In these rather difficult economic times, many people are looking for ways to make their dollar go farther, especially when it comes to food.

Both the novice and experienced gardener can find helpful information on gardening in "Growing Your Own," a practical guide to gardening. Copies of a printed version are at the OSU Extension Service. Or go online to see it at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/grow/grow/

A key decision is choosing the proper garden site. By being innovative almost everyone can grow some vegetables to supplement their food budget.

You can grow just about any vegetable in a container with enough preparation and care. You can grow vegetables in almost anything, including barrels, flower pots, milk jugs, old tires, window boxes, baskets and cinder blocks.

Containers work particularly well where there are clay soils that do not drain well and the soil remains cold into the spring, or if you have sandy soils with few nutrients. If you have more room consider building a raised bed.

Garden plants need sun, moisture, and nutrients to grow vigorously. Too much or too little of any of these will cause problems. Growing healthy, vigorous plants is the key to producing quality fruits and vegetables. The right location, proper soil conditions, fertilization, air circulation, irrigation, and insect control can prevent plant disease.

Even with the best planning you will need to deal with weeds and slugs. Regularly check your plants carefully for both beneficial and pest insects. Catching pest infestations early will make control easier.

Many alternatives to synthetic pesticides are available for gardeners who want to avoid chemical control of pests.

To learn more about tilling, managing weeds, proper watering techniques, ways to grow warm-season crops in cool season areas, as well as Oregon planting dates for different vegetable varieties, go online to see this publication or stop by the OSU Extension Service at 2204 Fourth Street in Tillamook for a free copy or for many other specialty publications on gardening topics.
Presidential’s Corner

The Great Optimists of Our Times – Gardeners

Our recent sunny weather makes us all think Spring is just around the corner, but a glance at the calendar reminds us that it is truly still Winter. Many gardeners are gazing at winter damaged gardens with dismay and wondering, “What will come back after our snows and hard frosts?” Such is the lot of gardeners – always believing that Spring will come, and plants will again bud and blossom, giving renewal to our minds, bodies and spirits. So, too, will our uncertain times give way to its own “spring” as we move forward with purpose, as this too shall pass.

With our troubled economy and food contamination scares, many folks are considering vegetable gardens as a way to save some money and provide healthy, nutritious “know the source” food for their family’s table. OSU Extension Service and Master Gardeners through publications such as “The Tiller” convey the university’s research information to the community to help people have a successful gardening experience. Gardening can be challenging, but armed with the right plant varieties, best planting times and a wealth of other information, it can be a fulfilling and satisfying experience. It is supposed to be fun, and the bonus is producing tasty vegetables, fruits and beautiful landscape plants that bring a smile to everyone’s face!

The OSU Extension Service has hundreds of publications and resources such as Master Gardeners to help you get the most out of your gardening experience. Master Gardeners are available at the OSU Extension Service in Tillamook on Mondays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 4:30 pm – bring your questions and plant problems to us or call (503)842-3433 for more information. One of the great joys of being a Master Gardener is sharing our knowledge and experience with the community.

Laura Swanson
TCMGA President 2009

Consider Sustainable Landscapes

Traditional gardens and lawns increasingly are giving way to those that have a minimal impact on the environment. Generally low-maintenance, a sustainable landscape is a balance between resources and results. The goal is to create a plant community that becomes easier to care for as it matures. A key to creating a sustainable landscape is to include plants that are either native to the area or well-adapted to similar growing conditions. These plants need less water and fertilizer and minimal pesticide use.

Interest in native plants for home landscapes is growing. "Natives" grow naturally on undisturbed sites in the local area. Generally, they are better adapted to local growing conditions, less prone to disease and insect problems and provide better habitat (food and shelter) for native wildlife than introduced species.

Many nonnative species also are suitable additions to home landscapes. Look for plants that are not invasive, adapt to a range of growing conditions and provide habitat for local wildlife. Thoughtful plant selection and proper site preparation can create a sustainable landscape that is a unique blend of well-adapted native and exotic species. By selecting the right plant for the right place, you can greatly reduce the need for water, fertilizer, pesticides and labor. Factors to consider when selecting plants are hardiness zone, seasonal rainfall, humidity, soil characteristics, available water and the duration and intensity of light.

Proper plant placement prevents soil erosion, influences summer cooling and winter heating and attracts beneficial insects and wildlife, making the landscape an asset to the local environment.

A class on Sustainable Landscaping will be offered Saturday, April 25th, during the Spring Home and Garden Classes. To sign up for the class fill out the enclosed brochure and return it to the OSU Extension Service at 2204 Fourth Street, Tillamook.
Manage Garden Pests Without Chemicals

Gardeners looking for a "sustainable" resolution this year might consider making 2009 a time to begin using alternative methods to manage insects, slugs and disease.

The first steps are simply preventative. Do not wait for trouble to happen. Regularly check the undersides of leaves for symptoms of pest damage. Look for missing leaves, flowers or fruit and unusual color, texture or size.

Check to confirm that plant damage actually is caused by pests. Most plant problems in a home garden are due to poor growing conditions, temperature extremes, poor water management, soil compaction or mechanical injury.

Also make sure the organism you identify is the one doing the damage and not just one that happens to be present. If you are stumped or need to confirm, call the OSU Extension Service for assistance.

Healthy plants are less likely to suffer pest attacks than stressed plants. Know your plants' nutrient needs and fertilize accordingly. Provide adequate but not excessive irrigation. Check you soil's pH. Most plants do well in slightly acid soil (pH of 6.0 to 7.0), but acid-loving plants such as azaleas, blueberries and rhododendrons prefer a pH of 4.5 to 6.0.

Keep your garden clean. Many pests live and breed in debris; promptly remove any vegetation that serves no purpose. Remove unused fruit and nuts immediately. Also remove pest-infested leaves and fruit as soon as you see them. If an annual plant is badly infested with insects or disease, remove the entire plant. Prune out diseased and dead branches of woody plants.

Other non-chemical means include keeping your garden as weed-free as possible and cleaning gardening tools regularly with a disinfectant, especially pruning tools.

Rotate where you plant vegetables and annuals each year. When the same plants are grown in the same soil each year, insect and disease populations build up.

Physically hand-picking slugs, snails, and large slow-moving insects can be very successful in controlling pests. Removing or trapping pests causes little disruption of the garden's ecosystem.

A forceful stream of water can dislodge, injure or drown aphids, mites, lacebugs, mealybugs and spittlebugs. If pests are concentrated at one or two sites on a plant, pruning might remove them.

Row covers, plant cages, plant collars, sticky barriers and metal barriers shield plants from insect, slug and snail damage. Details on each barrier and how to use them are in the OSU Extension Service publication EC 1532, “Gardening with Fewer Pesticides Using IPM,” at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/ec/ec1532/ (This publication is also available at the OSU Extension Service, 2204 Fourth Street, Tillamook.)

You can also vacuum, mulch and roto-till to remove pests. In addition, non-chemical traps such as colored adhesives take advantage of insects' reaction to certain colors, and slugs can be lured to beer traps. See the publication for details.

One non-chemical trap is not effective. Light traps, also known as "bug zappers," actually kill more beneficial and innocuous insects than they do pests.
Pruning Pointers: Pruning Apple Trees

You can prune an apple tree any time of the year without hurting it, but late winter, just before spring, is probably best. The worst of the cold weather is past, so you will not be subjecting the fresh cuts to severe icing, but you will still be able to influence the tree's spring growth.

There are several main objectives to pruning an apple tree:

- Controlling the height of the tree, so that most of the fruit does not grow out of reach;
- Developing good limb structure for strength, fruit production, and the general health of the tree;
- Encouraging a plentiful supply of new limbs, which will begin to bear fruit their second year; and
- Ridding the tree of damaged or diseased growth.

The overall size of the tree depends primarily on its rootstock and innate vigor. Most apple trees are grafted onto dwarf or semi-dwarf rootstock. (Take care when you plant a new apple tree not to bury the graft, where the fruiting stock joins the rootstock. This will cause the fruiting stock to begin to produce its own roots and the tree won't be limited to dwarf or semi-dwarf dimensions.) You will want to monitor the height of your tree to be sure it does not outgrow the spot you have picked for it. Once it is as high as you want it to be, prune the central "leader," the main upright limb, back to a lateral branch. Then keep monitoring the height year by year.

A new young tree will probably start bearing in its fourth or fifth year. The tree will do better to put its energy into root and limb growth rather than fruit for those first few years. Concentrate your pruning to produce a strong tree during that period.

Inspect your tree for limbs that branch from the central leader either too sharply upward, forming an acute angle, or at too wide an angle. Acute angles tend to trap bark as they grow and can lead to splitting later on. Branches that grow at too great an angle from the vertical tend to be weaker. They also encourage "water sprouts," the unproductive upright shoots that need to be pruned off mid-summer every year. The ideal angle between the central leader and lateral branches is about 60 degrees.

In general, encourage branches to grow toward the outside of the tree and eliminate those that grow toward the center or cross other branches. You want air and light to penetrate the foliage to the center of the tree as much as possible.

Different kinds of apple trees have different ways of setting fruit buds. Most modern apples are spur-bearing. Many older varieties are tip-bearing. This is obviously very important for how we prune the tree so as not to cut off the fruiting wood. If you are in doubt, as long as you know the name of your tree you can ask at your local nursery or look it up in a good garden book or on the Internet.

Once your tree has matured and begins to produce fruit, expect new branches to bear their best for several years (perhaps three to five years) and then taper off. You will want to prune off older branches that have begun to produce less in order to encourage new ones. This practice will help you have a more-or-less steady crop over a period of years.

Summer is a good time to remove older branches because it is then obvious which branches are producing best and which should be pruned. Summer pruning also allows you to get rid of branches that are showing signs of damage or disease as soon as you spot them.

Beyond these basics (which also apply to other similar fruit trees, for instance pears) there are many fine points to pruning a fruit tree.

The OSU Extension Service has several publications on planting, growing and caring for home fruit trees, online. Go to: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/results.php?cat=Gardening Then select "Fruits and Nuts." You may also obtain these publications at OSU Extension Service, 2204 4th St., Tillamook.
Pruning is one of the most important things to do to keep your shrubs and bushes healthy. Most gardeners should do some pruning each spring and/or summer. Shrubs that bloom in early spring should be pruned when they are through blooming. Shrubs that flower in the summer and fall should be pruned early in the dormant period or in the spring.

Pruning should both enhance a plant's natural beauty and form, and keep the plant vigorous and productive whether it is a flowering tree, shrub, or a fruit tree.

Here are a couple of rules to follow to get started on good pruning practices when working with shrubs:

First, learn the two types of cuts used on shrubs – heading cuts that remove ends of branches to make the plant denser and thinning cuts that remove entire branches or canes to give the plant a more open form.

Second, learn what the natural shape or habit is for each shrub in your landscape. There is good information in gardening books, including those published by Sunset and others.

Mound-forming shrubs, such as Abelia or Escallonia, need thinning cuts near the ground level. Remove tall shoots that tower above the mound form. Do not shear mound-forming shrubs or they will become too dense.

Cane-forming shrubs, including Forsythia and lilac, should be allowed to reach their natural height. Then, every year, use thinning cuts and take out one-eighth to one-fifth of the canes, preferably the oldest.

Flowering shrubs and trees require a little more thought before pruning if you want them to bloom nicely each year. Most importantly, consider when these plants bloom; if they bloom in late winter or spring you want to prune after bloom. If they bloom in summer or fall you want to prune during dormancy in winter.

NEVER cut the top out of a tree. Topping destroys a tree's natural beauty and weakens it structurally. When planting trees, plan ahead and put them in a location that matches their natural height. That way, they will not need topping when they reach your eave or power line.

If you have to reduce the height of a tree, use a thinning cut to remove the tallest limbs in their entirety. If an old tree is causing you some concern, you can take weight off without topping in this manner.

Think before you plant a new tree. Shade trees need open sky and plenty of distance from a home to avoid damage by falling or dropping limbs. Small flowering trees fit under power lines or close to a structure.
Is your camellia bush looking a little bedraggled? Some older plants are so full of leaves and thin branches that they bear poor quality flowers. Others carry leaves burned by winter wind and low temperatures, making the shrubs look sickly.

The best time to prune camellias is after they flower each year. Enjoy the blooms, then prune. The new growth begins soon after the blossoms fade.

Camellias benefit from pruning every few years. To stimulate new growth, thin out some of the twiggy growth. A late spring pruning will also allow sunlight to penetrate the interior of the shrub. By pruning you can transform an overgrown shrub into a tree or a smaller shrub.

To make a camellia bushier, home gardeners need to prune some branches back to the base of the most recent growth. Buds below the cut will grow into several new stems. Remove scraggly, unattractive drooping or crossing branches.

Huge old camellias can be renovated into an attractive tree in one year. Cut off all branches from the lower reach of the trunk. Cut out any rubbing or crossing limbs from the remaining upper foliage. Remove any weak or twiggy wood.

Feed camellias with fertilizer especially formulated for acid-loving shrubs after bloom time and then again in the early summer.

If you want to safely convert your huge overgrown camellia into a small shrub, do it slowly, over three years' time. During the first spring, after blooming, cut it back to the desired height. New growth will sprout from the trunk and from the upper limbs. After the second year's spring bloom, cut the resulting shoots back to the height you want. The third spring, cut off the bushy crown to the height you prefer. Fertilize as described above.

Untrimmed hedges may go unnoticed to everyone but the owner. A spring trim will get your hedge back in shape and stimulate new growth. Trimming a hedge will help make the individual shrubs blend with one another.

The best time to trim a hedge is after the flush of spring growth, late April through early June, depending on your growing season. Spring trimming after the growth spurt will help the hedge hold its desired shape longer than pruning before the active growth period. Remember to make the bottom of a hedge wider than the top so that light can reach all the leaves. On older, slower growing bushes, modify the shape gradually over several years. Some older shrubs may only be trimmed about a half-inch per year.

Do not forget to shear heaths and heathers heavily right after they finish blooming. Cut just below the point where the blooms formed. Annual post-bloom trimming will stimulate new growth in the center of these small shrubs and keep them compact.

Apply a complete fertilizer to keep heathers and heaths healthy and robust. Later in the spring, apply a nitrogen fertilizer to young hedges to green them up. For mature hedges, apply a complete fertilizer, such as a 16-16-16 combination, or good composted manure once a year.

As June approaches, concentrations of spider mites may appear in hedge foliage. If the leaves develop a gray cast and look dusty, it's likely that spider mites are present. To verify that you do have spider mites and not just mildew or dust on your shrub, hold a piece of paper under a branch of the infested shrub. Shake the branch. Tiny brownish to reddish specks will fall on the paper. Examine them with a magnifying glass or hand lens. If the brown or red spots begin to move, odds are they are mites. Hose the hedge with water in the early morning to help control the spider mites, or apply an insecticidal soap.
Create a Garden Pond for Wildlife

Of all the habitat features that can attract wildlife to your yard, a pond can be one of the most rewarding. Besides drinking, animals use water for feeding, bathing, regulating body heat, resting and cover. In the Pacific Northwest, some of the species most attracted to ponds are raccoons, deer, dragonflies, songbirds and waterfowl.

A pond creates natural beauty, and the more natural features it has, the more attractive it is to wildlife. Ponds can be any shape or size. They can be still or have running water or fountains. Many species are attracted to moving water, which also discourages mosquitoes.

Adding fish to the pond to help control mosquitoes, can be a problem when the pond overflows. Place bird and bat boxes near the pond instead.

An Oregon State University publication (EC 1548) "Create a Garden Pond for Wildlife" describes how to build a simple pond to attract wildlife and how to keep it safe and healthy and is available online. [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/ec/ec1548/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/ec/ec1548/)

The first step is to check with local zoning or planning offices to be sure that the pond is safe and legal. Also, check with your insurance company for safety requirements.

The pond should fit in with the natural landscape of the land and have a curved, irregular shape. For smaller yards, a pond that is three-by-five feet is a good size. A larger yard could hold a pond five-by-eight feet or larger.

The pond should be at least 20 inches deep at the deepest part. Shallow water around the edge or at one end should include plant shelves as habitat for wildlife. One side of your pond should have a gradual slope. A good slope is a drop of six inches for every three horizontal feet.

Consider all underground utilities, tree roots and other potential obstacles.

Keep your pond above the water table to prevent damage to your liner. You can check the high water line in winter. Dig a small hole the same depth as your proposed pond and observe it for 24 hours. If the hole fills with water on a day with no rain, your water table is high in this spot. Be sure your pond depth is above this level.

Plan where your pond will drain when it overflows from rain or when you clean it. You can channel water to your yard or down a hill, or you can create a small wetland to collect the excess water.

Use a garden hose or string to make an outline to see how your pond will look in different locations. Make sure you can see it from the house or from wherever you want to view it.

Most ponds, unless they are very shallow, should get at least five to six hours of sunlight per day. This allows enough sunlight for plants to grow but enough shade to prevent excess growth of algae. Do not place your pond directly under trees or overhanging shrubs. Leaves can make the water too acidic for aquatic life and, when decomposing, the leaves use the oxygen and cause odors.

When considering location of the pond, remember that wildlife need a "travel corridor" of tall grass to move safely to your pond. If you need to fill and change the water, place your pond near a water supply. If you plan to have running water and/or a pump and filter, you need to place your pond close to a supply of electricity.

The Extension publication gives directions on buying pumps and filters and choosing and installing a liner. Other details include how to excavate the hole, fill the pond and add edging, sand or small rocks.

You will find information on what types of native plants to put in – submerged, floating and marginal – and how to care for them. You will also learn issues about native wildlife species and coexistence with humans.  

End of page
If you love blueberries and are considering growing your own, prepare your site and soil well in advance. Your time and care will allow your blueberries to produce for as long as 50 years.

Blueberries are known for their high level of antioxidants which help protect the body against free radicals and chronic diseases associated with aging.

Highbush blueberries are perennial, long-lived, deciduous shrubs with a mature height of five to seven feet. Attractive as ornamentals, they progress from a profusion of white or pink blossoms in spring to colorful foliage (fall) and wood (winter).

You can grow plants in beds, rows, hedges or individually. Dwarf and semi-dwarf cultivars (varieties) can be grown in containers. Fruiting season in Oregon is from late June until September, depending on cultivar.

It is best to plant more than one cultivar of blueberry. Although most northern highbush cultivars are self-fertile, cross-pollination produces larger berries. Planting two or more cultivars that ripen at different times will lengthen the harvest season.


Blueberries need lots of sunshine and specific soil requirements. Avoid areas surrounded by trees, which can provide too much shade, compete for water and nutrients, encourage birds and deter air movement around the new plants. Blueberries grow best in well-drained, light, sandy loam that is high in organic matter and with a pH between 4.5 and 5.5.

Test the soil pH a year before planting. If you need to make the soil more acidic, it can take more than six months. Poor plant growth from soil pH that is too high is the most common problem when growing blueberries in a home garden.

If the pH is between 5.7 and 6.5, acidify the soil by adding finely ground elemental sulfur before planting. The amount needed depends on how much the pH needs to be lowered and the soil type. More detailed instructions on changing pH, weed control, fertilizing, pruning, watering and care of established blueberry plants are available online in the OSU Extension publication “Growing Blueberries In Your Home Garden,” EC 1304, http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/ec/ec1304/.

Blueberries require a uniform supply of water and will not tolerate poor drainage. Ideal soils are well-drained with a water table 14 to 22 inches below the surface. Raised beds can provide adequate drainage and aeration if they are from 12 to 18 inches high and three feet wide. Construct them with wood walls, or just make hills with soil and sawdust. You will get better results preparing an entire bed, rather than digging holes and preparing soil for individual plants. Organic matter such as Douglas-fir sawdust or bark will improve soil aeration and drainage. Yard debris compost can be high in salts and thus not desirable for blueberries. Spread sawdust to a width of about three feet and depth of three and a half inches. To aid in decomposition add two pounds of nitrogen per 100 feet of row length (10 pounds ammonium sulfate, 21-0-0). Incorporate the sawdust and fertilizer with a rototiller.

Plant healthy two-year-old plants from a reputable nursery in October or from March through April. Prune off flower buds at planting and do not allow plants to produce fruit the first season. Be patient! Flower and fruit production hinders growth, and it is important that plants put energy into root and branch growth the first year.

Here is a short checklist for taking care of mature plants:

• Add mulch gradually over the years to maintain a depth of six inches;
• Apply fertilizer in the spring, starting around bloom time;
• Water to maintain a uniform and adequate moisture supply;
• Pick fruit at optimum maturity;
• Prune in January or February.
Managing Moss, Lichen & Algae

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.

Lichen
Lichens 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. There is little reason to control lichen except perhaps on fruit or nut trees when it interferes with spur production or is heavy enough to break limbs.

Moss
If you are concerned that moss will shorten the life span of a roof if not controlled, sweep away as much moss as possible and remove 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 during a dry spell. Removers containing zinc or iron sulfate can be toxic to plants, however, and powders can be blown around. Liquid and powder formulations need to be applied directly to the problem areas. Do not use table salt to get rid of moss and algae, it is corrosive to metal and is not effective. Zinc and copper strips on roofs, although expensive, work well and are easily installed, usually only once.

The same moss-control chemicals used on roofs also do the job on slippery walking surfaces. Check the label to make sure it is approved for this use. For heavy moss growth, removing as much as possible with a scraper will reduce the amount of pesticide needed for control.

If fruit trees have a moss problem, prune the center of the tree to allow more light. Copper fungicides also can be used to control moss and many fruit tree diseases. 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. 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.

Coffee Grounds Perk Up Compost

Coffee grounds can be an excellent addition to a compost pile. About 2 percent nitrogen by volume, used coffee grounds can be a safe substitute for nitrogen-rich manure in the compost pile.

Contrary to popular belief, coffee grounds are not acidic. After brewing, the grounds are close to pH neutral, between 6.5 and 6.8. Coffee grounds have a carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of about 20 to 1, in the same range as animal manure. Keep in mind that uncomposted coffee grounds are NOT a nitrogen fertilizer. Coffee grounds need to be composted before using near plants.

Coffee grounds help to sustain high temperatures in compost piles. High temperatures reduce potentially dangerous pathogens and kill seeds from weeds and vegetables that were added to the piles. They seem to improve soil structure, plus attract earthworms.

Add grounds to your compost pile, layering one part leaves to one part fresh grass clippings to one part coffee grounds, by volume. Turn weekly. This will be ready in three to six months. Paper coffee filters may be composted with the grounds. Molds in grounds stored for future use appear to be consumed during the composting process. A large plastic bag works for storage.
Last issue I told you about some common flowers in the garden that have become "thugs" (comfrey, bronze fennel, forget-me-not's, sweet woodruff, calendula, cosmos and mallow), while compiling a list there were so many more that I would like to continue again this issue. These are not necessarily on the invasive plant list -- yet, but ones you might not have realized should not be encouraged.

Chameleon plant (*Houttuynia cordata*) is a pretty plant originally from China and Japan. The plant is low growing (to 9" high) with heart shaped colorful leaves make it a popular choice in the ornamental landscape. The most common species "Tricolor" and "Varigata" have showy green leaves with splashes of cream, pink, yellow and red. The tiny white dogwood-like flower is insignificant.

Two things make this plant one to avoid-- the scent, the leaves emit a not pleasant odor when crushed, some call it orange-like, I disagree, it just plain stinks. The other problem is that it spreads aggressively by underground stems, like horsetail it can come up through blacktop. The plant dies to the ground in winter. If you really are set on growing this plant, please plant in a container or in an area that will contain it with a wood, concrete or metal barrier to least a 8" to 10" depth.

You may choose to remove this plant by hand pulling (if you can stand the smell), or you may choose to use an herbicide recommended for broadleaf weeds that contains 2,4-D, dicamba or glyphosate. It may take several applications to thoroughly remove. Always use chemicals according to the label directions. Refer to the label for exact amounts, safety precautions and timing of application.

Some of the ornamental grasses such as Rattlesnake grass (*Glyceria Canadensis*), Feather grass (*Nassella*), Ribbon grass (*Phalaris arundinacea picta*), Pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*) can spread before you know it and are especially bad when they replace native dune grass. Pulling by hand when the soil is moist is best on smaller plants, large pampas grass may need to be removed by winch and cable. Remove seed heads so they do not disperse.

Burning will not help, most grasses grow better after fire. Herbicide containing glyphosate may be your best chemical choice.

As we await spring take some time to get a jump on the Little Bittercress that is probably showing up in your yard as well as mine. Pulling is the best method as it pulls easily, wait too long and seeds will be "shooting" everywhere.

**Sources:**

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

MARCH

• If soil is dry enough, begin vegetable garden soil preparation and plant cool season crops (peas, lettuce, cabbage, onions, kale, chard).
• Divide hosta, daylilies, and mums.
• Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees.
• Monitor landscape plants. Do not treat unless a problem is identified.
• If necessary, treat crowns of raspberry plants with registered insecticides to control raspberry cane borer.
• Plant berry crops (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, and any other berry-producing crop plants). See OSU Extension publications for varieties.
• Fertilize caneberry (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.
• Take geraniums, begonias, and fuchsias from storage. Water and fertilize. Cut back if necessary. Move outdoors next month.
• Fertilize rhododendrons, camellias, and azaleas with acid-type fertilizer.
• Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
• Treat lawns for European crane fly if damage has been confirmed.
• Best time of year to thatch and renovate lawns.
• 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.

APRIL

• Early April: fertilize lawn. If lawns are becoming thin and sickly, consider overseeding with a mixture of perennial ryegrass and fine 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.
• 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 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 to help prevent fusarium diseases.
• Use floating row covers to keep insects such as beet leaf miners, cabbage maggot adult flies, and carrot rust flies away from susceptible crops.
• Sprout for apple scab, cherry brown rot, and blossom blight. See EC 631, Controlling Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards.
• Apply fertilizers, manure, or compost to cane, bush (gooseberries, currants, and blueberries), and trailing berries.
• Plant gladioli, hardy transplants of alium, 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.
• Watch for botrytis blight on peonies.
• Check started seeds for damping-off.
• Cover transplants to protect against late-spring frosts.
• Plant these vegetables: beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, slicing cucumbers, endive, leeks, lettuce, onion sets, peas, potatoes.

MAY

• 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.
• Control spittlebugs and aphids in strawberries and ornamentals.
• 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, hand removal; by promoting natural predators; or by 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.
• 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.
• Monitor broadleaf evergreens for root weevils. Look for notches chewed on new leaves.
• Plant snap beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cantaloupes, pickling cucumbers, dill, kale, parsnips, peppers, pumpkins, summer and winter squash, sweet corn, tomatoes.

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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Coming Events
March through October - Master Gardener Office
Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.
April 4: Bus Tour: Amity Daffodil Festival
April 25: Spring Home and Garden Classes
June 13: Tillamook Farmers Market - Opening Day
   Master Gardener Clinic Opening Day
   and then each First and Third Saturday
July 12: Spade & Wade Gardens Tour

MASTER GARDENER’S
BUS TOUR
Saturday, April 4

Amity Daffodil Festival
Includes:
Oregon Daffodil Society Show
"Daffodils in Art" Show
Plant Sale

Presentations By:
Dulcy Mahar (the Oregonian)
Fred Weisensee (Dancing Oaks Nursery)
Doris Baker (Amity)

Festival Buffet is offered also

Sign Up at OSU Extension
2204 4th St. - Tillamook
503-842-3433

SPADE And WADE Gardens Tour
July 12, 2009

Spring Home and
Garden Classes
Saturday, April 25

9:00 am - 10:30 am
☐ A Taste of Hawaii
☐ Sustainable Landscaping
☐ Raising Chickens
☐ Dairy Extension in Russia

10:45 am - 12:15 pm
☐ Sausage & Jerky Making
☐ Vegetable Gardening In Small Spaces
☐ Living Sustainably
☐ Opportunities With Trees

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
☐ Quick & Easy Homemade Bread
☐ Hands-On Garden-- Additional Fee
☐ Living Gluten Free
☐ Trees to Know in Tillamook

Register at OSU Extension, 2204 4th St, Tillamook
Spring Home & Garden Classes

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Register Early
Classes with insufficient enrollment by Friday, April 17 may be cancelled

OSU Extension Service
2204 4th Street
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
(503) 842-3433

Sponsored by:
Oregon State University Extension Service
Tillamook County Master Gardener Association

 emerges from the walls of a house. A green sign with yellow letters: "Spring Home & Garden Classes". A red square with a white line through it: "Cut and return this form to the OSU Extension Service 2204 Fourth Street, Tillamook, OR 97141. Make checks payable to: OSU Extension Service.

Last Name                          First Name                          Phone

Mailing Address                  City                                 Zip

Class Selection - Please X your choices:

9:00 am -- 10:30 am
- A Taste of Hawaii
- Sustainable Landscaping
- Raising Chickens
- Dairy Extension in Russia

10:45 am -- 12:15 pm
- Sausage & Jerky Making
- Vegetable Gardening In Small Spaces
- Living Sustainably
- Opportunities With Trees

1:00 pm -- 3:00 pm
- Quick & Easy Homemade Bread
- Hands-on Garden + additional fee, $13
- Living Gluten Free
- Trees to Know in Tillamook

Day of classes
pick up your schedule containing class location
at the front desk
OSU Extension Service
2204 4th Street, Tillamook

Lunch is not provided
You are welcome to bring a “brown bag” lunch

If you have a physical disability that requires special considerations in order for you to attend the Spring Home & Garden Classes, please notify the OSU Extension Service (503-842-3433) by April 17, 2009.

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, and disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Oregon State University is an Equal Opportunity.

$7 /class or 3 classes for $20
Additional Fee: Hands-on Garden
Total Paid: $ cash
$ check #
$ receipt #
(fee is non-refundable unless the class is cancelled)

Registration is encouraged by Friday, April 17
**A Taste of Hawaii:** Susie Johnson, OSU Extension FCD Program Assistant, Tillamook. Crank up the music with teriyaki "drumettes", add sweet and sour that is not deep fried, make the most of your leftover rice and colorful veggies with "fried rice", and surprise your sweet tooth with a Taste of Hawaii.

**Sustainable Landscaping:** Robert Emanuel, OSU Extension Sea Grant Water Resources Faculty. With all of the buzz around learning to be more sustainable isn’t it time gardeners got involved? A fun exploration of what it takes to make your home landscape a more sustainable one. You will learn about the benefits of using beautiful native plants as well as how to minimize the use of traditional garden chemicals.

Take home handy designs for streamside and other native plant gardens. Learn a little about how to minimize the impact of garden hardscapes such as patios, walkways and decks on local streams. Join the millions of gardeners nationwide who are helping to heal their local environment one landscape at a time! *(Native plants from Rainforest Nursery will be available for purchase.)*

**Raising Chicken:** Joy Jones, OSU Extension Agriculture Faculty, Tillamook. Does the economy have you considering keeping a few chickens to supply you with fresh eggs? What do you need to consider? What about housing, feed, variety of chicken, do you need a rooster? Learn all of this and more.

**Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces:** Don and Janet Davis, Don’s Waterfall Farms, Tillamook. Do you want to grow food but don’t think you have room? Learn what you can grow in small spaces -- a hanging basket, container on the deck, in a flowerbed, or even in a raised bed or a cloche. *(There will be plants available for purchase from Don’s Waterfall farms)*

**Living Sustainably:** Viviane Simon Brown, OSU Extension Forestry Sustainable Living Specialist. How do you define sustainable living? What does it look and feel like? How can we be more sustainable? Why would anyone want to be? In this seminar, we’ll take a light-hearted approach to understanding the “living lightly” revolution. Participants will gain insight into the roles of values and ethics in decision-making, learn what sustainable living is – and isn’t, find out about societal barriers, and have lively, thoughtful conversation on the topic.

**Opportunities with Trees in Small Acreage Enterprises:** Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forestry Faculty, Tillamook and Clatsop Counties. For people interested in forestry, Christmas trees, nursery propagation, or other enterprises involving trees on small acreages (less than 1,000 acres). The class will cover the ins and outs of tree-related businesses on small acreages. We will look at common scenarios, creative alternatives (yours?), opportunities, challenges, and guidelines for successful business operations. An interactive presentation and discussion with your OSU Extension Forester.

**Quick and Easy Homemade Bread:** Nellie Oehler, OSU Extension FCD Food Preservation Specialist. Bet you never knew that bread dough you make yourself can be so versatile. Learn to make quick and easy bread dough that can be used for bread, rolls, sweet breads, pizza dough and more. This will be a hands on class and everyone will be able to take something home to bake. *(This class may run a little longer than scheduled.)*

**Hands-on Garden:** Hidden Acres Greenhouse, Tillamook. Here is your opportunity to spend an "afternoon with ‘herb’ “ and plant your own deck herb garden. Penny Eberle, Tillamook County OSU Master Gardener, will instruct students about the planting and growing requirements for dill, chives, thyme and several other herbs. She will also share favorite recipes using a variety of herbs. *(Students should bring their own 6”-8” container for this class. Plants and supplies will be provided by Hidden Acres Greenhouse. There is a $13 additional fee to cover the cost of materials.)*

**Living Gluten Free:** Annette Pampush, Tillamook County Health Department. This class will focus on living gluten free. The diagnosis, challenges, and options will be discussed. Tips on baking, buying, and eating out will be covered. There will be gluten free foods to sample and recipes to share.

**Trees to Know in Tillamook:** Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forestry Faculty, Tillamook and Clatsop Counties. For people who would like to know more about the native trees of Tillamook and Oregon. The class will cover tree identification, important characteristics such as abundance, growth habit, site preferences and limitations, beneficial uses, other interesting facts, and your questions about major tree species in our area. This will be an interactive presentation and discussion with your OSU Extension Forester.