

Get it fresh—grow your own garden

By KATHLEEN MONJE
Of the Emerald

The smell of tomato vines in the morning, still damp with dew — not to mention the taste of a just-picked tomato ripened on the vine — is just one of the delights of gardening.

Other benefits include healthy food, unsprayed, and hefty annual savings of up to \$300 on the grocery budget.

Frustrated city-bound gardeners in Eugene have a unique opportunity to exercise their green thumbs, with the city's Community Garden program. The Eugene Parks and Recreation Department provides plots of land, water and tilling at four different sites around the city for a small charge.

If the city tills the plot, rental for the summer is \$11, but if the gardener does the tilling the cost is \$8.

Workshops on gardening, with advice and tips for the novice, are held Thursday evenings throughout the summer. Plot and workshop schedule information can be obtained from Eliza Schmidkunz, the community garden coordinator, at 687-5303.

Choosing what to plant in the vegetable garden is the first and most exciting step. Area grocery stores carry large selections of bright-colored seed packets and rooted plants ready for transplanting. Nurseries have even more, and carry berry plants, grape vines and fruit trees, too.

The best varieties for the Eugene-Springfield area are listed in a gardening guide available from the county extension service at 950 W. 13th Ave., 687-4243.

When you've decided what to plant and where, the next problem is when and how.

Most varieties of beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, brussel sprouts, carrots, squash, cucumbers, lettuce, peppers, corn and to-



matoes can still be planted with good results.

Though it's a bit late for melons, pumpkins and peas, an optimistic gardener might

want to plant them — transplants of these vegetables would have a good chance of reaching maturity.

A good rule of thumb for how to plant

seeds is based on size. Small vegetable seeds, such as carrots, lettuce and radishes, should be planted no more than one-half inch deep.

Medium-sized seed (beets and swiss chard) should be planted three-quarters of an inch deep, and the large seeds of corn, squash and beans can be as much as one to one and one-half inches down in the soil.

Following the spacing directions on seed packages is important, because crowding can rob the seedlings of the sunshine, water and soil nutrients they need.

Watering needs of the growing plants depend on soil type and the root depth of plants. Sandy soils need more water than clay soils, and leafy vegetables need more water than those whose roots go deeper, such as corn, tomatoes and squash.

If plants are wilting during the hottest part of the day, or if they turn a dark blue-green color, they need water. A thorough soaking every five to seven days is better for the plants than frequent watering with small amounts.

To conserve water, irrigating at night or early morning is best — the sun can't evaporate it as fast.

Organic gardeners, those gardening on a shoe-string may want to look for farmers in the area who are eager to have manure hauled off their property. Most will charge nothing. The best animal manure is the oldest, because its nutrients are more available to the plants.

Fresh-produce aficionados who can't grow all their own fruits and vegetables can use the new Fresh Produce Buyers Guide, published for the first time this year. Also available from the county extension service, it lists addresses for almost 50 growers.

Cultural Forum: the concert connection

By GREG WASSON
Of the Emerald

Eugene lacks space for major cultural events. But much of what room there is is located at the University. The Cultural Forum plays an important part in deciding how that space is used.

Composed of five students, the Forum schedules events at the

University throughout the year. Those five students each deal with a specific area, contemporary issues, popular concerts, film and literature, heritage music, or visual and performing arts.

"Somehow into one of those five areas you can place just about any program idea," says Frank Geltner, the Forum's program consultant. Geltner says there is

no theme running through the Forum's programming from one year to the next.

"The program of next year is uniquely the creation of the five people working."

Geltner, who has two people to assist him, says he provides technical assistance for the students on the Forum.

The Forum schedules mostly

one-shot events, ongoing things are handled by the program committee which operates out of the same office, and blends revenue producing events with events that will probably lose money.

"If we just took the money we're allocated and spent it," predicts Geltner, "we'd probably run out by the middle of winter term. But some of it turns over and recycles

itself allowing us to expand our programming through the spring."

The Forum's films had to be scheduled for next year by June 1 but in other areas the lead time is less.

"Things happen in the others on a much shorter basis," says Geltner. "Especially popular concerts and heritage music."

Aside from scheduling bands for beer gardens, the Forum has little planned for this summer other than prepare for next year. According to Geltner, incidental fees summer term barely pay to keep the EMU open. Because of that the Forum is expected to spend the entire amount (\$60,750 last year) allocated by the Incidental Fee Committee during the main academic year, September to May, something Geltner thinks should change.

A major source of revenue for the Forum is popular concerts, a source the Athletic Department would like to tap. Who should schedule what has produced squabbles in the past and last year the President's office drafted a scheduling plan.

"Essentially what they said," explains Geltner, "is that when students are in session, the Cultural Forum does it and when they're not, the Athletic Department does it."

Students aren't considered in session during the summer and the Athletic Department hopes to cash in. Sunday, the Grateful Dead, Santana, the Outlaws and Eddie Money will play in Autzen Stadium. If that concert proves successful, Steve Miller and the Beach Boys may be scheduled for later in the summer.

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