

NOVEMBER

2006

Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

- *Western Oregon:* Bait garden, flower beds for slugs during rainy periods. Use traps or iron phosphate baits that are pet-safe.
- Rake and destroy leaves from fruit trees that were diseased this year. Remove mummified fruit.
- Tie red raspberry canes to wires; prune to 1 foot above the top wire or wrap the canes around the top wire. Check for holes made by crown borers at base of plant, treat with registered insecticides if seen.
- *Western Oregon:* Good time to transplant landscape trees and shrubs.
- *Western Oregon:* Prune roses to “knee-high” to prevent winter wind damage.
- Renew mulch around perennial flower beds after removing weeds.
- *Western Oregon:* Take cuttings of rhododendrons and camellias for propagation; propagate begonias from leaf cuttings.
- Place mulch of manure over dormant vegetable garden area. A 3- to 4-inch layer of leaves spread over the garden plot prevents soil compaction by rain.
- Cover rhubarb and asparagus beds with composted manure and straw.
- Use mulches to prevent erosion and compaction from rain.
- Watch for wet soil and drainage problems in yard during heavy rains. Tiling, ditching, and French drains are possible solutions.
- Protect built-in sprinkler systems: drain the system, insulate the valve mechanisms.
- *Central/eastern Oregon:* Water your plants every 6 to 8 weeks with a deep soaking to prevent drying out.
- *Central/eastern Oregon:* Wrap the trunks of young, thin-barked trees with paper tree wrap late in the month to prevent sunscald.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Do not treat unless a problem is identified.
- Clean and oil lawnmower, other garden equipment, and tools before storing for winter. Drain and store hoses carefully to avoid damage from freezing.
- Check firewood for insect infestations. Burn affected wood first and do not store inside.
- Tie limbs of upright evergreens to prevent breakage by snow or ice.
- Plant shrubs and trees that supply food and shelter to birds; e.g., sumac, barberry, elderberry, and holly.
- Protect tender evergreens from drying wind.
- Trim chrysanthemums to 4-6 inches after they finish blooming.
- Moss appearing in lawn means too much shade or poor drainage.
- *Central/eastern Oregon:* Apply a winter fertilizer to your lawn.
- Place a portable cold frame over rows of winter vegetables.
- Reduce fertilizer applications to houseplants.
- Still time to plant spring-flowering bulbs, but don't delay.
- *Western Oregon:* Apply lime to lawns if needed.
- Rake and compost leaves that are free of diseases and insects.
- Place mulch around berries for winter protection.
- Plant window garden of lettuce, chives, parsley.
- Check potatoes in storage and remove any going bad.
- *Western Oregon:* Plant garlic for harvest next summer.
- Force spring bulbs for indoor blooms in December.
- Good time to plant trees and shrubs.

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>