



Tillamook County Tiller

HORTICULTURAL NEWSLETTER FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY

SUMMER 2010

Learn to Like Your Lichen

Wet winter weather provides prime conditions for growth of lichen, moss and algae on trees and shrubs--as well as on rooftops, decks and walkways. "What is merely slippery green stuff to some people is actually performing serious ecosystem functions," according to Linda McMahan Oregon State University Extension faculty who specializes in community horticulture.

Lichen - Lichen can take many forms but often are grayish-green or silver, lace-like organisms on tree trunks and limbs. They provide home and food for beneficial insects. The presence of certain kinds of lichens is an indicator of good air quality. When lichens fall off trees and shrubs, they return nutrients to the soil, and some are nitrogen fixers. They are not parasitic, but use trees only as a platform. "I see little reason to control lichen except perhaps on fruit trees when it interferes with spur production or is heavy enough to break limbs," said McMahan.



Lichen

Moss - If you are concerned that moss will shorten the life span of a roof if not controlled, Ross Penhallett, OSU Extension horticulturist recommends sweeping away as much moss as is possible and removing overhanging branches from above the roof to allow direct sunlight and good aeration for faster drying.

Commercial moss removers can keep moss and algae from returning. They are best applied when the moss is actively growing in the fall, winter and spring. If possible, apply them during a dry spell. Removers

containing zinc or iron sulfate can be toxic to plants, however, and dry powders can be blown around. Liquid and powder formulations need to be applied directly to



Moss

the problem areas. Zinc and copper strips on roofs, although expensive, also work well and are easily installed. The same moss control chemicals used on roofs also do the job on slippery walking surfaces. For heavy moss growth, removing as much as possible with a scraper or power washer will reduce the amount of pesticide needed for control. ***Check the label to make sure that it is approved for this use.***

If fruit trees have a moss problem, prune the center of the tree to allow more light. Copper fungicides also can be used to help control moss on trees and shrubs. ***Always read the label on a commercial product to make sure it controls what you want and that you use the right concentration.***

"For trees, there is really no disease or ecological reason to remove moss," McMahan said. "It provides habitat, food, and shelter, and helps retain moisture in the garden."

Algae - If algae is a concern, it should be removed only for safety reasons. Learning to appreciate it in most places (such as a bright green slash on the tree trunk in winter) is the best approach. It will disappear when the air dries in late spring or summer. ☞

By: Judy Scott Source: Linda McMahan

Editor's Note: for more on moss go to: <http://bryophytes.science.oregonstate.edu/mosses.htm>



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President's Corner

TCMGA gardeners are hard at work this month! The fourth annual Spade and Wade garden tour, which is our main fundraiser and allows us to provide scholarships and pursue various educational activities within the community, is Saturday, June 19th and we are busily getting ready. The garden tour itself features six fabulous gardens in the Tillamook – Netarts area.

If that isn't enough, TCMGA will also be sponsoring a vendor plant sale at the Pioneer Museum in Tillamook. Eight vendors will have plants, bird houses and garden art. In addition the Master Gardeners will also be holding their own plant and garden art sale. The sales at the museum start at 9 am and continue until 3 pm. The self guided garden tour is from noon until 5 pm. Passports for the tour can be purchased ahead of time at the Tillamook County OSU Extension Service or at the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum for \$15 each. The day of the tour passports will only be on sale at the Pioneer Museum. Come and see these beautiful gardens and support horticulture education!

The Learning Garden (renamed from the Demonstration Garden) at the Fairgrounds is looking very nice at this early point in time. Much planning and implementation



Tillamook County
Master Gardener Association



has gone into building new beds. The big project right now is installing a new watering system. So be prepared to jump across ditches if you visit the garden in the near future. Summer hours are now in effect so the garden work day is Thursday, 9 am – noon.

We are also gearing up to attend OMGA mini college. Everyone is welcome – you don't have to be a Master Gardener to attend. Mini college is July 28th through July 31st. Registration should be open by the time you read this column – visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/mini-college> for details. Wednesday, July 28th will be leadership day. Mini college officially starts that evening with a welcome dinner and runs through Saturday noon, with a banquet on Friday night. Besides lots of great classes, chapters will be having displays and there will be lots of coffee mugs and t-shirts for sale. There are always door prizes and lots of items for a silent auction. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate a silent auction item with a minimum value of \$25 (can be a combination of items), please let us know.

I hope you are all having as much fun as I am playing in the garden these wonderful days. Most everything is coming back- I've decided my fuchsias really are hardy. They have been taken down to ground level two winters in a row and they are still coming back – some more slowly than others.

Hope to see you all at the Spade and Wade Garden tour.

Jean Scholtz

TCMGA President 2010

Avoid Rose Problems

Roses are the most popular perennial flowering plant in the United States, and they grow well in the Pacific Northwest. The same conditions that favor roses, however, also favor their diseases and pests. Home gardeners can make some simple adjustments in tending roses to improve their results, such as avoiding overhead watering.

"Our climate provides ample rainfall during the peak leaf-growth period, moderate winters that rarely result in freezing damage, and warm, sunny summers for flower production," said Jay Pscheidt, plant pathologist at OSU. "Unfortunately, frequent rainfall and high humidity also encourage several leaf diseases." Mild winters allow pests and diseases to live through the coldest part of the year, and during warm summers they build their populations to survive yet another mild winter.

Because of their disease and insect problems, many home gardeners perceive roses as "trouble plants." But roses need not be difficult to grow. The OSU publication, "Controlling Diseases and Aphids on your Roses," (EC 1520) - available online at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/ec/ec1520/> shows how to plan a schedule for disease and pest control and tailor the approach to save time and effort. It also discusses the most common rose afflictions: black spot, rust, powdery mildew and aphids. A year-round approach to pest control will help manage all of these common problems.

Consider buying disease-resistant roses. Cultivars with good resistance to all three major diseases are available. The disease reactions of many roses are listed in the "PNW Plant Disease Management Handbook": http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/articles.cfm?article_id=24 or, ask your local nursery.

Plant new roses a sufficient distance from each other, as well as from other plants, fences and walls to allow air circulation. Roses that don't dry quickly are susceptible to black spot infections. Poor air circulation also means higher humidity, conducive to rust and powdery mildew. Roses like lots of sunshine, but their diseases don't.

When caring for established roses, sanitation is important. Remove and destroy diseased or infested plant parts. During the dormant-season prune diseased stems and remove leaves and dead flowers from around the plant.



Destroy diseased material rather than composting it or using it as mulch to avoid reintroducing diseases. **Burn, bury or send debris to the landfill.** Deadhead spent blooms to remove aphid colonies and the beginning of powdery mildew infestations.

Avoid overhead watering that splashes the spores and wets the leaves. To keep nighttime humidity at a minimum and reduce powdery mildew, water in the early part of the day. In the summer, once conditions favorable for black spot have passed and no symptoms are on the plant, there is a nontoxic way to control powdery mildew and aphids.

Fungi and insects are loosely attached to the surface of the plant and can be dislodged by a strong stream of water from a hose sprayer. This method is most effective when powdery mildew is just beginning. Frequent repetition is required – every 3 to 5 days – to be effective. Remember: because black spot is spread by splashing water, hosing could prove disastrous if that disease is present.

Aphids can be removed by any force, and often it's sufficient simply to knock them to the ground. They are poor climbers and probably will not reestablish, and they run a high risk of getting eaten by ground-roving insect predators.

Use a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer such as ammonium or urea-based commercial fertilizer, composted manure, or fish meal. Aphids have high nitrogen requirements, and their populations boom when plants receive a flush of nitrogen. Excess nitrogen also encourages rapid new plant growth, providing an abundance of susceptible leaves for foliar diseases.

By Judy Scott

Source: Jay Pscheidt

The Invaders - Remove Invasive Plants

Spread the word, not the weed. That is the slogan for this year's Oregon Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (May 16 - 22) proclaimed by Governor Kulon-goski to raise public awareness of the threat noxious weeds pose to the environment and economy. Do your part in preventing the spread of invasive weeds and their seeds.

Weeds do spread naturally but people are often the vector for spreading weeds. Seeds get trapped on heavy equipment in mud and soil and get transported to another site. Weed seeds hitch a ride on recreational equipment, off-road vehicles, agricultural equipment, logging equipment, and construction equipment. Even when a vehicle is pressure washed, plant material and seeds can be trapped under a skid plate or other places that are missed. Campers, hikers, and other recreationists spread weeds on their boots, socks, backpacks, jackets, bicycles or dogs.

What makes a plant invasive?

Invasive plants have been introduced into an environment in which they did not originate. They lack natural enemies, grow and reproduce quickly, and are able to thrive in a wide variety of conditions. All of these characteristics allow these plants to invade new habitats and out-compete native plants for light, food and nutrients. Some of these plants may look pretty, but have nasty characteristics. In some cases they change an entire habitat important to wildlife.

Removal Methods

English holly and English laurel - Cutting by chain-saw or loppers is a good first step. Re-sprouting plants must be cut periodically.

Purple loosestrife - These plants are found in wetlands and adjacent to streams and rivers. Manual removal can be effective for small populations although repeated pulling or digging is often necessary.

Knotweeds - These aggressive plants spread by long underground rhizomes making pulling ineffective. Repeated cutting can weaken plants. Be careful because a very small piece can start a new plant. Research shows poor results from cultural control methods. Herbicide treatment is recommended.

English ivy - Removing berries before they ripen is suggested to prevent seed from being spread by birds. Manual removal is effective for small areas. Repeated visits are generally necessary. Cutting vines all the way around the trunk of a tree will kill the ivy in the upper branches. Proper disposal is necessary as small pieces will start a new plant.

Scotch broom - Cutting alone is only effective on older plants with a larger, single stem. The introduction of fast growing natives has been suggested as a means of shading out new broom seedlings.

Morning glory - Hand-pulling is effective for small areas but works only to control rather than eliminate the population. Leaves or small pieces may start new plants.

Himalayan blackberry - Hand-pulling and digging is effective for small populations and in sensitive areas, but requires the removal of all roots. A combination of cultural and herbicide control measures is most effective.

Lesser celandine - This plant has specialized over-wintering buds, which make it difficult to control. Control it by repeatedly digging it out and sifting through the dirt for the buds; removal of plants and covering the area with 4-6 inches of sheet compost, and/or cardboard; smother with old carpet or plastic; repeated mowing every 1-3 weeks; use of herbicide.

Butterfly bush - "Summer lilac" spreads by broken stem fragments and seeds; rapidly forming dense stands in cut-over forest lands, waste areas, pastures, and along streams where it can prevent water movement and drainage. Reduce spread of this plant by removing flowers prior to seed production and dispersal and disposing of trimmings and flower heads properly so that they will not grow where unwanted.

Many weeds are hard to eradicate and may not be controlled sufficiently by cultural methods. Contact the OSU Extension Service for additional information and herbicide recommendations. ☞

Source: Editor - ODA, USDA, others.

Unusual Weather Causes Damage

Those sad-looking landscape plants many people are seeing in their yards are a direct result of the winter cold weather, then quick warm-ups, cool spring rains and many hail storms. Before deciding to remove a plant, look for any signs of life - tiny green buds, green pliable branches, etc. Also gently wiggle the plant to see if the roots are still viable.

The cold damaged outdoor plants by causing burst cells and ruptured bark or by scorching or burning leaves. Burst cells or ruptured bark occurs when the plant cell fluids freeze and rupture the cell wall, or tender bark is repeatedly frozen and thawed. Tree or shrub bark may eventually split, usually occurring when a plant is hit by extreme drops in temperature when it is completely dormant.

Long periods of cold, clear weather with wide variations in day and night temperatures can also rupture bark, burst plant cells or frost burn leaves. A night of extreme cold followed by warming during the day on the south and west sides of the plant can cause bark to split and foliage to become scorched, or frost-burned.

Scorched leaf tips and margins (desiccation) are a common problem, particularly in broad-leaf evergreens including rhododendrons and azaleas. Dry cold winds are often the cause. They take on a droopy look. The injured leaves will eventually drop. In most cases, the plant will recover in the spring, so don't prune the plants. Many "evergreen" shrubs such as euonymus and escallonia are showing cold damage symptoms this spring.

The weakened plants are then more susceptible to outbreaks of fungal and bacterial diseases during the growing season. Add our many hail storms that caused leaf damage to tender newly sprouting leaves, and it's a perfect invitation for diseases. Once a disease is established, it is hard to eradicate, as prevention is often the only sound strategy for control.

Warm temperatures are favorable to many other fungi, including the one that causes brown rot

blossom blight of stone fruit and ornamental fruit trees including cherries, peaches, apricots, plums and prunes.

There is little a gardener can do once these bacteria and fungi make it into plants. Even resistant cultivars, our best defense, have shown they are not impervious to this attack. Our next best tactic is getting fungicides on before the rain hits and gets the fungi active. But it is too late this year for that. And once the rain is over, the fungi can hide inside the plants away from our chemical or organic sprays. Dry weather will be our best hope along with a plan to combat these problems next year.

Bacterial infections got their start in the winter. A bacterial problem, *Pseudomonas syringae*, got started back in the dry period when we had warm temperatures to stimulate plant growth. Then some frosts caused minor plant damage—that is all that this bacteria needs to get going. The cool rainy weather that followed allowed the bacteria to build up and cause the tip dieback problems typical of *Pseudomonas* diseases.

A variety of symptoms are associated with woody plants infected by *Pseudomonas syringae*. Kinds of symptoms and symptom development depend on the species of plant infected, plant part infected, the strain of *Pseudomonas syringae*, and the environment.

The most common problems in home gardens this time of year includes shoot tip die-back on lilac shrubs and a gummy canker on cherry and other stone fruit trees.

The OSU Extension Service offers several publications to help you learn more about preventing plant disease in the garden, including "Preventing Plant Disease in Your Garden and Landscape" (FS 242) at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/fs/fs242/>, and "An Online Guide to Plant Disease Control" (with many color photos of dozens of Northwest plant diseases) at: <http://plant-disease.ippc.orst.edu/index.cfm> ↗

By: Laura Swanson, Editor Source: Jay Pscheidt

Seeds for Fall Color

Some annual flowering plants can be started from seed in June and still have time to flower come fall. Plus, some of them - though not all - make beautiful editions to summer salads, says Linda McMahan, home horticulturist with the OSU Extension Service.

Most of these fast growing garden annuals prefer full sun and well-drained, but moist soils.



Cosmos

Cosmos, although not edible, are dependable and fast growers that bloom profusely on tall finely divided foliage with heights up to about 6 feet. They bloom in shades of pink to purple and occasionally white or yellow. Native to the tropics, the ones that are most commonly grown in the Northwest are annuals. They grow best in full sun but are also somewhat shade tolerant. They need to be watered in the hottest part of the summer, but don't need to be over watered. Sow the seed outdoors with a cover of about ¼ inch of fine soil after all danger of frost is past. If you plant in June, you'll have a mass of fine green foliage and abundant blossoms to enjoy starting in mid-summer through September. Cosmos are good as cut flowers. They reseed generously if allowed to set seed heads.

Nasturtiums (*Tropaeolum*) are vigorous annuals that grow and bloom quickly in bright shades of yellow to red. They do well in poor soil. McMahan cautions that they do less well with feeding, which tends to produce more foliage than flowers. Some kinds of nasturtiums climb, others are compact and bushy. Both the leaves and flowers are edible. The leaves have a slightly peppery taste that complements



Nasturtium

a fresh summer lettuce salad, and the bright flowers add a beautiful spot of color floating on soups and on top of salads.

Another edible annual for summer and fall bloom is the Johnny-jump-up (*Viola tricolor*), with violet-like flowers, perfect for garnishing fresh summer fruits and

salads. Once established and reseeding on its own, Johnny-jump-up blooms in the spring and early summer. Planted in June, it should be blooming in September. Pansies, the larger close relative of Johnny-jump-ups in the genus *Viola*, are another annual that can be planted by seed in June for fall color. Both pansies and Johnny-jump-ups grow well in sun or partial shade. Native to deciduous forests, they need moisture through hot summer weather.



Johnny Jump Up



Calendula

Calendula, an annual native to the Mediterranean, can be sown from seed in June for flowering in late summer and early fall. It can also be bought as seedlings. The flowers resemble marigolds and are long-lasting as cut flowers. Calendula needs full sun. Used as a massed border, it provides color from mid-summer through early autumn. The plant is edible and can be used as a vegetable in soups and salads. Their orange or yellow petals also add nice color to spreads and dips.

Snapdragons (*Antirrhinum majus*) come in dwarf, medium, and tall sizes, from 6 inches to 3 or even 4 feet tall. They like a sunny location and rich well-drained but moist soil. They're available in a wide variety of colors. Snapdragons are a long-time favorite as cut flowers. Dead-head them regularly once they start to bloom and they will continue blooming until cold weather.

If you want to eat anything from your garden, be certain you have the correct identification of the plant. And eat just a small amount the first time you sample something new. To learn more about edible flowers, visit this website:

<http://lancaster.unl.edu/hort/Articles/2004/edibleflowers.shtml>

By: Davi Richards

Source: Linda McMahan

Keep It Growing - Plant in Succession

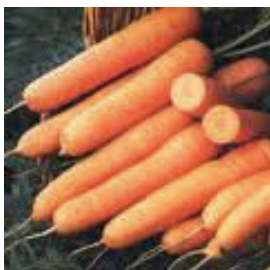
It is possible to grow a succession of garden vegetables throughout the year with a little knowledge and protection of your plants from the elements. When space becomes available after harvesting the last of your spring-planted peas or greens, keep those veggies coming. Some of the best vegetables are produced during the warm days and cold nights of fall. Frost adds sugar to sweet corn and crispness to carrots. Parsnips, kale, collards, Brussels sprouts and Jerusalem artichokes also improve with a touch of frost.

Even though your summer vegetables are growing like mad, late June through the first of August is time to plant many of your fall garden seeds. Lettuce and winter greens can be put in until August in many locations. Transplants can be put into the ground up until the end of July for best odds of a fall and winter harvest.

Choose the warmest, most sheltered spots in the garden for a winter garden. Choose heat-resistant varieties and shade and water them frequently as they grow. Enation-resistant pea varieties include Oregon Pioneer shelling peas, Sugar Daddy snap peas and Oregon Sugar Pod II snow peas. Bolt-resistant greens include Tyee spinach and oak leaf lettuce. Greens can be planted in the shade of taller plants for summer and fall growth. July is a good time to put in more carrots for fall and winter harvest, as well.

Be sure you avoid poorly-drained or windy sites and places that are frost pockets and add a good dose of organic matter to clay soils prior to planting for fall and winter.

Keep carrot seeds moist until germination. In hot, dry weather, a damp burlap sack or light mulch over the row will ease germination. Keep it damp and check for germination every five days.



Twenty to 30 feet of row should keep a family of four in carrots into spring. Royal Chantenay, Danvers 1/2 Long and Merida are good carrots for planting in July and can be harvested all winter.

Other vegetable varieties that will grow through the winter include purple-sprouting broccoli, Utah improved celery or President endive. Many kinds of Swiss chard, even if planted in the spring, will overwinter and resprout the following spring. Improved kales are a very reliable crop to plant in late June into July.



Most members of the cabbage family can be harvested in fall or early winter if planted by early July. Many other greens in this group, such as Chinese cabbage, kale, collards and mustard, hold well into the winter.

If you missed planting leeks in May, try garlic or overwintering Walla Walla sweet onions. Both can be planted in September, and harvested the following late spring into early summer.

Slugs can be a major problem in the fall and winter vegetable gardens. Use properly labeled slug baits until cold weather arrives. Many gardeners prefer the least toxic iron phosphate baits such as "Sluggo," for environmental and safety reasons. Another way to reduce slugs is to thoroughly till the soil before planting to reduce the slug population. Tender crops such as buttercrunch or black-seeded Simpson lettuce especially need protection from both slugs and rain. For best results, grow them under cloches or cold frames during the late fall and winter.

The OSU Extension Service offers "Fall and Winter Gardening in the Pacific Northwest," (PNW 548). It includes variety recommendations and temperature limitations for each vegetable. Season extending techniques are provided as well. It is on line at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/pnw/pnw548/> ↻

Sources: Ross Penhallegon and Pat Patterson

If you do not have internet, you may obtain most of the publications cited in this newsletter from the OSU Extension Service at 2204 4th Street, Tillamook, OR 97141. Phone: 503 842-3433

Home Remedies for Garden Pests



If silent, uninvited guests with voracious appetites have been eating your vegetables and other plants, the good news is that ingredients to stop the intruders can be found at home in the kitchen or medicine cabinet. The most likely culprits can range from minute aphids to the more obvious ground squirrels and deer.

A few of several safe household chemicals to use are vinegar, dishwashing soap and rubbing alcohol, according to an OSU Extension Service publication called "Using Home Remedies to Control Garden Pests." (EC 1586) The publication, complete with photos, is available free of charge online at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1586.pdf>

Before using any home remedy on your plants, always test your mixture on a small number of plants or part of a plant to evaluate toxic effects. Plants with hairy leaves tend to hold soap solutions on their leaf surfaces where it may burn. The greater the strength of the solution, the hotter the day, and the more a plant is water-stressed, the greater the likelihood of burning.

Here are tips from the publication on how to control some of these pests.

Aphids are soft-bodied insects that show up on new shoots, crowns and undersides of leaves. They insert a needlelike stylet into the plant and remove the sap. Symptoms of aphid damage are curled leaves, yellowish spots and glossy leaves from sticky honeydew. A "weeping" tree that drips a sticky substance commonly has an aphid infestation. Black sooty mold may develop on leaves and reduce photosynthesis.



Insecticidal soap, available at most garden centers, controls aphids by clogging their breathing holes. Alternatives: Mix a teaspoon of vegetable oil, a teaspoon of dishwashing liquid and a cup of water. Or, mix three tablespoons of liquid soap and a gallon of water. Spray to wet the entire plant thoroughly, particularly the undersides of leaves, because aphids must come into contact with the soap solution to be affected. After a few hours, wash off the oil and soap

with a garden hose to protect sensitive plants. Repeat the application every few days as necessary.

Slugs and snails like damp places and usually feed at night, preferring tender new growth and seedlings. Although they are ground dwellers, they can climb plants and cause damage well above the ground. Confirming damage by slugs or snails can be difficult but you may see them early mornings or evenings or find their glistening slime trails on hard surfaces.

Cultivate the soil and remove weeds, debris, and decaying organic matter that provide breeding and hiding places. Shaded areas beneath decks can be slug "heaven." Keep shaded areas weed and litter-free. You can remove slugs and snails by hand or trap them in shallow pans containing beer throughout the garden. Beer is effective for about three days.

Spider mites are very small pests that are difficult to see without a magnifying lens but can cause substantial plant damage. Most is caused by two-spotted spider mites, recognized by the two spots on their upper backs. They are particularly damaging late in the season or on plants near a dusty road or during hot days. Plants or leaves damaged by spider mites appear off-color or have speckled green and light-colored spots.

An easy way to confirm spider mite damage is to tap the plant while holding it over a sheet of white paper. Look at the small spots on the paper with a magnifying glass to identify spider mites. To get rid of them, mix three tablespoons of dishwashing soap with a gallon of water. Wet leaves thoroughly and reapply every five or six days if necessary. Rubbing alcohol also can treat plants infested with spider mites, aphids and whiteflies. Apply with cotton balls. After a few hours, wash off the soap solution or alcohol with a garden hose. After a few applications, these pests should be eliminated.

The OSU publication also recommends treatments for other insects, as well as moles, gophers and ground squirrels. ♪

By: Judy Scott

Source: Silvia Rondon

Energize the Hummingbird

If you enjoy watching hummingbirds, now is a good time to put up feeders and plant nectar-producing flowers in your gardens. Hummingbirds need to eat about 30 to 50 percent of their body weight daily to fuel their high-energy lifestyle. Their diet includes nectar for carbohydrates and insects for protein, especially important while they feed youngsters.

Nectar-producing blossoms grown near feeders provide a natural supply of nectar and insects. Hummingbirds love to feed from bright red, orange or red-orange tubular-shaped blossoms such as fuschias, red-flowering currant, columbines, coral bells, salvias and penstemons. They also love larkspurs, bush and vine honeysuckles, hollyhocks, nasturtiums and petunias as well as blossoms from black locust, flowering crab apple, hawthorn and horse chestnut trees.

Most lawn, garden and variety stores, as well as wildlife catalog companies, sell hummingbird feeders. Red-colored feeders are best, because the birds are attracted to the color. Multi-station feeders tend to work better than glass tube and spout feeders. Choose feeders that allow you to see when the nectar becomes moldy and needs changing. Good feeders come apart easily and should be cleaned frequently.

Sweet hummingbird solutions for feeders can either be bought or made at home. Some commercially produced solutions offer a formula with vitamins and minerals. ***Avoid solutions with red dye or flavoring.***

Homemade solutions are more economical and sometimes safer than store bought products, according to Dan Edge, wildlife biologist with OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences. A hummingbird feeder



solution should contain no more than one part sugar to four parts water, the highest sugar concentration of most natural flower nectars.

Use this recipe for a safe sugar solution for hummingbirds: Boil four cups water and stir in one

cup sugar. Boil five minutes and remove from the heat. Cover the pot. Let the covered solution cool, then fill your feeder. Store the spare solution in a clean jar in the refrigerator for up to three weeks. Do not use honey or artificial sweeteners in a hummingbird feeder. Honey encourages fungal growth and may contain botulism organisms that may kill the birds. Artificial sweeteners contain no real calories and may cause the hyperactive birds to starve.

Place a hummingbird feeder where you can watch it from a window or patio and where it can easily be reached for filling and cleaning. Space multiple feeders as far apart as possible, as the birds tend to fight over feeders hung close together. Shady spots are best because they keep the sugar solution from spoiling. Plastic domes are available to hang over feeders to protect them from the rain.

Change the syrup once a week in cooler weather and every four to five days during the summer heat. Clean the feeder with hot water (not too much soap) and rinse well every time you change the syrup. Have someone keep your feeder filled when you go on vacation, as the birds come to depend on known sources of nectar. Keep feeders filled through October, and birds can use the food on their southward migration.

Keep ants away from your feeder by applying petroleum jelly around the openings and on the wire that suspends it. Or try moving the feeder to another area. Do not ward off insects with pesticides, which may harm the birds. Keep bees, wasps and yellow jackets away with plastic or metal bug screens.

Rufous hummingbirds, Oregon's most common, are found in all but the southeast corner of the state in the spring and summer, migrate south for the winter, and return north to most regions of the state in March and April. Anna's hummingbirds are year-round residents in Oregon's Coast Range and occasionally in the Willamette Valley. Smaller populations of three other species in southern and eastern Oregon are the black-chinned, Allen's and calliope. ♪

By: Judy Scott

Source: Dan Edge

by Evelyn
VonFeldt
OSU Master
Gardener

The Weed Patch

Creeping Buttercup

Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens* L.) a European introduced buttercup species which loves poor drained wet areas has found ideal conditions on the Oregon coast. It is also known as meadow buttercup, blister plant (more on that later), gold cup, butter rose, butter-daisy and horsegold.

The leaves are 3-lobed with deeply toothed margins. Creeping buttercup sports a lovely bright golden yellow flower with five and occasionally up to ten petals. Both leaves and flowers are on hairy stems. The seedheads contain about 12 fruits, each about 1/8th inch long. The plants reproduce by seed or (here comes the “creeping part”) by forming roots at the leaf nodes hop-scotching along the ground.

There is reason for concern with buttercup invading pasture land: it can be toxic to cattle as it containing protonemoin, hence the “blister plant” title. Though cattle usually will leave it alone unless pastures are overgrazed and that is all that is left. Sheep seem to tolerate more protoanemonin than cattle.

Pulling the weed works fairly well, but finding the soil dry enough to really remove all of the roots is hard, by the time we have dry soil the plants have set



Creeping Buttercup
(*Ranunculus repens* L.)

seed and cultivation just helps spread the plants. If you are “blessed” with buttercup as I am, one of the best ways to discourage it is to improve the drainage; easier said than

done but in the areas that I have added gravel to the soil it has really helped.

You can also use herbicides meant for broadleaf weeds, but realize you do not want to contaminate ground water so use only what is needed for spot applications to individual plants. ☞



Use pesticides safely!

(Yes - herbicides are pesticides)

- *Wear protective clothing and safety devices as recommended on the label. Bathe or shower after each use.*
- *Read the pesticide label. Follow the instructions on the label carefully.*
- *Be cautious when you apply pesticides. Know your legal responsibility as a pesticide applicator. You may be liable for injury or damage resulting from*

Sources:

Dennis, La Rey J. . *Gilkey's Weeds of the Pacific Northwest*

Western Society of Weed Science. *Weeds of the West*

Burrill, L. C.: *PNW 399, Creeping Buttercup*

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

JUNE

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Prune lilacs, forsythia, rhododendrons, and azaleas after blooming.
- Fertilize vegetable garden 1 month after plants emerge by side dressing alongside rows.
- Harvest thinnings from new plantings of lettuce, onion, and chard.
- Pick ripe strawberries regularly to avoid fruit-rotting diseases.
- Use organic mulches to conserve soil moisture in ornamental beds.
- After normal fruit drop of apples, pears and peaches in June, thin the remainder to produce a larger crop.
- Make sure raised beds receive enough water. Make sure lawns are receiving adequate water - 0.5 to 1.5 inches per week, June through August
- (Mid-June): For green lawns, apply 1 lb. nitrogen per 1,000 sq.ft.

Planting • Plant dahlias and gladioli.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- First week: spray for codling moth in apple and pear trees, as necessary. Last week: second spray.
- Learn to identify beneficial insects and plant some insectary plants (e.g. Alyssum, Phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow, dill) to attract them to your garden.
- Monitor azaleas, primroses and other broadleaf ornamentals for adult root weevils.
- Control aphids on vegetables as needed by hosing off with water or by using insecticidal soap or a registered insecticide.
- Watch for 12-spotted beetles on beans and lettuce and cabbage worms or flea beetles in cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts). Remove the pests by hand or treat with registered pesticides.
- Spray peas as first pods form, if necessary, to control weevils. ♪

JULY

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Mound soil up around base of potatoes. Eat a few “new” potatoes when plants begin to flower.
- Water early morning to reduce evaporation. Water the soil, rather than leaves, to reduce disease. Water deeply and infrequently to encourage root growth.
- Hanging baskets need careful attention to watering and feeding.
- Weed and fertilize rhubarb and asparagus beds. Water to develop crowns for next year.
- Stake tall-plants such as delphinium, hollyhocks, lupine, and tomatoes.
- Mulch to conserve soil moisture.

Planting/Propagation

- Plant beets, bush beans, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, kale, and peas for fall and winter crops.
- Dig spring bulbs when tops have died; divide and store or replant.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Control hollyhock rust by sanitation, picking affected leaves, or spraying.
- Watch for cutworm damage.
- Place traps to catch adult apple maggot flies. Monitor/pheromone traps.
- July 10-15: spray peach and prune trees for root borers, as necessary.
- July 17-23: third spray for codling moth in apple and pear trees.
- Cover blueberry bushes with netting to keep birds from eating all the crop.
- Watch for early and late blight on tomatoes. Correct by pruning for air circulation, picking off affected leaves, and/or treat with approved fungicide.
- Monitor camellias, holly, maple trees for scale insects.
- Monitor rhododendrons for adult root weevils.
- Check leafy vegetables for caterpillars. Pick off caterpillars as they appear. Use *Bt-k*, if necessary. ♪

AUGUST

Maintenance and Clean Up

- Fertilize cucumbers, summer squash, and broccoli to maintain production while you continue harvesting.
- Clean and fertilize strawberry beds.
- Camellias need deep watering to develop flower buds for next spring.
- Prune raspberries, boysenberries, and other caneberries after harvest.
- Monitor garden irrigation closely so crops and ornamentals don't dry out.

Planting/Propagation

- Plant winter kale, Brussels sprouts, turnips, parsnips, parsley, and Chinese cabbage.
- Mid-summer planting of peas; use enation-virus-resistant varieties; plant fall crops of cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli. Plant spinach.

Pest Monitoring and Management

- Check apple maggot traps; spray tree if needed.
- Control yellowjackets and wasps with traps and lures as necessary. Keep in mind they are beneficial insects and help control pest insects in the home garden.
- First week: if necessary second spray of peach and prune trees for root borers.
- Check for root weevils in ornamental shrubs and flowers; codling moth and spider mite in apple trees; scale insects in camellias, holly, maples. Treat as necessary.
- Control caterpillars on leafy vegetables, as needed, with *Bt-k*, or by hand picking and removal.
- For mite control on ornamentals and most vegetables, hose off foliage, spray with approved miticide if necessary.
- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose and bacterial canker of stone fruit. Sterilize tools before each new cut. ♪

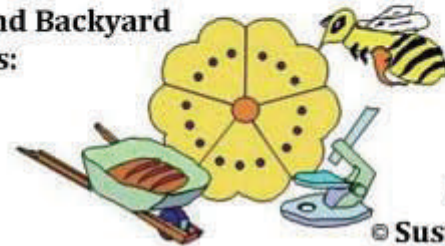
Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Always identify and monitor problems before acting. First consider cultural controls; then physical, biological, and chemical controls (which include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides). Always consider the least toxic approach first.

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27th Annual Gardeners Mini College
 CH2M HILL ~ Alumni Center
 OSU Campus Corvallis, OR
 July 28th – 31st, 2010

Beyond Backyard
 Basics:



The
 Science of
 Sustainability

TCMGA Bus Tour Wednesday, July 14



*Heirloom Roses,
 French Prairie Gardens
 Ferguson's Fragrant Nursery*

*Our most requested tour - sign up early
 Cost - \$27
 Sign up at OSU Extension Service*

Tillamook County Master Gardener Association

Spade and Wade

Garden Tour



\$15



12-5 pm

**Saturday
 June 19, 2010**

Garden Vendors, Garden Art, & Plant Sale
 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tillamook Pioneer Museum



Passports are available at:

- OSU Extension Service
 At 2204 4th Street
 Tillamook OR 97141
 (503) 842-3433
- Tillamook Pioneer Museum
 (Including the day of the tour)

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/tillamook/tcmga-special-events>

OSU Extension Service
**Summer Canning
 Class Schedule**



<u>Class Date</u>	<u>Class Topic</u>
Tuesday, June 29	Canning Fruits, Pie Fillings, Jams & Jellies
Tuesday, July 27	Canning Fish, Meat & Vegetables
Tuesday, August 31	Canning Pickles, Tomatoes and Salsa

Time: 6 - 9 p.m.

*Each class will cost \$10 (or take all three for \$25).
 Participants take home something they have canned.*

Pre-registration and pre-payment of class fees is required. Classes with low enrollment Friday before the class will be cancelled.

To register: OSU Extension Service,
 2204 Fourth St., Tillamook, OR 97141
 (503) 842-3433