

Vernonia Grown

Root worms may be hidden garden problem

by Bill Hansen

Last week, I mentioned there was something hurting my cabbage plants. The symptoms indicated some sort of root problem, but I was unable to identify the problem at the time. I had to remove another one this week and discovered a small (about 1/4 inch long) white worm, which I took to be a root maggot. The plant was wilted and had fallen over to the ground, which is a pretty good sign of root disease. I have since drenched the ground around the rest of my plants with diazinon and hopefully the remaining plants will stay healthy.

It shouldn't be long now, before your squash plants will be showing those first big, yellow blossoms. Just keep in mind that the first blossoms will usually wither and drop off the vine, giving the impression there is something wrong. There is nothing to worry about. Squash plants produce both male and female blossoms. The male blossoms will drop off after they pollinate, while the female blossoms will produce fruit. So much for birds and bees. Your first tomato blossoms will usually not set fruit either, but

for a different reason. For some reason, tomatoes have a very difficult time setting fruit until the weather really gets warm. Sometimes you can help mother nature by lightly spraying a hormone blossom set. You can find it in most any garden store. I'm told that tomatoes pollinated this way are seedless. For some reason, I always forget to check this out when I use blossom set as I'm always too eager to enjoy that first ripe tomato!

While on the subject of tomatoes, try to be careful not to wet the foliage when you water them. They are quite susceptible to a variety of wilts and blights during this time and wet foliage is a considerable problem in our area. Hopefully, you planted varieties that were resistant to fusarium and verticillium wilts. These are caused by fungi that live in the soil. Plants that have been specially bred for their resistance to these common wilts will be identified by the grower with a plant marker stating "V.F. resistant". This is especially important in our part of the country.

If you have a small, unused space in

your garden, try planting some more lettuce. You may think you have all you need right now, but it will tend to bolt and go to seed quickly with the hot weather.

As soon as my raspberries started turning red, the birds began their feast. I covered the row with netting which I purchased here in Vernonia at the local variety store.

Vernonia Freedom

Published weekly in Vernonia, Oregon, 97064, on Thursdays at 825 Bridge St. Phone 429-8111. Subscriptions, \$8 per year in advance.
Second class postage paid at Vernonia OR 97064. Publication No. 474-690. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Vernonia Freedom 825 Bridge St., Vernonia, OR 97064.
Dennis Dobson..... publisher-editor
Ann Dobson..... publisher-business manager

MEETING NOTICE

The Vernonia Community Store will hold their annual meeting at the Vernonia Senior Center July 14, at 7:30 pm. The meeting will also include elections for two board positions.

Ladies golf

Ten ladies played golf Tuesday night. A game of odd and even was played. Winning team was Pauline King and Edna Hailey.

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