



Staff photo by Kelly James

It's the jungle look

Spring fashions don't just mean light white cotton. The khaki top has a zebra embroidered on the back. A shorts, but not necessarily the short tube top is worn underneath. The shorts. Kelli Smith models the clothes are from McCaulou's Con-always popular walking shorts of temporary Clothes in Gresham.

Shrubs can cool your air conditioning unit

Screening your outside air conditioning unit with living plants not only hides a necessary but unsightly object from view, but may cut down on your energy use.

A study by the American Refrigeration Institute has shown that the shade provided by trees or shrubbery on the outside portion of a split-system air-conditioner can result in lowered demands on that unit. It can mean a 2 to 3 percent improvement in your unit which translates into big money savings on your electric bill.

By using flowering shrubs or berried bushes for your shade screen you can make a colorful addition to your landscape as well. The American Association of Nurserymen suggests you seek advice from your local retail nursery or landscape firm on the types of plants best suited to this purpose. Whatever you choose, however, be certain to keep branches pruned so they do not interfere with any exposed workings of the air conditioning machinery.

Plants are truly an amazing and versatile gift of nature. They not only beautify our surroundings and make us feel good, but they serve many very practical uses.

They prevent soil erosion, conserve energy, purify the air we breathe, screen ugly sights, muffle noise, give refuge to wildlife and provide fruits and vegetables to cut down our monthly grocery bills.

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April may be cool, but you can begin to plant garden

The cool spring weather of April is just right for planting cool season crops.

"Cool season crops are vegetables that flourish in temperatures that other garden vegetables such as corn and beans, won't tolerate," says Ray McNeilan of Gresham, an Oregon State University Extension home gardening agent.

Planting cool season crops later in the year when temperatures are higher is not recommended because warm to hot weather reduces the quality of many of them.

Cool season crops grown in Oregon include broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, onions, peas, white potatoes, spinach and turnips. Others are beets, carrots, chard, parsnips and radishes.

While cool season crops are usually the first to be planted in the home garden, specific planting dates vary from vegetable to vegetable. The local growing season in different parts of Oregon must also be taken into consideration.

Oregon has four main growing areas: 1. the coast; 2. the western valleys; 3. the mountain areas and the plateaus of central and eastern Oregon; 4. the Columbia and Snake River Valleys. Local gardening stores or county Ex-

tension offices are good sources of specific information on planting dates, according to McNeilan.

Planting recommendations on some of the more popular cool season crops are outlined below.

Peas — Among the earliest to be planted of all the cool season crops. They should be planted as soon as the soil can be worked in most parts of the state. Plant seed directly in their permanent row. Young plants do not transplant well. Peas are sensitive to summer heat and many varieties are susceptible to virus disorders spread by aphids and other spring insects. Early plantings usually do best.

Onions — Plant from seeds, transplants or sets. Onion sets can go in as soon as the soil is workable. Sets can be grown in flower pots in the house if the garden remains too sloppy.

Lettuce — Grown from transplants, but cheaper to grow from seed. Early plantings tend to escape the ravages of insect infestations that can quickly destroy summer plantings.

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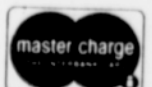
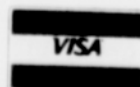


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