

MARCH

2008

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

- *Western Oregon:* If soil is dry enough, begin vegetable garden soil preparation and plant cool-season crops (peas, lettuce, cabbage, onions, kale, chard).
- *Central Oregon:* Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts).
- *Central Oregon:* Plant chard.
- Divide hosta, daylilies, and mums.
- Plan and plant an edible landscape or flower bed.
- If you lack in-ground gardening space, plan a container garden: grow radishes, carrots, lettuce, and tomatoes during the warm season.
- Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Do not treat unless a problem is identified.
- If necessary, treat crowns of raspberry plants with registered insecticides to control raspberry cane borer.
- *Western Oregon:* Plant berry crops (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, and other berry-producing crop plants). See OSU Extension publications for varieties.
- *Western Oregon:* Fertilize caneberries (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.
- *Western Oregon:* Take geraniums, begonias, and fuchsias from storage. Water and fertilize. Cut back if necessary. Move outdoors next month.
- Fertilize rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas with acid-type fertilizer.
- Spray to control leaf and twig fungus diseases in sycamore, hawthorn, and willow trees.
- Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
- Treat lawns for European crane fly if damage has been confirmed.
- Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.
- *Western Oregon:* Best time of year to thatch and renovate lawns.
- Plan the vegetable garden carefully for spring, summer, and fall vegetables that can be eaten fresh or preserved.
- 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.

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>