

# JANUARY

2008

## *Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent*

- *Central/eastern Oregon:* Water your plants every 6 to 8 weeks when temperatures are above freezing with a deep soaking to prevent drying out.
- View *Constructing Cold Frames and Hotbeds* (FS 246-E) online ([extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/)).
- Check with local retail garden or nursery stores for seeds and seed catalogs, and begin planning this year's vegetable garden.
- Have soil test performed on garden plot. Ask your local Extension office for a list of laboratories or view EM 8677 online.
- *Western Oregon:* Where soil is well-drained and workable, plant garden peas and sweet peas. Suggested varieties of garden peas include Corvallis, Dark Green Perfection, Green Arrow, Oregon Sugar Pod, Snappy, Knight, Sugar Snap, Oregon Trail, Oregon Sugar Pod II.
- Spray cherry trees for bacterial canker; use a copper fungicide with a spreader-sticker.
- Gather and store scion wood for grafting fruit and nut trees. Wrap in damp cloth or peat moss and place in plastic bag. Store in cool place.
- *Mid-January:* Spray peach trees with approved fungicides to combat peach leaf curl. Or plant curl-resistant varieties such as Frost.
- Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs and trees for propagation.
- *Western Oregon:* Water landscape plants underneath wide eaves and in other sites shielded from rain.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Do not treat unless a problem is identified.
- Watch for field mice damage on lower trunks of trees and shrubs. Control measures include approved baits, weed control to remove hiding places, and traps.
- Use dormant sprays of lime sulfur or copper fungicide on roses for general disease control.
- *Western Oregon:* Gather branches of quince, forsythia, and flowering cherries; bring inside to force early bloom.
- Place windbreaks between cold, drying winds and foliage of landscape evergreens to prevent "windburn."
- Monitor houseplants for correct water, fertilizer; guard against insect infestations; clean dust from leaves.
- If moss and lichen on trees and shrubs are objectionable, treat with copper fungicide.
- Propagate split-leaf philodendrons and other leggy indoor plants by air-layering.
- Plant some dwarf annual flowers inside for houseplants: coleus, impatiens, seedling geraniums.
- Reapply or redistribute mulches that blew away during winter.
- Too early to start seeds for vegetable transplants, but consult seed catalogs for ideas.
- Plant deciduous fruit and shade trees.
- Moss appearing in lawn means too much shade or poor drainage.
- Prepare and store potting soil in clean containers.

*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>