

Vernonia Grown

Heavy mulch not always weeding solution

by Bill Hansen

Over the years, in an effort to reduce the amount of time and energy invested in watering and cultivating, I have tried several methods, many of which have been described in books and magazine articles. Most suggest heavy mulching as a solution to weeding and cultivating, as well as moisture retention in the soil. Here in Vernonia, it has been my experience that if any kind of mulching is employed, it should be done after the plants or seedlings are well established in the garden. One of the main reasons for mulching is to retain moisture. Since moisture retention also means cooler soil, I think the losses in growth outweigh the gains of mulching too early. Vegetables can benefit greatly from mulching later in the summer when the soil is dry from the sun's heat, and when little or no rain has fallen.

Assuming then, that you are gardening in the same manner that I am, here are some thoughts on watering that may be useful. To me, watering and cultivating seem to go together. I find that light cultivating about once each week really helps in keeping weeds down and seems to allow better penetration in watering. Also, I must confess that I really enjoy standing back and looking at the clean rows of vegetables after cultivating.

Although more wasteful than other methods, overhead sprinkling is the way most gardens are watered in our area. Of all the different kinds of sprinkling devices available, I prefer the oscillating type. The water is applied in a rectangular pattern, slowly, allowing the water to soak in and not puddle and run off.

As a general rule, during the hot summer months, the garden should receive about one inch of water each week. To determine how much water you are giving your garden, set out an old coffee or other type can while you

sprinkle. By timing and measuring you will soon learn how long you need to leave the water running to achieve the right amount. Of course, this is only a very general rule. You will need to experiment to determine what is best for your garden.

While some plants such as root crops and leafy vegetables don't mind wet foliage, I prefer not to sprinkle tomato, squash and even beans if I can avoid it. These crops seem more susceptible to mold and fungus problems if left damp over too long a time. If possible, use an open hose of watering can. Black plastic mulch is

also very helpful in growing these plants as it will retain moisture and maintain a higher soil temperature. The best time of the day to water is in the early morning hours. Less moisture is lost to evaporation and soil and plants are dry at night. But, since this is not always possible, don't be afraid to water in the heat of the afternoon if that is the only time you can do it. I try not to water late in the evening if I can help it, but I suspect it really makes little difference. After all, only in Camelot does it rain only in the early morning hours.

obituary...

Iris McDonald

Iris McDonald, 80, former longtime resident of Vernonia and Gales Creek, and late of Hillsboro, died Wednesday, June 17 at Tuality Community Hospital, following a short illness.

Funeral service for Mrs. McDonald were held Saturday, June 20 at 10 am at Fuiten Mortuary Chapel in Forest Grove with Everett Blair officiating. Committal rites followed at the Fir Lawn Cemetery in Hillsboro.

Iris Irene McDonald was born near Laurel, Oregon on October 1, 1900, the daughter of the late William and Francis Tateman Baker. She and her family moved to Buxton and later to a rural area near Timber. She attended the Mist Grade School and Vernonia High School and was married to George McDonald on September 26, 1920 at Vernonia where they lived and farmed until 1946 when they moved to Gales Creek. She worked at Hudson House Cannery in Forest Grove before they retired and moved to their present home in Hillsboro in 1965. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in September, 1980.

Survivors include her husband, George McDonald, at the family

home in Hillsboro; seven children, Jack McDonald of Garibaldi; Ralph McDonald, Tuscon, Arizona; June McRae, Bay City; Joanne Hall, Hillsboro; Dorothy Simonsen and Lynn McDonald, both of Tigard and Lyle McDonald of Hillsboro.

Also surviving is one sister, Erma Kirkpatrick of Mountain Home, Oregon and one brother, Raleigh Baker of Aloha; 21 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Mothers of Twins picnic

by Lynnda Fuller

Double Vision Mothers of Twins Club will hold a family picnic Sunday, June 28 at 3 pm at the Boise Cascade Park on Kasper Rd. in St. Helens. All area twins, families of twins and expectant parents of twins are invited to bring their picnics and enjoy a time of sharing with other families of multiples.

Double Vision Mothers of Twins Club is a member of the Northwest Association of Mothers of Twins Clubs. It meets the last Thursday of each month at the Visitors Information Center at Trojan. Club activities include clothing and equipment exchanges, helpful hints, guest speakers, a lending library, support for new and expectant parents of twins, and mutual aid in the goal to allow each twin to develop as an individual.

We have members in Scappoose, St. Helens, Rainier, Clatskanie, Vernonia, Mist, Longview and Woodland.

For more information call Jennie Sexton, 397-6296 or Lynnda Fuller, 543-7086.

Volunteer drivers needed

There is a great need in Columbia County for volunteer drivers to aid children and elderly people in getting to doctor's appointments both locally and into Portland. Adult and Family Services/Children's Services Division can, through volunteer services, reimburse volunteers for mileage

expense or volunteers may use a state of Oregon vehicle upon request. Anyone interested in signing up for occasional volunteer driving, please contact Kathie Kolody at 270 Columbia Blvd. (Next to motor vehicles) in St. Helens or call 397-1743.



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