to be positive. Sheep may use cattle for shade and often will seek protection near cattle when predators approach. The more bonded the animals are, the better the results.

Finally, there may be some benefits in parasite load reductions in some conditions, especially on spring pastures.

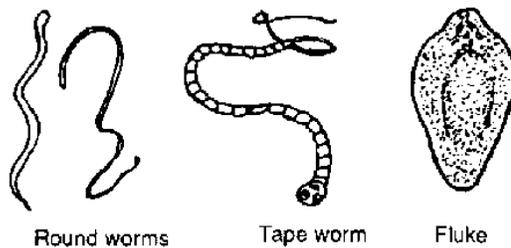
Now is the time to

Avoid close grazing: During the spring, grazing animals are in a productive stage, i.e. we expect them to produce milk, gain weight rapidly, etc. If they are forced to graze plants closely, they will be getting less nutritious parts of the plant. They will consume less than if they were eating only the best. Let them eat the upper leafy parts and then rotate to the next pasture. This should speed animal growth and plant recovery.

Keep cow nutrition at a peak: Calving is just ending and breeding season is beginning. To keep milk flow high for today's calf and to get the reproductive tract in shape for next year's calf, the cow needs the best feed of the year. If the grass is still limping along, make sure she has all the energy she needs and at least 9% protein. Pay attention to calcium, phosphorous, and selenium. Close attention to these items can pay off in more pounds of calf this year and more calves next year.

Control internal and external parasites:

These insidious creatures can degrade the health and productivity of your herd. Be alert to problems and discuss with your veterinarian how to take fecal samples, when to sample, and then how to implement a set of control strategies. Coccidia are often a problem for animals in close grazing and barn occupancy. Lice can also blow up fast. So can the usual (and sometimes, unusual) internal parasites. Knowledge through sampling always pays dividends. Your vet can also counsel you on how to avoid building up parasite resistance in your herd. It is an increasing concern.



Plan to manage pinkeye: This is a disease that is best managed through good cow/calf nutrition, mineral mixes, fly control (since face flies spread it) through ear tags and breaking up manure patties, and vaccinations as appropriate. Talk to your veterinarian about actions that best fit your situation.

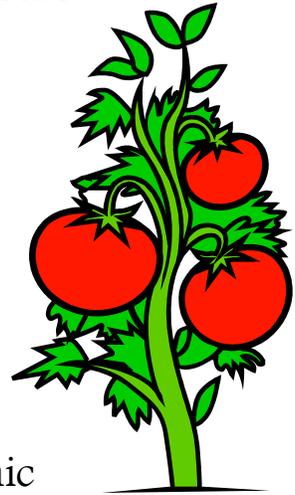
Get your hay equipment in shape: The best hay comes from fields harvested in late May. It is more digestible and has a higher protein content. With any luck, the weather will break nicely. Don't be sitting when you should be baling.

Work on Canada thistle, tansy ragwort, and blackberries: We are getting close to losing the opportunity to get good control of tansy ragwort with herbicides. On average, control drops off fast after May 15th. Since it has been a cooler spring, there may be a little extra time, but don't delay.

On the other hand, the window is just opening for Canada thistle and the two common blackberry species. There are some good thistle herbicides that work before the bud stage (clopyralid materials and others) that are worth trying. Note that they will damage clover if boom sprayed. As a spot spray, damage would be less significant. Talk to your agchem supplier. Triclopyr products (Crossbow and others) work well on blackberries from early-mid June on and will not damage grass. Be careful to not spray when it is very windy or going to be hot as this chemical can move off the leaves in the heat and travel to your garden. Glyphosate (Roundup and others) won't work well until September/October and will kill grass but isn't volatile. Always read and follow all label instructions.

Vernonia's 2014 Garden Fair and Plant Sale
Saturday, May 10, 2014
9 am ~ 4 pm

Vernonia High School Commons
1000 Missouri Ave.
Vernonia, Oregon



- Free Parking
 - Vendor Booths
 - 1000 Tomato Plants
 - Most Varieties are Certified Organic
 - Many other Plants and Vendor items Available



Presented by the VERNONIA COMMUNITY GARDEN GROUP

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

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