

FEBRUARY

2008

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

- Have soil test performed on garden plot to determine nutrient needs. Ask your local Extension office for a list of testing laboratories or view EM 8677 online.
- *Western Oregon:* Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts).
- *Central/eastern Oregon:* Plant asparagus if the ground is warm enough.
- Tune up lawnmower and garden equipment before the busy season begins.
- Use delayed-dormant sprays of lime sulfur for fruit and deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Prune and train grapes; make cuttings.
- Prune roses in western Oregon; wait until May in high elevations of eastern and central Oregon.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Do not treat unless a problem is identified.
- *Central Oregon:* Gather branches of quince, forsythia, and flowering cherries; bring inside to force early bloom.
- *Western Oregon:* Elm leaf beetles and box-elder bugs emerging from hibernation may be seen indoors. They are not harmful but can be a nuisance.
- Make a cold frame or hotbed to start early vegetables or flowers.
- Plant onions outdoors in western Oregon as soon as the soil is dry enough to till.
- Check junipers and cotoneaster for webworm activity. Treat if necessary.
- Plant windowsill container gardens of carrots, lettuce, or parsley.
- Plan to add herbaceous perennial flowers to your flowering landscape this spring: astilbe, candytuft, peony, anemone.
- Make plans for an herb bed, for cooking and for interest in the landscape: parsley, sage, chives, lavender; plant next month.
- If weather permits and the soil is dry enough, spade or till garden areas for planting later.
- Spade or plow down cover crops or other organic matter.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetable and flower seeds.
- Good time to plant fruit trees and deciduous shrubs.
- *Western Oregon:* Good time to plant new roses.
- Prune deciduous summer-blooming shrubs and trees.
- Prune clematis, Virginia creeper, and other vining ornamentals.
- Pasteurize soil for starting seedlings in pots or flats.
- Fertilize rhubarb with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Prune and trellis trailing berries and caneberries.
- *Western Oregon:* Fertilize lawns.
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries.
- Repair winter damage to trees and shrubs.
- Control moles and gophers with traps.

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>