

JULY

2008

Garden hints from your OSU Extension agent

- Control hollyhock rust by sanitation, picking affected leaves, or spraying with a recommended and registered fungicide. Read and follow label directions.
- Early morning is the best time to water vegetable and flower gardens to reduce evaporation. Water deeply and infrequently.
- Hanging baskets of flowers or vegetable plantings need careful attention to watering and feeding during extended periods of hot weather.
- Watch for cutworm damage in garden. (In July, climbing cutworms become a problem, and large portions of foliage will begin to disappear on established plants.) Use barriers, remove by hand, use beneficial nematodes when soil temperature is above 55°F, or spray with *Bt* per label directions.
- Midsummer plantings of beets, bush beans, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, kale, and peas will provide fall and winter crops.
- Place traps to catch adult apple maggot flies. You can use pheromone traps to monitor presence of pests.
- July 10: spray filbert trees for filbertworm.
- July 10–15: spray peach and prune trees for root borers.
- 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.
- Stake tomatoes, watch for blight (prune for air circulation, pick off affected leaves, treat with approved fungicide).
- First planting of Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, rutabagas on Oregon coast.
- Monitor camellias, holly, maple trees for scale insects. Treat if necessary.
- Monitor rhododendrons for root weevil adults. Look for fresh evidence of feeding (notching). Try sticky trap products on plant trunks to trap weevils.
- If a green lawn is desired, make sure lawn areas receive adequate water. Deep watering less often is more effective than frequent shallow watering.
- Check leafy vegetables for caterpillars. Control with *Bt* or Sevin. Never use Sevin during bloom period or in the presence of bees.
- Weed and fertilize rhubarb and asparagus beds, water deeply to develop crowns for next year. A mulch of compost or rotted cow manure works well.
- Mulch with paper, plastic, sawdust, etc. to conserve soil moisture.
- Mound soil up around base of potatoes, gather and eat a few “new” potatoes from each hill.
- Dig spring bulbs when tops have died down; divide and store or replant.
- Stake tall-growing flowering plants such as delphinium, hollyhocks, and lupine.
- Aerate lawns for better water and fertilizer usage.
- Spider mites can become a problem on ornamental plants, vegetables, and fruit plants during hot, dry weather. Watch for dusty-looking foliage, loss of color, presence of tiny mites. Wash infested areas with water or spray with appropriate pesticides.
- **East of the Cascades:** spray for corn earworm as silking begins. Protect bees from spray.

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 county office of the OSU Extension Service.