

Diggin' in the Dirt: Shopping for Fall Color

By Chip Bubl
Oregon State University
Extension Service - Columbia County

Beekeeping class: Getting beehives ready for winter

There will be a free class on Thursday, September 15 from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm at the Extension Office in St. Helens about preparing your hives for a successful winter cycle. This class is a follow-up to the beginning beekeeping class that was held several months ago. But you don't have to have had that class to attend this one. Many beehives are lost due to poor winter preparation. This class should help guide you through the options you have to reach spring with strong hives. For more information, call the Extension Office at (503) 397-3462.

2017 OSU Master Gardener™ class will be held in Vernonia

The Columbia County/OSU Master Gardener™ training will be held in Vernonia on ten consecutive Tuesdays from about 9:30 am to 3:30 pm starting on February 21, 2017. If you think you might be interested, call the OSU Extension office in St. Helens at (503) 397-3462 or email either myself (chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu) or Vicki Krenz (vicki.krenz@oregonstate.edu) to get on a mailing list for the classes when the informational packets and applications are sent out starting in October. The class will be held at the new health center building and space is somewhat limited. Cost of the class is \$80 and there

are a few scholarships available.

Apple anthracnose

Some apple varieties are prone to a bark girdling disease called apple anthracnose. It can produce severe lesions on limbs that are often oval or circular in shape. While the limbs are infected in the fall when the rains start, new lesions don't show up until the next spring. By late spring, the lesion is about as big as it will get but it can continue to spread spores for several more years. Severely diseased limbs can be pruned out when it is dry in the fall after the fruit is off. That will be early this year so it is worth thinking about. The trees can be sprayed with copper by late September to early October and then again when the leaves have dropped. For more information, go to the OSU website on the subject: <http://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/apple-malus-spp-anthracnose-bulls-eye-rot>.

Termite season

Dampwood termites are part of the natural wood recycling process. They are very important to forest health and nutrient renewal. Dampwood termites have been here for many more years than humans. This is the time of year for their mating flights. They are usually seen at dusk on warm, summer evenings, especially if there is a hint of moisture to come. They are looking to see if your structures can provide them what they need to survive, dampness and wood. Unlike termites of California and

other locations, our dampwood termites cannot use dry wood. The most common sources of wood dampness I have seen in Columbia County are plumbing leaks in wall voids and soil pushed up against wooden parts of the structure. These can support a large colony of termites that will do significant damage. So inspect your house and fix any problems. Then you don't have to worry (except for carpenter ants that don't absolutely need wet wood, but that is for another article).

Shopping for fall color

If you are looking to add some fall color to your landscape, this is the time to shop for those trees or shrubs. The mix of red, orange, and yellow pigments that are hidden by the chlorophyll in the leaf is largely genetically determined. In addition, some trees produce new pigments in response to fall including blue, purple, and others. When chlorophyll starts to break down as the tree starts to respond to the longer nights of fall, the hidden pigments are revealed. Nurseries that have a good stock of shade trees can help you locate the right tree for you in relation to fall color (go when the leaves have turned), size, and shape. Sunny days followed by cool nights make the colors more brilliant and intense but the general pigment profile is largely genetic.

Storing carrots and potatoes

Carrots do store well in the ground except for two issues, field mice (voles) and carrot root maggot. If you don't have mice (or rats) and have seen no sign of carrot rust fly maggot damage (surface tunneling that darkens on the roots) then it is OK to leave them there until late January. After that, you need to bring them in to avoid them turning bitter in response to renewed growth that leads ultimately to flowering. Also never store potatoes and carrots with either apples or onions. The ethylene gas given off by apples or onions will cause the carrots to get bitter and the potatoes to sprout.

Food Safety or Food Preservation Questions? OSU Extension Service

has answers.

Are you planning to preserve food from your garden or purchased from a farm this summer? If so, call or visit the OSU Extension Service office before you start canning, freezing, or drying. Costly and potentially harmful mistakes can be made by using outdated canning recipes and instructions. You can find free publications at the Columbia County Extension office located at 505 N. Columbia River Highway in St. Helens (across from the Legacy Clinic). If you have questions, phone the office at (503) 397-3462. You can download for free all our food preservation publications at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/fch/food-preservation>. An additional great resource is the National Center for Home Food Preservation at <http://www.uga.edu/nchfp/>.

Take excess produce to the food bank, senior centers, or community meals programs. Cash donations to buy food are also greatly appreciated.

The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

Free newsletter

The Oregon State University Extension office in Columbia County publishes a monthly newsletter on gardening and farming topics (called County Living) written/edited by yours truly. All you need to do is ask for it and it will be mailed to you. Call (503) 397-3462 to be put on the list. Alternatively, you can sign up for email notification of when to find the latest edition on the web at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/>.

Contact information for the Extension office

Oregon State University Extension Service – Columbia County
505 N. Columbia River Highway (across from the Legacy clinic)
St. Helens, OR 97051
(503) 397-3462
Email: chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu



TOO BUSY?
Call your LOCAL bookkeeper

PAYROLL PLUS LLC

Edi Sheldon 503-429-1819
edisheldon@gmail.com

Licensed tax consultant • Full service payroll
Personal & small business bookkeeping • QuickBooks assistance
CORPS, S-CORPS, LLC, Partnerships • Personal one-on-one service

LTC #29629 - Oregon licensed tax consultant
RTRP #P00448199 - designated as a registered tax return preparer by the Internal Revenue Service
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax return preparers, go to www.irs.gov.

Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Look for our next issue out on October 6th.

**FOR TOWING EMERGENCIES
IN AND AROUND THE
VERNONIA AREA**

Make sure you request service from a local provider!

Police and County personnel are required to use a rotation of available providers,
UNLESS YOU SPECIFICALLY ASK
for a service by name.

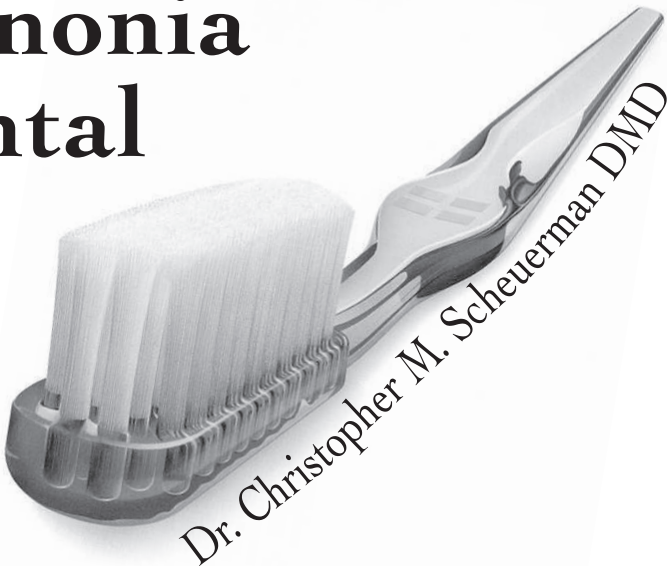
REQUEST TOWING SERVICE FROM

R & R
Motor Company

(503) 429-9797

Annoying the Upper Nahalem Valley since 1982
Shop Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 - 6:00

**Vernonia
Dental**



622 Bridge Street Vernonia, OR 97064
phone (503) 429-0880 -- fax (503) 429-0881

**Don't Sell it!
Pawn it!**
**For fast
cash!**



**Baseline
Pawn, Inc.**

2245 Baseline St., Cornelius
(Across from Fred Meyer)
503-530-8119
State Licensed PB-0388

Open
everyday
at 9 a.m.