

Easy ways to be sustainable in the garden

By Kym Pokorny
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CORVALLIS – In the midst of the gardening season, you may want to think about how you can be kinder on the environment – and your wallet, too.

“Everyone can be sustainable,” said Ross Penhallegon, a horticulturist for Oregon State University Extension Service. “If you use drip irrigation, you’re doing your part to save this resource. If you take leaves and make compost and put that compost in the soil, we’ve won.

Penhallegon shares these tips for being more sustainable in the garden:

- Instead of putting yard debris in the recycling cart, start a compost pile (<http://bit.ly/OSUcompost>) seems overwhelming or too time-consuming, use the cold composting method, where you throw yard debris in a pile and wait until it breaks down in a year or more. Composting keeps all the nutrients stored in yard debris in your garden on site and feeds the soil. It also saves you money since buying compost isn’t necessary.

- Switch from standard sprinklers to drip irrigation or soaker hoses. You can reduce your water use by up to 80 percent. Also, consider using drought-resistant plants to

save water – for your wallet as well as the environment (see <http://bit.ly/OSUplantlist>). Another publication – *Conserving Water in Your Yard and Garden* (<http://bit.ly/OSUconservewater>) – offers additional ways to save water.

- Plant larger seedlings, which will fend off pests and diseases better than small ones, making it easier to control problems without using pesticides.

- Save seeds of your healthiest plants, which is a fun way to see what develops the next year. If they turn into healthy plants, that will mean less problems. Saving seeds also saves you money. Find out more in the Extension

article *Seize some seeds from the garden for planting next year* (<http://bit.ly/OSUseeds>).

- Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which uses the least-toxic methods for controlling pest and disease problems while minimizing risks to the environment, humans, animals, pollinators and other beneficial insects. Some easy ways to use IPM are to manage pests by squishing them, washing them off with a strong spray of water, using fabric cloth and planting plants that attract good bugs to help take care of the bad ones (learn more about IPM at <http://bit.ly/OSUfightbugs>). If you must use a pesticide, use a low-toxicity one.

HOME: Families put in ‘sweat equity’ on homes

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into their house. The future homeowners attend classes and earn sweat equity hours by working at the Thrift Store, ReStore and working on their house. Nancy spent time painting her home during Women Build Week and Roberto would often be at the house at the end of his work day working on various projects.

Sisters Habitat for Humanity is an option for qualified families to achieve strength, stability and the independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families.

Those interested in homeownership or the Sisters Habitat home repair program can visit www.sistershabitat.org and review the qualification guidelines, or call the Habitat office at 541-549-1193.

Oregon liquor license cost raised for 1st time in 70 years

SALEM (AP) — The cost of a liquor license in Oregon is going up for the first time in 70 years after newly passed legislation doubled the amount the agency will charge bars, restaurants, breweries and wineries for the right to sell alcohol to customers.

The law moves Oregon’s liquor fees from among the cheapest in the nation to just below the national average for such fees, but the agency says getting on a par with other states was not the motivation.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) wants to use the new revenue to move

its license renewal process online, deal with the increase in applications statewide as the population grows and create a more efficient, two-year renewal option.

“Our fees were set in 1949, as far as we know, back when bread was 10 cents a loaf,” said OLCC spokesman Matthew Van Sickle.

Starting Oct. 1, a full liquor license will be \$800, up from \$400, and winery or brewery license fees will increase from \$250 to \$500.

OLCC’s revenues from distilled spirit sales and beer and wine privilege taxes,

forecast at more than \$1.5 billion for 2019-21, are the third-largest source of revenue for the State of Oregon.

The increase in licensing fees is projected to raise an additional \$9 million for the 2019-21 biennium.

The agency processes an average of 454 new licenses a year, adding to a load of more than 18,000 active licenses.

Another goal for the new revenue is increased stings where the State sends in underage people to attempt to purchase alcohol at licensed establishments. The Legislature sets the benchmark

for compliance, recently raised from 80% to 90%.



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Sisters Rhythm & Brews 2019



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the amazing community we call home!

To the fire hall and firefighters who shared their space with us for the weekend.

To Angeline Rhett and the rest of the Rhett family who went above and beyond to accommodate artists, transport, assist with setup and teardown and be a shoulder to cry on if needed. Bill Moss, JJ Jones, Jon Fox and The Heart of Oregon for transporting everyone safely to and fro.

Thank you to Kerry Prosser and Shawn Diez for welcoming folks and managing volunteers. All the entry gate folks scanning with a smile. Roise Dahms and Katie Diez for being the green room queens. To Meghan Flaherty, Heather Walden, Lynn Bancroft, Mardy Hickerson, Teresa and Chris for holding down the fort in the gazebo. Ara and Michelle for amazing vendor coordination and backstage traffic flow.

David Jacobs Strain, the stage-managing king!
Jim Goodwin, Katie Cavanaugh and Jim Cornelius for pumping up the crowd.

Elias Munro, the volunteer of the year, what a great addition to the team!

Jimmy Miller and Chance Dahms, on opps, we wouldn't do it any other way.

Drew and Erin from the Trail Stop, the Porch and Sisters Meat and Smokehouse, thanks for feeding us all!

To all our sponsors, volunteers, friends and family thank you, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

It really does take a village, and we are proud to be a part of this one!

— Love, Jenn and Joe!