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 Berrckmann’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.