

COMMUNITY GARDEN GRACES CAMPUS



GARDEN GURU - Ron Wilkinson is one of six campus residents who have transformed an empty lot into a bountiful community garden. Evenings and weekends are spent weeding and watering the nearly forty kinds of vegetables, fruits and herbs that have grown from seed. CDS Photo

by Cynthia Stowell

The corn on the campus was "knee-high by the Fourth of July" but the cool summer may have killed the cantaloupes.

Corn and cantaloupes on the campus?

A barren plot of ground across from the I.H.S. Clinic has burst forth with a variety of edibles that would cause a vegetarian to lose his cool.

From asparagus to zucchini, the garden is producing nearly forty different kinds of vegetables, some that Mother never even knew about.

Three couples with varying shades of green thumbs are collaborating on the "community garden," capitalizing on Oregon's short growing season.

The "guru of the garden" is a forester named Ron Wilkinson, whose gardening experience was gathered in South Carolina.

There the 290-day season is long enough for two consecutive gardens. Central Oregon's 90 days are not even enough to grow one crop of sweet potatoes.

But the cooperative gardeners are making those 90 days count. They are already eating broccoli and some of the three varieties of lettuce they planted in May.

The tomatoes, ochra and melons may not make it, but their nurturers are philosophical about it. The plants that do thrive will provide more than enough canning and freezing work at harvest time. Wilkinson guessed that about half the crop would be eaten fresh and the other half preserved.

Each of the six veggie growers puts in a couple of hours of gardening a week, usually in the evening or on weekends since

they all work or study full-time. Weeding and watering are the primary chores through the better part of the summer.

Most of the hard work was in the spring when the garden was laid out, planted and fertilized. Many hands made the work lighter but the do-it-yourself effort didn't lighten anyone's wallet noticeably.

Wilkinson estimated that the total investment in seeds, fertilizer, tools and Rototiller rental was \$40-45. Not bad for at least a year's supply of vegetables, fruits and herbs.

If you want to learn what kohlrabi is, how a Brussels Sprout grows or what kind of weather an eggplant likes, visit the community garden and talk to the local experts.

Their thumbs are getting greener every day.

Extension Notes:



HAY FOR SALE

Harris Farms on Boise Drive in Madras has bluegrass hay for sale, \$25 a ton in the field. Call Gary Harris at 475-6933 or Ken Harris at 475-2865.

LAWNS NEED WATER

In the summertime, lawns need water to stay green and healthy.

It is better to apply at least one inch of water than to put on smaller amount every day... Generally, you should water the lawn every five to seven days, says Clint Jacks Warm Springs Extension Agent.

Measure the amount of water by placing a can near the sprinkler. An inch in the can equals an inch on the lawn.

Most lawns can absorb one-quarter inch of water an hour... so plan on letting the sprinkler go for a long time. If you apply the water too fast, it will run-off and be wasted.

Morning is the best time to water the lawn. Evaporation is less and water pressure on municipal water systems is usually better.

Watering in the morning also reduces the chance of diseases getting started.

WATERING IS CRUCIAL TO VEGETABLE GARDEN DURING WARM WEATHER

With warmer weather and less rainfall, watering the vegetable garden is crucial to a successful harvest.

"In general, established gardens should be watered thoroughly every five to seven days," says Duane Hatch, Oregon State University extension home gardening coordinator.

Dry topsoil is not necessarily a signal to start the sprinkler. Examine the soil near the plants. Scrape back the soil to get a look below the surface. If the moisture level is within an inch or so of the surface, more water is not necessary.

If watering is in order, apply at least one inch of water. Most garden sprinklers deliver about one-fourth inch of water each hour, so proper watering takes time.

"Turning on the sprinkler for ten minutes or, worse, watering by hand or with a spray nozzle on the end of a hose won't do the job," says Hatch.

Place a coffee can where it will catch water from the sprinkler. When an inch accumulates, you can stop watering. Another measure: when the soil is soaked

to a depth of 6 to 8 inches.

Frequent light will cause roots to grow near the soil surface, making the roots more susceptible to damage during hot, dry days or when weeding.

Early morning is the best time to water. With less wind and lower temperatures evaporation is kept to a minimum. Moreover, watering early in the day gives the foliage a chance to dry out before cooler nighttime temperatures set in, thus reducing the possibility of plant disease.

EMERGENCY NUMBER FOR POISON ACCIDENTS

The Oregon Poison Control and Drug Information Center, located at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center, has begun to fill a need long felt by Oregon health professionals and the general public.

Here in Warm Springs, if your child has accidentally swallowed a poison or some other potentially harmful substance, you can now dial a toll free number (1-800-452-7165) and receive immediate professional advice on what to do for that particular kind of poison.

The purpose of the center is to bridge the gap between the time you discover that your child has ingested a poison and the time it takes to get him to a doctor. Fast, accurate information such as this center is offering could help both your child and your doctor.

Open since January, the Center is staffed around the clock, seven days a week, by nurses, physicians and pharmacists, all specially trained to

respond to incoming calls about poisons and drugs.

All calls, from physicians and the public alike, will be handled initially by nursing staff who will respond according to specific protocol. If more specialized knowledge is required, they will seek direction from the Center's physician or pharmacist staff. Nursing staff will also make follow-up calls.

A PoisIndex system which contains information on thousands of known poisons and a large selection of reference materials will be available to the staff.

Medical staff stress that you should always call your doctor or a hospital in the case of a poisoning, but if there is any delay involved in getting medical treatment this toll free number could offer the difference between life and death for a child.

It is suggested that you keep this toll free number (1-800-452-7165) by your telephone.

CANNING WORKSHOP

Canning season is now underway and to help new canners as well as old-timers the Extension Service is offering a "Canning clinic" on July 20th, at the Madras Senior High Home Ec Room, according to Jan Pahl, Extension Home Economist.

Of interest to new canners will be displays of cook books on the market and special canning equipment needed; with United States Department of Agriculture canning, pickling and relishes, and jam and jelly making bulletins available for hand outs. In addition, slides on canning pro-

cedures will be shown and actual demonstrations of canning fruits, vegetables, pickles and relishes will run continually during the afternoon and evening sessions.

Of interest to old-timers will be a service of checking pressure gauges on pressure canners, which needs to be done each season. Those interested in this free service should remove pressure gauge from lid and bring to the workshop. Highlight will be guest speaker Carolyn Raab, Oregon State University Foods & Nutrition Specialist, at 2-3 p.m. and 6-7 p.m., discussing "Food Safety", one of the major

concerns in the home process of preserving food for later. She will answer questions you may have at the end.

If you would like to can this year but don't understand the process, or are afraid to use a pressure canner, or unsure of which to use; a pressure canner or a water bath method, then join us on July 20th from 1-3:30 p.m. or 5:30-8 p.m. to have your questions answered. Registration will be \$1.00 with coffee and cookies provided. Door prizes will be given away. Please plan to attend, this will be worth your time.

ATTENTION YOUTH- 5th GRADE AND UP

The Extension Service is planning two backpack camping trips.

Both hikes will be to the high lakes to observe the outdoors for enjoyment.

July 29-30 — a two day, one

night (Trout Lake, Olallie Lake, Blue Lake.)

August 21-24 — a three day, two night (Trout Lake, Olallie Lake, Jude Lake, Blue Lake)

Food, tents, sleeping bags and back packs are provided.

If you are interested in going on one or both hikes come to the office in the Old Administration Building at least one week before each trip. Each trip will be limited to 10 people and a cost of \$3.00 per person.