

Mix leaves and coffee grounds to spread over raised beds



Gardening
Carol Savonen
Guest columnist

Question: We took our fallen maple and dogwood leaves and put them on our 24-foot by 16-foot raised bed. We put clear plastic over the bed to keep the leaves from blowing away. Is that a good thing to do?

Also we were given 9 bags of Starbucks used coffee grounds. We were told they are good for the garden. We haven't put them on it yet. So, would they be good for the garden and flower beds (roses especially)? If so, can we put them on top of leaves? Or do we need to take leaves off and put the grounds on the soil, then add the leaves?

Answer: Yes, both leaves and coffee grounds will be great organic material for your raised garden bed. However, to help them decompose more readily, I'd recommend that you first shred the leaves by running them over with lawn mower. You might have to take them out of the bed for this to work.

Then mix together the shredded leaves and grounds back in your bed. You could do it in layers—pile about 4 inches of shredded leaves, then sprinkle an inch or so of grounds onto the shredded leaves, then more leaves etc. again and again until they are all piled up. Then cover the whole thing with your plastic. Next spring, these will be way more decomposed.

Coffee grounds are an excellent nitrogen source for heating up a compost pile or helping a leaf pile decompose. They contain about 2 percent nitrogen by volume, so they can be used as a safe



Check your local McDonald's to see if they take part in a grounds recycling program. JOHN SAMORA /THE REPUBLIC

substitute for nitrogen-rich manure in the compost pile, without having the worry of pathogens in manure.

Contrary to popular belief, coffee grounds are not acidic. After brewing, the grounds are close to pH neutral, between 6.5 and 6.8. The acid in the beans is mostly water-soluble, so it leaches

into the coffee we drink.

Uncomposted grounds have a carbon to nitrogen ratio of 20/1. In informal trials with OSU/Lane County Extension Service, compost piles reached sustained temperatures of 140 to 160 degrees for up to two weeks when coffee grounds made up about 25 percent of

the volume of material in the compost pile. This sustained heat was enough time to have killed a significant portion of the pathogens and seeds. In contrast, trials with a similar ratio of manure in lieu of compost didn't sustain the heat as long.

Keep in mind that coffee grounds are not a nitrogen fertilizer. Used grounds should be composted before using near plants. In a germination test by OSU Extension in Eugene, coffee grounds were mixed with potting soil at a ratio of 25 percent by volume. Lettuce seeds showed poor rates of germination and stunted growth compared to lettuce seeds planted in potting mix without coffee grounds.

Grounds may be stored for future use. It doesn't matter if they get moldy as the molds will be killed during the composting process. Paper coffee filters may be composted with the grounds.

Check with your local coffee shop for grounds. Starbucks has a policy of making their used coffee grounds available to gardeners. Check at McDonald's too. According to their website, they implemented a used coffee grounds composting program called "Good Neighbor, Good Grounds" in 2015 to reduce the amount of organic waste being sent to landfills. Through the program, participating restaurants re-bag coffee grounds and give them to community members to use in their home gardens or donate them to community gardens.

Carol Savonen is a naturalist and writer. She is an associate professor emeritus at OSU and tends a large garden in the Coast Range Hills west of Philomath with her husband and dogs. She can be reached at Carol.Savonen@oregonstate.edu or c/o: EESC, 422 Kerr Admin. Bldg., OSU, Corvallis, OR 97331.

Obituaries

Bonita O. Tulare (Jones)

SILVERTON - Bonnie Tulare passed away on November 12, in Silverton, Oregon at the age of 93. Bonnie was born on June 7, 1925 in Toledo, Oregon to Percy and Selma Jones. The family moved to Silverton shortly after Bonnie was born. Bonnie had two brothers Percy and Don and a sister Pauline. She married Chuck Tulare on October 5, 1946. They settled in the Silverton hills where they built a home and raised strawberries. They had a son, Gary, on December 10, 1948. They moved into town in 1960 and lived on Steelhammer Street until 1964. Then they moved to Barger Street on the creek in 1964 and lived there until 2016. Because of failing health Bonnie moved to Davenport place on June 4, 2016. Bonnie was an excellent homemaker, wife, mother, and friend. She always cared about others before herself. She was preceded in death by her son, Gary, and her husband, Chuck. She is survived by her daughter-in-law, Judy, a niece Donita, great-niece, Kara, nephews, Randy, Rick, Larry, and Vern (Hallie), her best friend Ruby Maulding and friends Rex and Nancy Britton.



Thank you to Dr. Blount, Staff at Davenport place and Willamette Valley Hospice for giving such excellent care to Bonnie.

At Bonnie's request there will be private services held. Burial was at Valley View Cemetery. Arrangements by Unger Funeral Chapel.

Nelta Fay Eggleston

SILVERTON - Fay (Elliott) Eggleston of Silverton, Oregon passed away on November 12, 2018 at the age of 83. She was born in Winfield, Alabama on December 4, 1934. Fay married Ron Eggleston on September 26, 1955. Fay worked as a CNA for many years and she received her GED at age 60. She enjoyed reading, quilting, crocheting, camping, and family.

Fay is survived by her daughter; Cindy Stanley (James Roswell), her son; Robert (Linda) Eggleston and Daniel Eggleston, 7 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and 5 great-great grandchildren.

Graveside services will be Friday, November 16 at 11am at Belcrest Memorial Park in Salem.



Miller

Continued from Page 1B

But wait, there's more.

As an added bonus, if the clouds hold off, you can dig and/or rake for the tasty bivalves under a near-full moon, which peaks on Nov. 22.

Before making the drive, be sure to call the recorded Shellfish Safety Hotline at (800) 448-2474 to check on any closures for both clams and crabs. The information also is posted online at <https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/FoodSafety/Shellfish/Pages/ShellfishClosures.aspx>

Those hardy souls with heavy jackets and headlamps and/or lanterns who are willing to brave the elements will find:

Closest to Salem on Siletz Bay at Taft just south of Lincoln City, there is a minus-.82-foot tide at 7 p.m. on Nov. 23. Sunset is at 4:40, and moonrise is at 5:32.

On Nov. 24, the low tide is minus-.98 feet at 7:43 p.m. with sunset about

three hours earlier at 4:39, and moonrise at 6:21.

At South Beach on Yaquina Bay (Newport), there is a minus-1.35 foot tide at 6:25 p.m. on Nov. 23. Sunset is at 4:41 p.m. and moonrise is at 5:33 p.m.

On Nov. 24, there is a minus-1.63-foot tide at 7:08 p.m. at South Beach with sunset at 4:40 p.m., and moonrise at 6:22.

At Garibaldi on the north end of Tillamook Bay, there is a minus-1.60-foot tide at 6:53 p.m. on Nov. 23, and a minus-1.84-foot tide at 7:36 on Nov. 24.

Sunsets are at 4:38 on Nov. 23, and 4:37 on Nov. 24, with moonrise times of 5:30 p.m. on the 23rd, and 6:18 p.m. on the 24th.

And finally, on Netarts Bay south of Tillamook, the Black Friday tide is a minus-.93 feet at 7:25 p.m. (sunset is 4:38, moonrise is at 5:31).

The Nov. 24 low is minus-1.11 feet at 8:08 p.m., with sunset at 4:37, and moonrise at 6:19.

Henry Miller is a retired Statesman Journal outdoor columnist and outdoor writer. You can contact him via email at HenryMillerSJ@gmail.com

Elna Beneke

WOODBURN - Elna Beneke, 94, passed away peacefully, on Monday November 12th, in Woodburn, OR. Elna was born on April 2, 1924, in Killdeer ND to Christ and Esther Hanson. She was raised on the family farm with her 5 siblings. She married John Heidt in 1946 and had two children, Paulette and Barry. After they divorced, she married Louis Beneke in 1956, had one child, Kristi, and gained a stepdaughter, Linda. Lou and Elna moved to Portland, OR. in 1962 where she worked as a secretary for Gibson Bowsls realty and was an executive secretary for General Motors. They bought and ran a successful restaurant in Mt. Angel from 1976-1989. She enjoyed painting portraits and landscapes, dancing, golfing, and writing poetry. She was also very active with the Sons of Norway, VFW, and her church.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband (1996) and her siblings.

She is survived by her children, Paulette (Dan Kucera) of Sheridan, WY, Barry of Gleneden Beach, OR, Kristi (Scott Stokley) of Mt. Angel, OR, and Linda (Bruce Michaels) of Dickinson, ND. Grandchildren Isaiah MacMenami, Derek Nelson, Jared Nelson, Alex Stokley, Lauren Stokley, Kelli Michaels Hall, Doug Michaels, Great Grandchildren, Lazlo, Doc, Ethan, Tristan, Bryan, and Arabella.

Services will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Woodburn, OR on November 28th at 11:00am. A luncheon will follow.

Gifts in Elna's name may be given to Little Lambs Preschool in care of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Unger Funeral Chapel in Mt. Angel is entrusted with the arrangements.



Woodburn

Continued from Page 1B

Woodburn coach Leroy Sanchez said. "We moved the ball well. We got into spaces. We pressured extremely well. We didn't allow North Marion to play their game."

To make a run at a fourth straight state crown, Woodburn will need a lot of underclassmen to step up. Seven of its starters this season were seniors.

But celebrating this year's state championship is what matters most for now.

Woodburn was making its seventh state championship game appearance in nine years.

"We tell these boys it's bigger than us," said Sanchez, a 2002 Woodburn graduate and former soccer player for the Bulldogs. "It's about the community and the people that believe in what we're doing."

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