

March Garden Calendar

It's planting time for local gardeners

by JUDE RAMSAY JENSEN

THE FOOD GARDEN: Another garden year has turned. Time to put those new garden ideas to work, get outside and enjoy the atmosphere, get soil on your hands.

High-country gardeners should limit planting in the open to peas, asparagus roots and onion sets now, waiting until the soil warms and dries in a few weeks to plant the main early garden. Start early cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and broccoli in cold frame this month for April-May transplants. Indoors, sow seeds of heat-loving tomatoes, peppers, celery and eggplant for the summer garden.

Lower elevations or protected areas can seed peas, onions, spinach, early turnips, beets and early potatoes if the soil is workable. Pro-

vide sufficient lime for the beet family (spinach, beets, chard) — they like soil on the neutral side. Wood ashes will help neutralize the soil and provide potash at the same time. Use them for most root crops.

Potatoes require an acid soil. Guard against accidental liming of the potato bed. Lime causes potato scab, and once the disease is introduced, it remains in the soil for two or three years. Try raising potatoes in a cage above ground. Pam Hauff, Sandy area gardener, uses this method to raise bumper crops of All Blue potatoes. The method should work equally well for potatoes of any color.

Clear a garden space 3' x 3' or 4' x 4'; drive sturdy 4'-6' stakes into the four corners. Wrap the posts with 36"-48" tall chicken wire to form the cage. Lay potato sets on bare ground,

8" apart in each direction. Cover completely with 12" layer of mulch material — straw, hay, leaves, grass clippings. Throughout the growing season, add more mulch as needed to maintain a 12" cover over the potatoes. You'll harvest clean, disease-free spuds for your effort.

Early lettuce and cole transplants should be given nighttime protection in the open. Hot caps or plastic tunnels (cloches) work great. During the daytime, remove hot caps or ventilate cloches to prevent overheating. Lift and divide rhubarb now. Fertilize the ground around the plants heavily with a nitrogen-rich compost and wood ash.

BERRIES AND ORCHARD FRUIT: Supply phosphorus — bone meal, cottonseed meal, rock phosphate — to berry plants, along with compost. Cover the ground with

mulch. Prune out unproductive berry wood and tie vining types to supports.

Remove old mulch from fruit trees. Feed around drip-line with a nitrogen-rich compost laced with bone meal, wood ash and lime. Top compost with new mulch. If you have access to hardwood chips or sawdust, hay or straw, you can produce a two-story crop, fruit above and Garden Giant Mushrooms (*Stropharia rugoso annulata*) below.

Stropharia is a recent Eastern European introduction. The spawn is a cellulose-feeder that requires partial shade to produce mushrooms. Hardy to -10 degrees Fahrenheit, it will return year after year. Spawn is available from Northwoods Nursery in Mollala.

Consider adding native fruiting shrubs to your landscape. Most are compact and attractive, yield abund-

dantly and require little care once established. Gooseberries, currants, bush cherries, huckleberries will all fit comfortably into your plans. The berries are tart but yield supreme jellies, pies and syrups. Black currants contain four to five times the Vitamin C as an orange of equal weight.

THE HERB GARDEN: Trim winterkill from perennial beds and feed with well-aged compost. Use a fine-textured mulch — rice hulls, bark dust — for a neater effect.

Sow hardy annuals and biennials at the end of the month. Parsley, calendula and borage appreciate cool conditions for germination. Borage is a notorious re-seeder. Plant it where it won't overrun your favorite herbs. Sow perennial seeds of thyme, sage, winter savory, catnip and chamomile in the open.

Harden off January-started transplants and move them out at month's end. First cuttings of chives are packed with stored nutrients and have a strong onion flavor. Indulge

yourself. Go graze the chives.

THE ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPE: Start annual flower seeds indoors now for summer beds. Transplant in late April, early May when all frost danger has passed.

March is prime planting month for most ornamental shrubs and trees. Dig oversized holes for roots and backfill with one part soil enriched with one-half part compost and one-half part peat moss. Water well and mulch to prevent water loss.

Perennial flowers may be divided this month. Peonies, daisies, iris, mums, delphinium, and columbine will all benefit from division every three years. Start new beds with the plants, or give them to your neighbors.

The native landscape is beautiful this time of the year. Treat yourself to a walk in the forest or fields. Take the kids along and make it a learning experience. Leave the flowers in the woods and take pictures instead of bouquets.

Two on the ballot at Cottrell

It's time to get involved

Joanne Betschart is not a crusader; "I'm just interested in what's going on."

Two of her children have graduated from Sandy High School. She has a daughter who is a sixth grader at Cottrell.

She is interested in the quality of education at the school. "In the past, I haven't felt I had the time."

"I care what's going on, and I thought (serving on the board) would be a good way to do my part."

It is her understanding that children are going from Cottrell School to Sandy High School and, in general, doing well. She wants to keep it that way.

"I would like to see the best we can get for the money," she said.

An active member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, Betschart has attended board meetings and budget



Joanne Betschart

hearings at Sandy High School, and budget meetings and a few board meetings at Cottrell.

She helped students raise money for outdoor school recently.

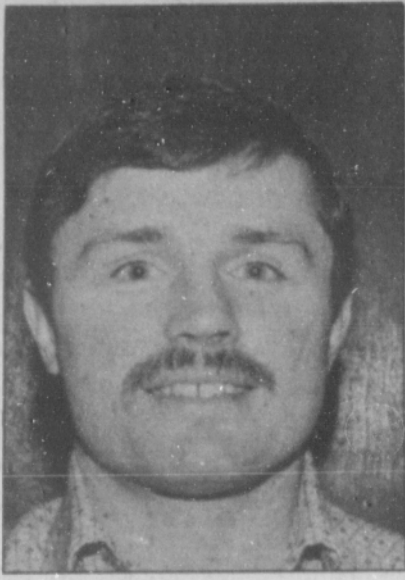
Keep school on course

Pat Dyal is happy with the start his children are getting at Cottrell School. "The teachers my children have had are excellent," Dyal said. "Maybe by being on the board I could contribute something to keeping it that way."

Dyal, driver of a lumber truck for Harris Stud Mill in Boring, has three children in the district.

He is also comfortable with the board and administration. They work pretty well together, he said, "and they listen."

Dyal wants young people from Cottrell to be able to make the adjustment to high school life. He sees it as the responsibility of teachers and administrators to make sure they're getting the correct instruction, with the board making sure the job gets done.



Pat Dyal

He added, "I feel that the expense of a school district should reflect closely to the resources of a community."

School menus

Bull Run School March 17-21

Monday: Tuna sandwich, tomato soup, lime Jell-O with pineapple, cookie and milk.

Tuesday: Meat loaf, baked potato, buttered corn, bread and butter, vanilla pudding and milk.

Wednesday: Macaroni and cheese, green beans, whole wheat muffin, apricots and milk.

Thursday: Pizza, buttered corn, frosted Graham cracker, applesauce

and milk.

Friday: Vegetable beef soup, peanut butter sandwich, birthday cake, ice cream and milk.

Sandy

Monday: Beef and bean burrito, buttered corn, spiced applesauce, corn bread and honeybutter and milk.

Tuesday: Fried chicken, seasoned green beans, fruit salad, cheese biscuit and milk.

Wednesday: Hamburger on a bun with lettuce and pickle, tater tots, fruit bar, apple and milk.

Thursday: Taco soup, corn chips, cracker, peaches, cinnamon bun and milk.

Friday: Turkey ala king, rice, cabbage and apple salad, fruited Jell-O, muffin and chocolate milk.

Welches

Monday: Taco, mixed vegies, fruited Jell-O jewells, St. Pat cookie

and milk.

Tuesday: Beef-a-roni, peas and carrots, purple plums, cornmeal roll and milk.

Wednesday: Chuckwagon stew, cheese stick, peach half, roll, chocolate pudding and milk.

Thursday: Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, stewed tomato, pear half, cinnamon toast and milk.

Friday: Tuna noodle casserole, green beans, fruit cocktail, peanut butter sandwich and milk.

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