

# Diggin' in the Dirt: July Garden Topics

By Chip Bubl  
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Service - Columbia County

## Summer Bee Hive Tune-up meeting at the OSU Extension office

There will be another meeting for beekeepers of all skill levels (and prospective beekeepers) at the OSU Extension office at 505 N. Columbia River Highway in St. Helens on Thursday, July 27 at 6:30 pm. The program will be about mid to late summer hive management. There will be several expert beekeepers to answer questions on other topics as well. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call (503) 397-3462.



## Neighbor Disputes Program

Some things can get in the way of good neighborly relationships. Examples include unclear property lines, fences, encroaching trees, noisy chickens, livestock at large and many other concerns. There will be a program on neighbor law at the Law Library at 270 S. 1st Street in St. Helens on Wednesday, July 12 from 6-8 pm. Speakers will be Mike Sheehan, a local attorney, and Chip Bubl, OSU Extension. The program is free and open to the public.

## Insects that Bug You

This program will explore some of the more vexing insects in and around our homes. Subjects will include mosquitos, cockroaches, fleas, yellow jackets, box elder bugs, stink bugs, carpenter and other ants, and more. Information will be provided on identification and management. Tuesday, July 25 from 7-8 pm at the St. Helens Library, 375 S. 18th Street. Chip Bubl will give the presentation. The program is free and open to the public.

## What's that Noise? (Wild animals at home in town)

This program will look at some of the animals that live comfortably in St. Helens and can cause problems for homeowners. Information will be provided on life history, identification, and management options. Tuesday, August 1 from 7-8 pm at the St. Helens Library. Chip Bubl will give the presentation. The program is free and open to the public.

## 2017 OSU Extension Canning Classes

Come learn how to safely preserve foods from your garden this season! Participants will practice making and canning recipes in the kitchen, and will process a jar to take home. Space is limited, so call soon to reserve your spot! Pre-registration is required.

Where: Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, 35285 Millard Road, St. Helens, OR 97051

When: All classes 9 am-12 pm

Friday, July 21 ~ Pickling Vegetables and Fruits

Friday, August 4 ~ Pressure Canning Vegetables and Meats

Friday, August 18 ~ Canning Tomatoes and Salsa

Cost: \$25 per class. Scholarships are also available

Registration: Call the OSU Extension Service: (503) 397-3462

Or register online at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia>

## Garden Topics for Mid-July

With this great stretch of weather, most garden crops are doing just fine. So far, insect pressure seems low but that can change fast. Slugs are currently hiding. It actually is time to start planting crops that you hope to harvest this winter. These can include leeks, kale, and late cabbages. Spinach is usually seeded mid-August for a fall crop. Lettuce can be planted continuously.

There was some sunburn on raspberries, blackberries, and even blueberries from a couple of the heat spikes. Apple set looks spotty. A wet May and June didn't do us any favors when the trees were in bloom. If you want the apples you have to be "worm" free, you should have been spraying several weeks ago. But the codling moth and apple maggot may have been a bit delayed so it might still be worth trying to stop their egg-laying. A good newer product that has some organic labels and is quite effective is the compound spinosad. There are several home garden products that contain it. There are other equally effective products.

I have had several calls about tomato leaves rolling upwards. These are generally the oldest (lowest) leaves on a plant. Newer leaves don't show the twisting. Some plants may be affected, others not in the same garden area. This is most often caused by a disorder called physiological leaf roll or curl. It is not a disease and often plants with severely twisted lower leaves still produce tomatoes in normal quantity and quality. Overwatering can cause the problem as can under-watering. Heirlooms tend to be more prone to the disorder. For more information see <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/PNW616/PNW616.pdf>.

Garlic should be ready to harvest now. Garlic doesn't have to be brown before harvest. Often, the garlic will have green tops at the best "skin" stage for harvest. Pull a few bulbs and see if there are only a few outer "skins" around the bulb left. If so, they need to be brought into a warm but shaded space with good air flow to cure. If you leave the bulbs too long in the ground, disease risk increases and storage quality decreases. When you harvest the bulbs, tie the tops into bundles and hang the bulbs from rafters in your garage or barn

or place them on a screen so that they have good air circulation while they are curing. They shouldn't be exposed to the direct sun. You can eat the garlic at any time and it should be fully cured for winter storage after drying for thirty days.

There have been some studies using spray-on sugar solutions to keep birds from eating blueberries. Some of the research has been inconsistent but newer information indicates that higher rates than what were used in some studies are needed for best results. The formula is one pound of sugar dissolved in a gallon of water. That would be slightly more than a pint of granulated sugar per gallon. If you try it, let me know how well it works.

## Many Extension publications available online

Are you putting up salsa, saving seeds, or thinking about planting grapes? OSU has a large number of its publications available for free download. Just go to <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/>. Click on publications and start exploring.

**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.**

## 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](mailto:chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu)





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## Ridge Riders Play Day

*The Vernonia Ridge Riders hosted a Play Day at the horse arena Saturday, July 15, giving Grace Coleman (left) and Cassie McFalls (right) a chance to warm up for the Horse Gaming event on the Sunday of Jamboree weekend.*



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