

January

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Faculty

The Oregon State University Extension Service encourages **sustainable gardening practices**.

Preventative pest management is emphasized over reactive pest control. Always identify and monitor problems before acting and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem. The conservation of biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) should be favored over chemical controls.

Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. First consider cultural, then physical and biological controls. Choose the least-toxic options (insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides — when used judiciously).

Recommendations in this calendar are not necessarily applicable to all areas of Oregon. For more information, contact your local Extension office at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/find-us>

Planning

- Keep a garden journal. Consult your journal in the winter, so you can better plan for the growing season.
- Begin planning this year's vegetable garden. Check with local retail garden or nursery stores for seeds and seed catalogs.
- Have your soil tested in your garden plot to determine its nutrient needs. Contact your local Extension office for a list of laboratories or view EM 8677: <http://bit.ly/OSUem8677>
- Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs and trees for propagation.
- Plan to replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with resistant cultivars in February: <http://bit.ly/PNWcultivar>

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Clean pruners and other small garden tools with rubbing alcohol.
- Reapply or redistribute mulch that has blown or washed away during winter.
- Place windbreaks to protect sensitive landscape

evergreens against cold, drying winds.

- **Central/Eastern Oregon:** To prevent winter damage from drying, water plants deeply every 6 to 8 weeks, when the temperatures are above freezing.
- **Western Oregon:** Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.
- **Western Oregon:** Water landscape plants underneath wide eaves and in other sites shielded from rain.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Scout cherry trees for signs and symptoms of bacterial canker. Remove infected branches with a clean pruner or saw. Sterilize tools before each new cut. Burn or send to landfill before bloom. See *Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards* (EC 631): <http://bit.ly/OSUec631>

- Watch for field mice damage on lower trunks of trees and shrubs. Eliminate hiding places by removing weeds. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on roses for general disease control, or plan to replace susceptible varieties with resistant cultivars in February: <http://bit.ly/PNWcultivar>
- **Western Oregon:** Moss in lawn may mean too much shade or poor drainage. Modify site conditions if moss is bothersome.
- Mid-January: Spray peach trees with approved fungicides to combat peach leaf curl and shothole. Or plant curl-resistant cultivars such as Frost, Q1-8 or Creswell.

Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Monitor houseplants for correct water and fertilizer; guard against insect infestations; clean dust from leaves.
- Protect sensitive plants such as weeping figs from cold drafts in the house.
- Propagate split-leaf philodendrons and other leggy indoor plants by air-layering or vegetative cuttings.
- Plant dwarf annual flowers inside for houseplants, including coleus, impatiens and seedling geraniums.
- **Western Oregon:** Gather branches of quince, forsythia, and flowering cherries and bring indoors to force an early bloom.

Trade-name products and services are mentioned as illustrations only. This does not mean that the Oregon State University Extension Service endorses these products and services or intends to discriminate against products and services not mentioned.

For additional OSU Extension gardening information, visit: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening>



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