

# SEPTEMBER<sup>2008</sup>

## *Garden hints from your OSU Extension agent*

- Apply parasitic nematodes to soil beneath rhododendrons and azaleas that show root weevil damage (notched leaves).
- Harvest winter squash when the “ground spot” changes from white to a cream or gold color.
- Plant lawns until October 15 in western Oregon.
- Plant or transplant woody ornamentals and mature herbaceous perennials.
- Plant garden cover crops as garden is harvested. Spread manure or compost over unplanted garden areas.
- Pick and store winter squash; mulch carrot, parsnip, and beet rows for winter harvesting.
- Spray holly for leaf and twig blight, blueberries for stem canker as needed.
- Reduce water on trees, shrubs, and vines east of the Cascades to harden them off for winter.
- Divide peonies and iris.
- Plant daffodils, tulips, and crocus for spring bloom. Work calcium and phosphorus into the soil below the bulbs at planting time.
- Clean houseplants, check for insects, and repot if necessary; then bring them indoors.
- Protect tomatoes and/or pick green tomatoes and ripen indoors if frost threatens.
- Use stakes to support tall flowers and to keep them from blowing over in fall winds.
- Bait for slugs with traps or iron phosphate products that are safe for use around pets.
- Dig, clean, and store tuberous begonias if frost threatens.
- Harvest potatoes when the tops die down. Store them in a dark location.
- Prepare compost pile for recycling vegetation from garden and deciduous trees. Do not compost diseased or insect-infested plant material.
- **Western Oregon:** plant winter cover of annual rye or winter peas.
- Copper spray for peach and cherry trees.
- Monitor trailing berries for leaf and cane spot. Treat if necessary.
- Spray for juniper twig blight after pruning away dead and infected twigs.
- Monitor arborvitae for Berckmann’s blight. Spray if necessary.
- **Coastal and western valleys:** spray potatoes and tomatoes for early and late blight.

*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.*