

Vernonia Grown

Time ripe to plant beans of all descriptions

by Bill Hansen

Next to tomatoes, my favorite garden vegetable is green or "snap" beans. When the new seedlings first show themselves, all in a neat row, I must confess I experience one of the fundamental joys of gardening.

Bush beans should be planted in rich, well drained soil after all danger of frost has passed. As with corn and cucumbers, the soil should be much warmer than is necessary for earlier planted root crops. You should wait until at least the first of June to plant here in Vernonia. Due to a relatively short maturity date, there will be plenty of time to harvest all the beans you want by fall. Successive plantings may also be made at two week intervals from now until mid-July.

Plant your bush beans according to the directions on the seed packet. If you purchased your seeds in bulk and have no directions, I would suggest planting in rows, seeding about 2-3 inches apart and in a trench about three inches deep. Cover the seeds with fine soil and tamp firmly with your hoe. If the soil has warmed up to 55 degrees or better, you should see seedlings up in about a week or ten

days. If the seeds are not up by this time, it might be because the ground has not warmed enough to allow germination. In this event, replanting may be necessary.

For comparison purposes, you might wish to plant a few hills of pole

beans. Pole beans take up far less garden space than the bush varieties and produce right up to frost. However, they are more susceptible to disease and insect problems due to their long season. I usually plant both kinds to make sure I can enjoy fresh beans all summer long.

Pole varieties need a fairly substantial support to climb on. Find yourself three eight foot (approx.) poles, place them in the ground about three feet apart. Pull them together at the top and secure with wire or rope, like a teepee. At the bottom of each pole, plant 6-8 seeds in well-tilled, fertilized soil. Thin to about four per hill once they are established.

VHS Golf Team wins first in tourney

The VHS Golf Team, coached by Greg Brown, won overall First Place at the district finals held May 11.

Additionally, team member Thorger Brown tied with Trent Anderson of Lutheran for individual Third Place.

Team members, in order of standings include: Thorger Brown, Steve Grady, David Battick, Micky Bruers and Scott Grady.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications for the low income energy assistance program will be taken on Fridays from 10 am-2 pm at the Vernonia Senior Center. Call 429-3912 to make an appointment.

Corn is another crop which prefers warm, well drained soil. While corn may take longer to grow here in the Northwest, it will be sweeter than if grown in warmer climate. Without getting too technical, warm days followed by cool nights will cause more sugar to be stored in the kernels. Here in Vernonia, you will have the best luck with the smaller, shorter maturing date varieties. Also, because of a variety of factors, I am planting (in addition to seed) corn that has been started earlier and is already 8-9 inches tall. Maybe this year, for the first time, we will have corn "knee high by the 4th of July".

Plant seed corn 6-8 inches apart in

rows or raised beds allowing three feet between rows or hills. When established, thin or transplant to about 10-12 inches apart.

Cucumbers, another warm weather crop, do quite well here in Vernonia. You may wish to use plants started from seeds, or sow seeds directly into the ground. There are several kinds of cucumbers, slicing, pickling, etc., so be sure you are planting the kind you wish to harvest. I plant pickling varieties in rows, sowing seeds 3-4 inches apart. After they are up, thin (or transplant) to about a foot apart. A 20 foot row will yield about three bushels of cucumbers.

NEW SENIOR PROGRAM

A free five week program, 'Managing Retirement Life', is scheduled to begin at the new Senior Center in St. Helens on May 20.

The seminars, set for 2 pm-4 pm each Wednesday will cover such subjects as health, time planning, local resources, housing, financing and legal matters and will include an experience exchange.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Anyone wishing to join the seniors on a scheduled trip to Redmond, Oregon to visit the Peterson Rock Gardens and Reindeer Farm on Friday, May 22, please call the Senior Center at 429-3912 in advance.

Mist money

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local patrols and improving local protection.

Throughout all of this the gas companies themselves have been very generous, for which we thank them, and the county commissioners did provide \$10,000 for the completion of our fire hall. The response, however, is still thoroughly inadequate to meet our current needs, let alone our projected needs.

It is unfortunate, but we have been forced into begging, hat in hand, for everything we've needed every step of the way by the antiquated laws controlling the disbursal of natural resource royalties revenue. We feel it is high time the injustices faced by more and more small communities, including our own, were properly redressed.

We're not asking for any more than should rightfully be ours. Nor are we asking for any more than any community in our circumstances would want or need to protect its own citizens. It is time our neighbors throughout Columbia County recognize the legitimacy of our fight and join us in realizing that each year, as the hunt for natural resources grows more desperate, more and more of us are affected.

This is not just our fight here in Mist and Birkenfeld, it is a fight that is affected every citizen of Columbia County today and a fight that will, within a very few short years, affect the lives of most Oregonians.

Arthur C. Laubach
Chairman of the Board
Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD

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