Looking for a great ornamental tree that will not get too large and offers attractive flowers in spring and beautiful bark in winter? Then you may want to consider the Amur Chokecherry for your landscape.

**Exposure:** Full sun to part shade.

**Water:** Moderate to low water use plant.

**Soil:** Well-drained site.

**Flower:** Fragrant, white flowers in 2-3” long racemes bloom after the leaves emerge in spring.

**Foliage:** Medium green in summer with non-descript yellow fall color.

**Fruit:** A rounded fleshy fruit that is 1/4” in size going from red to black as it ripens. Attracts birds.

**Growth Habit:** May be pyramidal when young going to a more rounded habit as it matures. Grown as a single or multi-trunk tree.

**Bark:** Glossy and cinnamon-brown to copper in color. May exfoliate and become shaggy.

**The Good:** Grows well in cold climates.

**The Bad:** Can sucker at the base of the trunk. Needs pruning.

*Prunus maackii*
Amur Chokecherry
USDA Hardiness Zone: 2-6
Height: 30-40’
Spread: 25-35’
Native to Korea, Manchuria
How to meet the watering needs of growing vegetables

Vegetable gardens in Oregon require regular watering in the summer because of extremely low rainfall during that season. When planning your garden, consider how you will meet the future water needs of the plants.

Information is available from the Oregon State University Extension publication, "Growing Your Own," a practical guide to gardening for first-time gardeners that can be accessed at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/grow/grow/flash/drip.html. Copies of a printed version are at county Extension offices.

Soil type is an important factor. Water soaks into and drains through sandy soil about twice as fast as it does clay soil; it takes longer to water to a specified depth in clay soil. Loam soil consists of both clay and sandy soil.

You can water by hand with a hose or a watering can, with soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems and with portable sprinklers.

Hand-watering delivers water directly to the plants, eliminating waste. Be sure to water deeply and take your time. Spot checks will indicate if you are delivering enough water.

Drip irrigation systems require an initial investment of time and money, but, once installed, are more convenient and conserve water. A typical drip system is run one or two hours once or twice a week. Avoid the tendency to overwater with drip systems; the surface may look dry while the rooting zone is wet. If in doubt, check the soil.

The pattern of soil wetting with drip irrigation is different for sandy and clay soils. In sandy soil, the water soaks straight in, wetting a narrow vertical band of soil. In clay soil, the water spreads more horizontally. Thus, drip emitters can be placed farther apart for clay soil than for sandy soil. See an animated example at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/grow/grow/flash/drip.html

Sprinklers tend to waste water by watering paths and other bare spots in the garden. To avoid losing water to evaporation and wind drift, always water when there is little wind. Because they wet foliage, sprinklers also can promote development of leaf diseases.

If using oscillating sprinklers, elevate them above the tallest plants so the water streams are not blocked and their patterns overlap. Runoff indicates you need to water at a slower rate.

Consider your soil, your plants and recent weather when determining how much and how often to water your garden. Sandy soil holds much

(Continued on page 5)
Oregon State University has hired a honeybee researcher from Texas A&M University as part of an initiative to help ensure that there are enough healthy honeybees to pollinate Oregon’s crops.

Sagili’s position was created at the request of Oregon agricultural groups worried about the health and supply of honeybees, which are crucial pollinators for many of the state’s crops, including blueberries, pears, cherries, apples and vegetable seeds.

Sagili, who earned a doctorate in entomology from Texas A&M, has two main duties: helping the honeybee industry through the OSU Extension Service and conducting research.

Sagili said his first action as Extension’s honeybee specialist will be to meet with beekeepers and industry representatives to find out what problems they face. He also plans to provide educational workshops at locations convenient for agricultural producers and to develop a Master Beekeeper program that would provide training to novice and experienced beekeepers. Furthermore, he plans to create a honeybee Web site that will provide the latest information on research, management practices and pest control.

As for research, Sagili said he intends to investigate how honeybee health is affected by Varroa mites, pesticides and stress resulting from the migration of hives. Sagili said Varroa mites, nutritional deficiencies or other factors might be the cause of colony collapse disorder, which occurs when adult honeybees abandon a hive. The phenomenon came to light in 2006 when beekeepers on the East Coast began to see their honeybee colonies dwindle.

"Colony collapse disorder is so complex that it will be a long time before we arrive at a conclusion as to what is causing it," Sagili said. "But meanwhile, beekeepers need to take steps to maintain healthy and strong colonies."

It’s unclear if the disorder has spread to Oregon, said OSU entomologist James Young. Young mailed voluntary surveys to beekeepers last year to find out what diseases and pests were affecting their honeybees. Of the 43 beekeepers who returned surveys, 12 reported losing 2,036 hives to what they thought was colony collapse disorder be-

(Continued on page 4)
Cut grass often—leave clippings

In case you’ve been wondering what to do with your grass clippings, just leave them on the lawn, advises Tom Cook, former turf grass specialist at Oregon State University.

Unless you’ve let the lawn grow excessively long, or the clippings are in thick clumps, grass clippings are a good source of nutrients. Leaving clippings helps save fertilizer costs and thereby prevents ground and surface water contamination.

"Our research has shown that we can cut the fertilizer application rate almost in half when we return clippings with a mulching type rotary mower," explained Cook. "And on lawns growing in clay soils, I have produced acceptable quality turf for as long as 12 years without adding any fertilizer at all."

Grass clippings contain up to the equivalent per weight of 3-4 percent nitrogen, .5 percent phosphorus and 2.5-3.5 percent potassium, said Cook.

If you plan to leave the clippings, mow the lawn often. "Frequent mowing, about once a week during the growing season, will have a greater impact on turf quality than any other lawn care practice except irrigation in the summer," he said. "I consider mowing more important than fertilizer if clippings are returned via a mulching mower. If clippings are removed, then the only way to keep fertility up is to keep adding more fertilizer."

Your grass should be cut often enough so that not more than one-third of the grass blade is removed at any one time. Don't leave piles of heavy, wet clippings on the lawn.

You need to rake them or the grass underneath may be smothered.

Be sure the mower blade is sharp and cuts, not tears, your grass. A sharp blade will also help chop the clippings into smaller pieces as you mow over the lawn time after time. A mulching mower works even better, because it is designed to chop up clippings very fine and then deposits them down in the turf canopy.

Despite rumors to the contrary, clippings do not promote thatch build up. Clippings break down quickly, often in a matter of a few weeks. "Virtually all research conducted with turf has shown that grass clippings do not increase thatch," Cook said. "In most cases, thatch increases as mowing height increases."

By: Carol Savonen
Source: Tom Cook

Honeybees

(Continued from page 3)


Young emphasized, however, that this doesn’t mean that colony collapse disorder exists in Oregon. An apiary inspector would need to visit the hives and verify the beekeepers' self-diagnoses, said Young, who oversees OSU Extension's Honey Bee Diagnostic Service. The service was added to OSU’s Insect ID Clinic last year in response to concerns from farmers, apiculturists and the general public about honeybee health. It checks for the presence of non-viral diseases and pests, including American and European foulbrood, chalkbrood, stonebrood and Varroa mites.

Young’s survey did confirm that American foulbrood and Varroa mites continue to be what he called "a serious threat" to apiculture in Oregon. Young and Sagili plan to conduct a more comprehensive examination of the health of Oregon's honeybees.

By: Tiffany Woods
Source: Ramesh Sagili
How to meet the watering needs of growing vegetables

(Continued from page 2)

less water than clay soils. Larger plants consume more water than seedlings. Hot, windy weather dries out the soil.

Instead of developing a watering schedule, monitor your garden to determine watering needs throughout the growing season. Different plants have different needs.

• Germinating seeds and seedlings need to be kept uniformly moist and not washed away; water them with a gentle spray every day or two. Be kept uniformly moist and not washed away; water them with a gentle spray every day or two.

• Developing plants need to be watered deeply, but less often, to encourage deep root growth. Water to a depth of at Vegetable gardens in Oregon require regular watering in the summer because of extremely low rainfall during that season. When planning your garden, consider how you will meet the future water needs of the plants.

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Drip irrigation systems require an initial investment of time and money, but, once installed, are more convenient and conserve water. A typical drip system is run one or two hours once or twice a week. Avoid the tendency to overwater with drip systems; the surface may look dry while the rooting zone is wet. If in doubt, check the soil.

The pattern of soil wetting with drip irrigation is different for sandy and clay soils. In sandy soil, the water soaks straight in, wetting a narrow vertical band of soil. In clay soil, the water spreads more horizontally. Thus, drip emitters can be placed farther apart for clay soil than for sandy soil. See an animated example at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/grow/grow/flash/drip.html

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If using oscillating sprinklers, elevate them above the tallest plants so the water streams are not blocked and their patterns overlap. Runoff indicates you need to water at a slower rate.

Consider your soil, your plants and recent weather when determining how much and how often to water your garden. Sandy soil holds much less water than clay soils. Larger plants consume more water than seedlings. Hot, windy weather dries out the soil.

Instead of developing a watering schedule, monitor your garden to determine watering needs throughout the growing season. Different plants have different needs.

• Germinating seeds and seedlings need to least six inches and then let the surface inch or two completely dry out before watering again.

• Crops such as lettuce, beets, green beans and chard draw water from the top foot or less of soil. Thoroughly soak the rooting zone and then don’t water until the plants show signs of needing additional water such as turning a dark bluish green or wilting during the hottest part of the day.

• Corn, tomatoes, asparagus and rhubarb have deep root systems that allow them to draw water from the top two feet of soil. Deep-rooted plants need water less frequently, but need more water to reach the rooting depth.

• As a general guideline, garden

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Calendar of events

- **April 24 & 25th** - *Spring Gardening Seminars* in Redmond at Eagle Crest Resort presented by the Central Oregon Chapter of OSU Master Gardeners. Keynote speaker, Jurgen Hess will speak on natives, Friday night and again on Saturday. Other classes include organic vegetable gardening, bee keeping, season extenders, ornamental grasses, turf grass maintenance, and more. Classes are $10 each or register for all day packages. On Saturday attend several garden classes and a fun garden market. To register check out our website at: [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes)

- **May 2nd** - Opening Day for *Hollinshead Community Garden* in Bend from 9:00 am—1:00 pm. Cost to rent a plot for the season is $20. For more information contact Jacquie at 593-9305.

Check out these Publications

Mulching Woody Ornamentals with Organic Materials

[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1629-e.pdf](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1629-e.pdf)

Growing Your Own


Pruning Landscape Trees

Garden Tips for April and May

APRIL

In the landscape
- Prune your deciduous trees and shrubs, using proper pruning techniques. Be careful not to prune your flowering trees and shrubs that bloom on last years growth (old wood), for example your lilacs. Wait until these plants are finished blooming and then prune shortly after the flowers die off. If you are not certain about when to prune your plant contact the OSU Extension Service or your local garden center to find out.
- Apply a dormant horticultural oil to your deciduous trees and shrubs with a history of insect problems, this product will smother overwintering eggs and the crawler stage of many insects such as aphids, spider mites and scale. A lighter horticultural oil should be used on your evergreens and deciduous trees and shrubs after they have leafed out.
- If you haven’t fertilized your bulbs yet, now is a good time. Use a fertilizer high in phosphorous (the second number on the fertilizer bag) for example, 0-46-0.
- You may need to get out the lawnmower and mow the lawn by the middle of April.

Vegetable Gardening
- Direct seed your beets, lettuce, peas, radish, and spinach.
- Transplant your broccoli, cabbage, onions, that you may have started from seed.
- Prepare garden soil for spring planting by adding organic matter including manures and compost or planting a cover crop (green manure) such as ryegrass, buckwheat, or barley.

MAY

In the landscape
- Continue to work your compost pile, by turning, adding materials and keeping it moist.
- Mid April through May is the best time to dethatch and aerate your lawn. Rent a dethatcher from the rental shop and pull up and remove thatch, follow with a fertilizer application to stimulate rapid recovery.
- Repair or change your sprinkler system to be more efficient.
- Now is the time to manage your weeds when they are small. First identify the weed, then remove by hand, mechanically, or chemically. Do not allow them to flower and go to seed.

Vegetable Gardening
- Direct seed your carrots, corn (late May), chard, kohlrabi, and potatoes.
- Transplant your brussel sprouts, cauliflower, cucumbers (late May), leeks, or peppers.
- Protect your plants and crops from frost by using row cover or walls of water.

How to meet the watering needs of growing vegetables

(Continued from page 5)

plants that have been watered properly, and therefore have developed deep roots, need a thorough watering every five to seven days in hot weather.

Avoid these common watering problems:
- Frequent, shallow watering promotes shallow roots that are susceptible to drought.
- Overwatering can fill soil pores with water, leaving little or no oxygen for roots and leaches away nutrients.
- Postponing irrigation after plants show signs of needing water can damage plants quickly in hot weather. Observe your plants every day or two and respond to their needs promptly.

By: Judy Scott

Source: Gail Langellotto
High Desert Gardening
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Ask an OSU Master Gardener™

Crook County
447-6228

Deschutes County
548-6088

Jefferson County
475-3808

Need some information?
We’ve got a list of our gardening publications available—just give us a call to receive this list!

Check out our website!
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/Horticulture/index.php