March 2008

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

- **Western Oregon**: If soil is dry enough, begin vegetable garden soil preparation and plant cool-season crops (peas, lettuce, cabbage, onions, kale, chard).
- **Central Oregon**: Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts).
- **Central Oregon**: Plant chard.
- Divide hosta, daylilies, and mums.
- Plan and plant an edible landscape or flower bed.
- If you lack in-ground gardening space, plan a container garden: grow radishes, carrots, lettuce, and tomatoes during the warm season.
- Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Do not treat unless a problem is identified.
- If necessary, treat crowns of raspberry plants with registered insecticides to control raspberry cane borer.
- **Western Oregon**: Plant berry crops (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, and other berry-producing crop plants). See OSU Extension publications for varieties.
- **Western Oregon**: Fertilize caneberries (broadcast or band a complete fertilizer or manure).
- Prune gooseberries and currants; fertilize with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Spray trees and shrubs for webworms and leafrollers, if present.
- **Western Oregon**: Take geraniums, begonias, and fuchsias from storage. Water and fertilize. Cut back if necessary. Move outdoors next month.
- Fertilize rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas with acid-type fertilizer.
- Spray to control leaf and twig fungus diseases in sycamore, hawthorn, and willow trees.
- Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
- Treat lawns for European crane fly if damage has been confirmed.
- Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.
- **Western Oregon**: Best time of year to thatch and renovate lawns.
- Plan the vegetable garden carefully for spring, summer, and fall vegetables that can be eaten fresh or preserved.
- Learn to identify the predatory insects that can help to keep aphids and other pests under control.
- Protect new plant growth from slugs. Use bait or traps.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blossoms fade.
- Trim or shear heather when bloom period is finished.
- Start tuberous begonias indoors.
- Plant insectary plants to attract beneficial insects to the garden.
- Do not compost grass clippings from lawns where weed-and-feed products or herbicides have been used.

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.

Gardening information online—http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening
• Early April: fertilize lawn, let spring rains carry the fertilizer into the soil.
• If lawns are becoming thin and sickly, consider overseeding with a mixture of perennial ryegrass and fescue.
• Protect dogwood trees, as they begin growth, against anthracnose diseases. Apply a copper fungicide or Daconil. Rake and destroy fallen leaves spring through fall.
• Help youngsters start a garden this year with carrots, chard, lettuce, onions, and peas.
• Bait for slugs; iron phosphate baits are available that are safe for use around pets. Clean up hiding places for slugs, sowbugs, and millipedes.
• Allow foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to brown and die down before removing.
• Prune and shape or thin spring-blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.
• Control rose diseases such as black spot and powdery mildew. Remove infected leaves. Spray as necessary with registered fungicide. Prune ornamentals for air circulation and to help prevent fungus diseases.
• Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate generous amounts of organic materials and other amendments as needs are shown by soil analysis.
• Use floating row covers to keep insects such as beet leaf miners, cabbage maggot adult flies, and carrot rust flies away from susceptible crops.
• Monitor strawberries for spittlebugs and aphids; control if present.
• Cut and remove weeds near the garden to remove sources of plant virus diseases.
• Spray for apple scab, cherry brown rot, and blossom blight. See EC 631, Controlling Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards.
• Apply commercial fertilizers, manure, or compost to cane, bush (gooseberries, currants, and blueberries), and trailing berries.
• Plant gladioli, hardy transplants of alyssum, phlox, and marigolds, if weather and soil conditions permit.
• Prepare raised beds in areas where cold soils and poor drainage are a continuing problem. Add generous amounts of organic materials.
• Place compost or well-decomposed manure around perennial vegetable plants.
• Watch for botrytis blight on peonies.
• Cover transplants to protect against late-spring frosts.
• Plant these vegetables:
  Oregon coast: beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, slicing cucumbers, endive, leeks, lettuce, onion sets, peas, potatoes.
  Western valleys, Portland, Roseburg, Medford: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, spinach, turnips.
  Central Oregon and higher elevations of eastern Oregon (late April): peas, radishes, lettuce, spinach, turnips.
  Columbia and Snake River valleys, Ontario: snap and lima beans, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, sweet corn, cucumbers, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, onion sets, parsnips, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, summer and winter squash, turnips.

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Leafrolling worms will affect apples and blueberries. Prune off affected leaves and place pheromone traps or spray with approved pesticides.

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 appropriate materials.

Trap moles and gophers as new mounds appear.

Control spittlebugs and aphids in strawberries and ornamentals, if present; wash off or use insecticidal soap as a contact spray. Follow label directions.

Fertilize rhododendrons and azaleas; remove spent blossoms.

Plant chrysanthemums for fall color.

Plant dahlias, gladioli, and tuberous begonias in mid-May.

Spray cherries, plums, peaches, and apricots for brown rot blossom blight, if necessary.

Control aphids with insecticidal soap, a hard spray of water, or hand removal; by promoting natural predators; or by using approved insecticides labeled for the problem plant.

Tiny holes in foliage and shiny, black beetles on tomatoes, beets, radishes, and potatoes indicate flea beetles. Treat with Neem, rotenone, Bt, or use nematodes for larvae. Follow label directions.

Fertilize roses and control rose diseases such as mildew with a registered fungicide. When selecting new roses, choose plants labeled for resistance to diseases.

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Prevent root maggots when planting cabbage family, onions, and carrots by covering with row covers or screens, or by applying appropriate pesticides.

Control slugs with bait or traps and by removing or mowing vegetation near garden plots.

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.

Monitor broadleaf evergreens for root weevils. Look for notches chewed on new leaves. Mark plants to treat with parasitic nematodes in autumn when soil temperatures are still at least 55°F.

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Plant these vegetables (dates vary locally; check with local gardeners):

**Oregon coast:** snap beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cantaloupes, pickling cucumbers, dill, kale, parsnips, peppers, pumpkins, summer and winter squash, sweet corn, tomatoes.

**Western Oregon:** mid-May, transplant tomato and pepper seedlings.

**Western valleys, Portland, Roseburg, Medford:** snap and lima beans, Brussels sprouts, cantaloupes, cucumbers, dill, eggplant, kale, peppers, pumpkins, onions, summer/winter squash, potatoes, tomatoes, watermelon.

**Lower elevations, eastern Oregon (dates vary widely):** snap and lima beans, beets, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, dill, kale, kohlrabi, onions, parsley, parsnips, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, summer and winter squash, tomatoes.

**High elevations, central and eastern Oregon:** prepare garden soil for spring planting.

**Central Oregon and higher elevations of eastern Oregon:** early May—onions; mid-May to late May—beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chives, endive, spinach; mid-May to early June—dill, kale, kohlrabi, parsley, parsnips, potatoes; late May to early June—snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, peppers, pumpkins, summer squash, tomatoes.

**Columbia and Snake River valleys, Ontario:** cantaloupes, dill, eggplant, kale, okra, peppers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, watermelon.