

Weather gives gardeners chance to get jump on spring

by JUDE RAMSAY JENSEN
Post correspondent

OUTDOORS: This has been a gardener's winter in the Mount Hood corridor — days of sunny, mild weather, interspersed with bug-killing, hard frosts in the higher elevations. The weather provides a rare opportunity to finish all those incomplete fall chores and get a jump on spring.

Dead, brittle weeds are easy to chop, scythe or hand break. Remove the weed rubble from garden plots, expose the soil to several hard frosts to destroy insect larvae and weed seed, then mulch with a layer of leaves or straw.

Till under with fresh manure when the ground becomes workable in late February and early March. By April or May, gardeners will be rewarded with a fertile seed bed fit for vegetables, flowers and other plants.

Inoculated hardy clovers may be broadcast anytime from now until late spring. The hard seed coat requires stratification (cracking) by repeated freezing and thawing. Broadcast seed over frozen or heavily frosted ground. It will work its way down through the topsoil during successive freezes and thaws.

Clover inoculant — fine soil containing nitrogen-fixing bacteria that helps legumes develop stronger roots and tops — is available in packets at seed and feed dealers.

Perennial alsike and annual crimson clovers are both hardy strains that are suitable for local soil conditions. Both varieties have produced 5- to 6-inch stands by May at the 1,200-foot elevation from a mid-winter seeding.

If allowed to grow all summer, crimson clover can be hayed in August, and alsike can be hayed the first summer and the following spring.

Shade gardens on the frosty north side of the house appreciate a winter cover. If the Christmas tree is still waiting for disposal, prune off branches and lay them around shrubs, over flower beds. Most shade plants in our area inhabit acid soil and the evergreen needles suit those conditions. Pine or fir needles are raked easily from the bases of yard trees and make for a neater, more attractive mulch than branches. But use whatever is on hand.

Major pruning begins this month in

the orchard and landscape. Remove damaged branches, weak-angled crotches and limbs that cross toward the center of the tree. Strive for an open framework on fruit trees to allow maximum sun penetration for ripening fruit in our short-season area.

Ornamental shrubs should be headed back at branch tips for a bushier appearance. The best advice on the mysterious art of pruning is to read a good book on the subject, purchase a good pair of shears and help a veteran pruner with his or her chores this winter to learn what to cut and what to leave alone.

"The Pruning Book," by Gustave Wittrock, is excellent, or order the pamphlet entitled, "Pruning the Home Orchard" from the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Begin dormant oil spraying during a dry break in the weather. It is safe to use in the organic orchard and is effective in controlling a wide range of sucking and chewing insects, including aphids, red spider mites, mealybugs, whitefly and scale. Follow bottle directions. Continue spraying until buds start to swell.

INDOORS: Seed catalogs are rolling in, shaping dreams of summer and gardens to come. Now is a good time to plan the vegetable garden and decide on varieties to try. Some tried and true varieties that have succeeded year after year in the Mount Hood corridor are listed in the accompanying chart. They have been selected for adaptability to variable weather conditions, yielding power and repeated crop returns. The letter code following each variety refers to the seed source at the end of the chart.

Start seeds of hardy perennials in late January to early February under lights indoors. Some, like gaillardia or dianthus, may reward you with blossoms this summer or fall. Most won't reach flowering maturity until next year.

Give them a good start in a commercial, sterile seed-starting mix or use Jiffy pellets, compressed peat disks that expand upon contact with water to a 1½-by-2½-inch pot, perfect for planting single, expensive hybrid seeds.

Two kinds are available, Jiffy 7's,

wrapped with a supposedly biodegradable netting, and Jiffy 9's, without netting. Jiffy 9's work best for transplanting; the netting on the 7's won't decompose fast enough and transplants tend to get root bound in them. With the 7's, cut off the netting before putting plants in the ground.

Many perennials are easy to start for the beginning indoor gardener, but require patience and some attention to detail. Most take from one to three months to germinate and must be cared for — kept moist and warm — during that time. Most perennial seed is small, so bottom watering is best, leaving less chance of disturbing seed by watering overhead. Place pots and flats in a water-tight tray and pour water into the tray bottom. When moisture appears on the soil surface, the pots or flats have been thoroughly watered.

If a person can meet these conditions, he should give perennials a try. It's a rewarding feeling to see perennials begun on the kitchen table from tiny seeds blooming in the home landscape year after year. Try seeds of Achillea (Yarrow), Anthemis (Marguerite and Chamomile), Aquilegia (Columbine), Aster, Campanula (Bellflower), Chrysanthemum, Coreopsis, Delphinium, Dianthus (Pinks), Doronicum (Leopard's Bane), Echinacea (Coneflower), Bronze Fennel, Gaillardia (Blanket Flower), Hollyhock, Iberis (perennial Candytuft), Lavender, Lovage, Melissa (Lemon or Lime Balm), Monarda didyma (Bee Balm), Nepeta (Catnip), Pansy, Primula (Primrose), Sage, Santolina, Winter Savory and Thyme.

Seeds of leeks, onions, peppers, tomatoes and eggplant may be started indoors now. They will be ready to transplant under plastic tents outdoors by late April, giving gardeners a jump on the main vegetable garden season and earlier-than-usual harvests. Encourage strong root formation on leeks and onions by keeping tops trimmed to three inches. To keep vine fruits growing vigorously until planting out, transplant to ever-larger containers and suspend the grow light a few inches above their tops. This makes for stocky plants with healthy root systems.

ODDS 'N' ENDS

LADIES CLOTHING

BEAUTIFUL & WARM! Take 40% off our collection of women's fall pullover sweaters. What a sale! WR Hicks, 211 N.E. Roberts, Gresham, 667-2701.

ALL remaining women's winter coats - Pacific Trail, Outersport, more! Great values at 40% Off. WR Hicks, 211 N.E. Roberts, Gresham, 667-2701.

SHOP early for best selection! Blouses, sweaters and skirts. Real values! Now \$5 and \$10. Pauletta's, 209 N. Main, Gresham, 665-2303.

17 ONLY - Ladies warm flannel gowns by Woolrich. Still a great selection - NOW 40% Off! WR Hicks, 211 N.E. Roberts, Gresham, 667-2701.

FESTIVE dresses at a once-a-year low price. Values to \$75. Now only \$10, \$15 and \$20. Pauletta's, 209 N. Main, Gresham, 665-2303.

WARM robes and gowns. While there's lots of winter left! Reg. to \$29. While they last - \$10 each. Pauletta's, 209 N. Main, 665-2303.

SHOP the Leisure Trunk, Gresham Village and save as much as 50% on fine lingerie during our final holiday clearance. Gifts perfect for Valentine's Day. 667-6671.

BRIDAL GOWN and formal sale. We were a success at the Portland Bridal show - now we're offering those gowns presented in the sale for 50-75% Off. Patti's Bridal, 666-6728

PATAGONIA'S warm "Synchilla" pullovers. Only 29 left - discontinued colors. Shop early! Now 1/3 Off! Pacific Crest Clothing Co., 130 N. Main, Gresham, 665-2701.

MENS CLOTHING KEEP OUT the chill and save! Men's Pacific Trail coats - all remaining stock NOW 40% Off! WR Hicks, 211 N.E. Roberts, Gresham, 667-2701.

11 ONLY. Men's Pendleton sports coats. Great styling at 40% Off! Pacific Crest Clothing Co., 130 N. Main, Gresham, 665-2701.

36 LEFT IN STOCK! Men's Pendleton sweater vests. Timeless style at great savings. Now 40% Off! Pacific Crest Clothing Co., 130 N. Main, Gresham, 665-2701.

QUALITY, style and savings! Men's Jantzen pullovers, our remaining stock of winter styles now 40% Off! WR Hicks, 211 N.E. Roberts, Gresham, 667-2701.

PENDLETON - 100% wool pullover sweaters for men. Our remaining fall styles Now 40% Off. Pacific Crest Clothing Co., 130 N. Main, Gresham, 665-2701.

GIRLS CLOTHING FOR GIRLS size 7-14. Oshkosh clothes. This season's styles now 40% Off. WR Hicks, 211 N.E. Roberts, Gresham, 667-2701.

JUNIOR GIRLS Ocean Pacific fleece separates - lots of choices - great price! Now 40% Off! WR Hicks, 211 N.E. Roberts, Gresham, 667-2701.

KIDS CLOTHING HOT SAVINGS on kids' coats! Choose from our remaining stock of winter coats for infants through big boys and SAVE 40%! WR Hicks, 211 N.E. Roberts, Gresham, 667-2701.

LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND

KIDS COUNT TWO - 589 N. Main, Gresham, 667-3416. Winter coats, 20% Off. Selected new items drastically reduced. Special colored tags 20-50% Off. Accepting spring items February 1st, appointment only!

OSHKOSH and Carter playwear for children. Choose from a large selection and save! NOW 40% Off! WR Hicks, 211 N.E. Roberts, Gresham, 667-2701.

SHOES BIG SAVINGS on children's quality footwear by Red Goose shoes. Our remaining stock reduced to \$9.99! WR Hicks, 211 NE Roberts, Gresham, 667-2701.

FURNITURE & CARPETS

HEAVY 100%, nylon plush, two gorgeous colors, grey or beige, Reg. \$21.95 Now \$10.90 sq. yd. 'til stock is gone. **100% Antron plush, beautiful rust color, Reg. \$14.95 Now \$6.90 sq. yd.** In Stock **Armstrong vinyl, \$4.99 sq. yd.** **Heavenly Purple plush, 100% Scotchguarded nylon, Now 40% Off. Reg. \$14.95 Now \$8.97 sq. yd.** **Huge selection room size remnants 40% to 60% Off reg. price.** Now 1/2 price, 100% Anso nylon candy stripe, 2 colors, rust/beige or blue/grey, Reg. \$8.95 Now \$4.48 sq. yd. **Apartment owners,** This one's for you, 100% nylon antron, Berber in 2 colors, natural or grey/beige. Reg. \$11.95 Now \$7.17 sq. yd. **Crown Carpets, 21655 S.E. Stark St., Gresham, 665-4162.**

SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE

DON'T miss this! New full size mattress and box springs. 2 piece set only \$99. **Amiton Furniture, 202 N. Main Ave., Gresham, 665-5095.**

CLOSEOUT! Avante Lawn Furniture. 1 Only - Table, umbrella w/base, 4 chairs, lounge and cushions. Great value. Reg. \$1500. **\$785.1 Only - Table, 4 strap chairs, umbrella w/base. Reg. \$1150. Less than half price. \$495. Paddock's of Gresham, 861 E. Powell - 667-6701.**

SPECIAL! Thick sculptured carpet, ½ inch padding and installation - \$9.89 sq. yd. **Hoodland Carpets, 406 N.E. 4th, Gresham, 665-7489.**

SPECIAL this week. Used daveno and chair. Brown vinyl. Only \$98! **Amiton Furniture, 202 N. Main Ave., Gresham, 665-5095.**

COFFEE and 2 end tables - \$79. Twin mattress and box springs - \$75. Free delivery. **Furniture Today, 2240 S.E. 182nd, 665-6761.**

APPLIANCES

USED APPLIANCES, like new portable Kitchenaid dishwasher, only \$348. Whirlpool washer/Dryer (like new), pair only \$359. **Used Washer & Dryers From \$99 each.** **NEW REFRIGERATOR** 14 cu. ft., 2 doors, only \$398. **RIEGLMANN'S, 301 E. Powell, Gresham, 665-4158**

WOODSTOVES & SUPPLIES

WOODSTOVES & inserts - Freight damaged, floor demo close-outs: Arrow, Lopi, Bosca & Firelight. **Daugh Boy Pools - 1986 Left Overs - An Early Buy Special!** 24' Round w/filter, pump & skimmer \$774. 663-5491.

HURRY! MANY ITEMS ARE ONE-OF-A-KIND!

UP TO 40% Off on selected fireplace accessories - tool sets, teapots & etc. . . . **Yoder Stove & Supply, 2043 East Burnside (next to Jafco) Gresham, 661-7676**

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA Console Organ, beautiful walnut cabinet, roll top, 25 pedal. A great value. **\$1395.** **Keyboard amplifiers, 2 Only, Casio AS-110, Reg. \$229.95. \$150.** **Yamaha & Roland digital pianos now on sale!** **Gresham Music Center, Home of Yamaha Music School, 837 E. Powell, 666-5244**

CLASSES

CALL & sign up for tale painting classes. 10% Off supplies for first class. **Marge's Crafts, 19245 East Burnside, 661-0978.**

REAL ESTATE

LOW INTEREST rates, 8% fixed rate mortgages are now available. Maybe now's the time for you to buy the home of your dreams. Call **Wade Johnson, Properties for information, 661-2816.**

MISC.

WHAT a sale! Acrylic/mohair grande' big ball yarn with free pattern. Lots of colors. Now only \$4. **Yarn Station, 29 NW First, Gresham, 665-3595.**

20% OFF All skate boards & bicycle/skate board parts & accessories. Just mention this ad. **Gresham Bicycle Center, 661-2453.**

RESORT SPA - Portable "The Bridge", Reg. \$2950.00. One only price \$2650. **American Pool Maintenance, 23530 N.E. Sandy Blvd., Troutdale, 665-7761.**

HALF PRICE - Boxed Christmas cards. Half Price - Selected party goods. Half Price - Royal Doulton character mugs & bunnykins. **Fischers Stationery, 242nd & Stark, 661-6085.**

PORK ROASTS - 99c lb. Fresh leg of pork. **Bill's Beef House, 18238 S.E. Division, 665-9013.**

4" AZALEAS \$3.29. Primroses - 98c. Houseplants 89c & up. Territorial seeds are NOW in! **Gro-Land Garden Center, 22566 S.E. Stark, 665-7271.**

LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND

ACCESSORIES! ACCESSORIES! Warm 100% wool hats, gloves, scarves - our remaining winter stock. Now 40% Off! **Pacific Crest Clothing Co., 130 N. Main, Gresham, 665-2701.**

BOOKS - PICTURES 25% Off selected choices. Mention ad, 10% Off any in-stock item not already on sale. **Rainbow West Book and Bible, 2029 E. Burnside (Jafco Center), Gresham, 667-6300.**

AUDIO/VIDEOTAPES available now covering how-to's, instructional, self improvement, hobbies, travel. "You have an interest - we have a tape!" **Pickwicks, 10 N.E. Second, Gresham, 669-8625.**

AUTOMOTIVE

1978 FORD wheelchair van, Ricon lift with controls, V-8, auto, air, stereo, good condition. Good condition. **\$6,995 OBO. Cascade Vans, 18206 S.E. Stark, 666-2203.**

P185/80R13 steel radials - \$33 ea. **P195/75R14 steel radials - \$35 ea.** **P235/75R15 steel radials - \$46 ea.** Mounting & balancing included. **J&R's Economy Tire Center, 17410 S.E. Stark, 254-5200.**

351 HIGH Output, new factory built ford engine, complete - ready to run. See on display, parts department. **Gresham Ford, 24300 S.E. Powell Blvd., 667-4922**

1977 Chev. Monte Carlo fully equipped, being sold in lieu of repair bills - \$1695 OBO. 1974 Suzuki 185 cc, for sale in lieu of repairs - \$395 OBO. Set of chrome sprinter wheels - \$159.80. 1967 MGB/GT, restores, \$2895 OBO. **Briggs Auto Electric, Corner of 202nd (Birdsdale) and Burnside, 666-3278.**

PETS

ANIMAL LAND. Your Pet Store. Baby Cockatiels from \$9.99. Lovebirds from \$19.99. Finches from \$6.99. 667-4225

ANIMAL LAND. Your Pet Store. Baby Iguanas from \$39.99. Curly Tail Lizards from \$3.99. Snakes \$4.99. 667-4225.

TOYS

BIG white bear (3 ft.), regularly \$80 - now \$60. Winter white bear (22 in.), regularly \$55 - now \$40. All other stuffed animals 25%. **Candy Basket, Oregon Trail Center, 665-1200.**

Advice on vegetable varieties

Beans: Oregon Blue Lake Bush, N; Jumbo Bush Romano, N.
Beets: Long Season Winterkeeper, G, T; Golden, G.
Broccoli: Italian Green Sprouting, N. Brussels Sprouts: Jade Cross E Hybrid, N.
Cabbage: Stonehead, N; Ruby Ball, T.

Carrots: Touchon, N.
Cauliflower: Snow Crown, N, T.
Celery: Utah 5270 Improved, T.
Chard: French Swiss, N; Rhubarb, T.

Corn: Ashworth, yellow, J; Harmony, bi-color, H; Quicksilver, white, H.
Cucumbers: Lemon, G; SMR 58 Pickler, G; Bush Whopper Salad, P.
Eggplant: Dusky Hybrid, N, T; Little Fingers, H.
Kohlrabi: Grande Duke, H.P.
Leeks: King Richard, J.

Lettuce: Great Lakes, head, G, N; Buttercrunch, butterhead, G, N; Romaine, leaf, G.
Onions: Ebenezer, yellow, P; Walla Walla, N; Quicksilver, pearl, J.
Parsley: Italian, N; Forest Green, N.
Peas: all kinds, but especially Sugar Snap, N, T; Alderman, T; Mammoth Melting Sugar, G.
Peppers: Park's Whopper, sweet bell, P; Anaheim TMR 23, hot, N, P, T; Hungarian Yellow Wax, hot, N, T.
Radishes: Easter Egg, N.
Summer Squash: Zucchini Cocozelle, J, N; Patty Pan, N.
Winter Squash: Table Queen, bush acorn, N; Sweet Mama, bush, P.
Pumpkin: Spirit Hybrid, bush pumpkin producing 10-12 pound fruits, G, P, T.

Spinach: Winter Bloomsdale, H, N; Melody Hybrid, H, N.
Tomatoes: Sweet 100, cherry, G, H, P; Early Cascade, salad, N, T.

Seed sources:
G - Gurney Seed and Nursery Co., Yankton, S.D. 57079.
H - Harris Seeds, Moreton Farm, 3670 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624.
J - Johnny's Selected Seeds, 305 Foss Hill Rd., Albion, Maine 04910.
N - Nichol's Garden Nursery, 1190 North Pacific Hwy., Albany, OR 97321.
P - Park Seed Co., Cokesbury Rd., Greenwood, S.C. 29647-0001.
T - Territorial Seed Co., PO Box 27, Lorane, OR 97451.

Free catalogs are available from these seed companies upon request. The letter following the vegetable variety recommendation indicates which company has that particular variety.

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