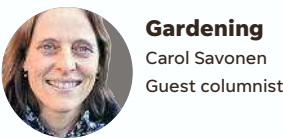


How to care for June-bearing strawberries



Gardening
Carol Savonen
Guest columnist

Question: I have June-bearing strawberries. They seem like they are almost done fruiting. What should I do to keep them in good shape for next year?

Answer: June-bearing strawberries are those that produce a single crop each year, including Hood, Susan, Totem, Benton and Rainier. Ever bearers and day-neutrals should not be renovated at this time.

Were your June-bearing strawberries vigorous and relatively pest and disease-free? Then mid-summer is a good time to renovate your bed to encourage a good crop next year. If they weren't real productive, I'd tear them out, and put in another strawberry bed in a different area. Plant something else there, such as a fall cover crop like crimson clover.

Here's how to renovate your June-bearers after fruiting season:

■ Remove all the leaves and stems from the plants and dispose of the debris by throwing them in the garbage. Do not compost, as it spreads disease. Use pruning shears or scissors if you only have a few plants or plenty of time. For big beds of strawberries, use a rotary



June-bearing strawberries are those that produce a single crop each year.

FILE PHOTO

lawn mower with the blade set about an inch above the crown of the plants.

■ Once the leaves are gone, thin your plants to a density of about 5 or 6 plants per square foot. Remove oldest mother plants and favor the year-old daughters. Go ahead and use the plants developing on runners too, if you like. New plants that root by early September will bear fruit next year. Any that root later than that should be removed.

■ Weed your bed thoroughly with a hoe, mechanical tiller or by hand.

■ Fertilize your bed after thinning with the equivalent of 2 to 3 pounds of 10-10-10 fertilizer or rich compost for each 100 square feet of row.

■ Water the patch well after fertilizing to wash all the fertilizer off the crowns and down into the root zone.

■ Don't fertilize them in the spring, as it may cause excessive leaf growth at the cost of fruit production.

Question: Our yellow delicious apple tree is crazy with apples. I think there are too many apples. The branches are near to breaking and the apples are small by comparison to our Red Delicious with fewer apples.

Should we brace up the branches? Should we thin the branches? Or will it thin itself?

Answer: Take off at least every other apple (or more) to avoid branch damage. A lot of resources have gone into growing all these apples. As a result, next year you may have a really small crop. Since your apples are so big, be sure not to waste them. They'll make great compost, if you grind them up.

Many apple trees, if left to their own devices, tend to have a big crop every other year because a large fruit bearing year tends to sap the tree of resources for the next fruiting crop. Horticulturists term this trend "biennial (every other year) bearing." It is common to apples and pears, especially.

Ideally, you should have removed at least half your apples, soon after fruit set, in the late spring, when the apples were tiny. It is easier on the tree. But do it now; it is better late than never.

Some growers thin their fruit blossoms in a heavy flowering year, before fruit set. A week to 10 days after flowering, remove 90 percent (9 out of 10 blossoms, by pinching or cutting with scissors. Leave the leaves alone.

Stresses such as frost damage, disease and under fertilizing can trigger biennial bearing as well.

Judicious pruning can help. In the winter following an "off" year, prune the major structure of the tree as normal, but be sure to leave as many one year old shoots as you can. These will not produce flowers and/or fruit until the year after next, which is the next expected low-bearing year.

Next winter, after this heavy-bearing year, leave these shoots again (now 2 years old). Then prune the newer batch of one year old shoots back. Two years hence, these should bear moderately, rather than heavily.

OBITUARIES

William 'Bill' Fenner

May 29, 1963 – July 9, 2018
Bill Fenner passed away July 9th in Salem, Oregon at the age of 55. Bill was born May 29, 1963 in Sitka, Alaska to Ralph and Mary Fenner. In 1978, Bill along with his mother and sister moved to Silverton, Oregon and he graduated from Silverton Union High



William Fenner

School in 1981. Hours after his graduation he was on his way back to Alaska to pursue his love of fishing. He returned to Silverton in 2016. Bill spent most of his career working in Dutch Harbor, Alaska as an engineer on crab and longline vessels.

He also worked on ships in several countries, including Argentina, Norway, South Korea and Russia. Fishing of all kinds was his passion and he never passed up an opportunity to be on the water. He was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Fenner. He is survived by his father Ralph (Sue) Fenner of Sitka, Alaska, sister Lori (Tom) Pallister of Salem,

Oregon, step-sister Jody Jerger of Dallas, Oregon, aunts Betty Brewer of Green Valley, Arizona and Nancy (Bob) Ferko of Anchorage, Alaska, nephews Tom Jr (Ashley) Pallister, Mathew Pallister, niece Kathryn Pallister, all of Salem, Oregon and several cousins. Arrangements by Unger Funeral Chapel.

Business

Continued from Page 1A

the marinas as well as the restaurants around here."

When the first advisories were issued in May, businesses saw an immediate drop in sales and some tourists canceled their reservations.

What originally looked like another bleak summer for Detroit businesses has a rosier outlook as they are reporting only slight drops in sales.

Many of the campgrounds and motels have still been full for the major holidays like July 4 and the July 7 Fireworks Over The Lake celebration.

"We're booked solid," Detroit Lake Marina owner Scott Lunski said. "One person canceled and two people called to make reservations."

People aren't ignoring the advisories; many don't know the current water advisory has been in place since June 28.

Most of the popular boating launches and beaches have warning placards in their parking lots about blue green algae, but don't have information about the current water advisory.

"We get 10 phone calls a day asking if we have it," said Keyonnie Zeober, a manager at Mountain High Grocery.

"We get people all the time, from the time we open until the time we close saying, 'Hey, is there still an advisory? Hey, how's your water up there? Is your water okay up there?'"

The City of Salem's drinking water advisory for children, pregnant women or nursing mothers and people with compromised immune systems was rescinded on July 3. Salem gets its drinking water from the North Santiam River, which draws its water from Detroit Lake.

Zeober said she has noticed fewer children coming into Mountain High Grocery this summer, but more millennials in the store.

said. "A lot of people don't care so they're going to come up here either way."

The toxic blue green algae blooms were first noticed at locations including Blowout Arm, Heater Creek Arm and near the dam in May.

This year's first water quality alert was issued on May 23 and lifted June 8. Another alert was issued June 13 and lifted June 14. Another alert was issued June 15 and lifted June 25. The most recent alert was issued June 28 and is still in place.

People who have spent significant amounts of time at the lake say they avoid any areas that look suspicious, but that they have a hard time seeing any dangerous areas.

"Our reservations are down, but once people get up to the lake and see that it's fine, they rent boats," Lunski said.

What is more concerning to business owners in Detroit is the manner in which the advisories have been issued.

The Oregon Health Authority's advisory states people should avoid drinking the water at Detroit Lake and avoid swimming and participating in power boating or water skiing in areas where algal blooms are identified.

Cyanotoxins microcystin and cylindrospermopsin can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and skin irritation, cause additional liver or kidney problems to people who already have liver or kidney diseases and can injure the nervous system.

But the infected water has to be ingested in significant quantities.

"The advisories, I don't think they put out enough information on them," Lunski said. "If you were to call the water department and ask them how many people have gotten sick from them, it's zero. There's a lot of things you got to do to get sick from it."

"I think there's a misconception on what it actually does and how it affects the body. I think they haven't communicated that correctly."

In late June, the Oregon Health Au-

thority changed its protocol for lifting advisories at Detroit Lake, requiring three days of cyanotoxin levels to be below recreational advisory guidelines and visual confirmation that an algae bloom has subsided.

"We hope this new protocol for Detroit Lake will help reduce some of the

confusion among the public about whether a recreational advisory is in place at the lake," said David Farrer, Ph.D., toxicologist with the Environmental Public Health Section at the OHA Public Health Division.

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75th Wedding Anniversary

John and Eileen (Page) Lalicker were married in Kansas, at the Page family home on August 3, 1943. In 1949 while visiting family in Oregon they purchased a home and moved from "Tornado Alley", to Silverton. They owned and operated "Budget Market" in Silverton for 22 years. John later worked for Fred Meyer until retirement and Eileen was an Avon representative for 46 years. Their family includes a daughter, Kay Klaus and son Bob Lalicker and his wife Betty. They have 4 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

An Open House will be held Saturday, July 28th from 2-4, at the Silverton United Methodist Church, 203 W. Main St., Silverton, OR.