

Extension Notes

from Pennie Little
and Clint Jacks



Trees shrubs attract wildlife to home yard

Birds and other small mammals can add some life to a yard that is landscaped with the right trees and shrubs. These plants can provide cover for a surprising range of small wildlife.

One plant alone is generally not enough to attract a variety of wildlife.

Rather, an assortment of plants offering different growth forms, heights, flowering times, leaf types and foods will bring the widest range of species into the yard.

Shrubs are important for the many types of wildlife that live on or near the ground. From the standpoint of the landscaper, shrubs are less fussy than trees and grow faster.

But trees are also essential, even though they take longer to reach maturity, it was noted. They provide nesting sites for songbirds as well as cover for squirrels and raccoons.

The following list contains landscape plants that are particularly valuable to wildlife.

Common snowberry, low plant, 1½ to 3 feet high, tolerates sun, partial shade and shade.

Elderberry, large shrub, 5 to 8 feet high, tolerates sun, partial shade.

Laland firethorn, shrubby tree, 8 to 20 feet high, tolerates sun and partial shade, one of the most hardy broadleaf evergreens, orange-red berries.

Flowering dogwood, oval to round tree, 10-20 feet high, tolerates sun and partial shade, deciduous, does well with summer irrigation and acid soil.

Arnold crabapple, rounded tree, 10-20 feet high, deciduous tolerates sun and partial shade.

Washington hawthorn, round tree, 20-30 feet high, tolerates sun, partial shade, brilliant red fruit in late fall and winter.

European mountain ash, oval to round tree, 20-30 feet high, tolerates sun and partial.

Russian olive, shrubby tree, 8 to 20 feet high, tolerates sun and partial shade, does well in arid regions.

Tips on planting sod lawn

The six-to-eight-week struggle of babying a new lawn into existence can be avoided by putting in a sod lawn. Sodding is often successful when growing a lawn from seed would be chancy or impossible.

You increase the chance of success by using a turf grass variety adapted to local conditions and by preparing the site and installing the sod correctly.

Most commercially available sod in Oregon is a blend of improved Kentucky bluegrass varieties and certain fine fescues. Some blends also include perennial ryegrass. Commercial sod farms constantly evaluate new varieties and produce those most satisfactory for their market areas.

Soil preparation is essentially the same as that needed for seeding a lawn, McNeilan noted. The area should be rototilled, graded, fertilized, roled and raked. Prepare the slope of the yard so water will drain away from the house. Sod will not thrive if placed directly on subsoil or worn out topsoil.

If additional topsoil is needed, do the grading first,

then add the topsoil and rototill it lightly into the top inch or two of the planting size, McNeilan said.

A soil analysis is the best way, he adds, to determine the fertilizer and lime requirements. The Extension office can provide instructions. If time does not permit a soil analysis, add fertilizer that will supply two pounds of actual element each of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium per thousand square feet.

Before laying the sod, remove all trash, rocks and other debris from the soil surface, says the specialist. Do a final light raking, then pack the surface lightly with a roller.

When ordering sod, agree on the delivery date. Then have the soil completely prepared so the sod can be installed immediately. Sod does not keep well in a stack.

Sod is usually by the supplier, who contracts to both furnish and lay the sod. However, sod can be installed by do-it-yourselfers.

When laying the sod, it is best to establish a straight line through the length of the area and lay the sod along it. Irrigate the soil lightly before installing

the sod. Dry soil beneath the sod will pull moisture from the new grass and increase the risk of damage.

Fit the pieces of sod together as tightly as possible. Do not stretch or overlap the pieces. Butt all ends tightly against each other to prevent air spaces that will cause the roots to dry out.

After the sod is in place, roll it to insure firm contact with the soil.

Then add a topdressing of nitrogen fertilizer at a rate of one pound per thousand square feet before watering.

Water the sod sufficiently to moisten it and the soil below to a depth of several inches. Then keep the sod moist until it has become established.

This may require two or three waterings a day during the spring and summer.

Do not mow until the sod is firmly rooted and secure in place, at least 7 to 10 days. Set the mower height so no more than 40 percent of the grass height is removed with the first mowing.

More detailed information about lawn sod is available in "Establish Lawns by Sodding," EC 966, an OSU extension publication. It is available at the Extension office.

"Play Ball"

Spring is here again and with it baseball season. Time to get out the old bat and polish it up and time to practice catching those fly balls. But you can't play baseball alone.

The community center is taking names of young people

interested in playing baseball. First practice is scheduled for May 5. Applications may be picked up at the school or at the community center. The only pre-requisite is devotion to the game.

Warm Springs has had its own Little League chapter

since 1955. Potential Little League players 6 to 8 years of age can sign up for T-ball. 8 to 12 year olds are eligible for Little League participation. And those 12 to 15 years of age can get involved in the Big League. There are softball leagues, also.

Getting to know you



1970 Class reunion

The Class of 1970 is making plans for their ten year class reunion to be held on August 1 and 2. The committee meeting will be held in Madras at the Meet Market on May 10 at 9:00 a.m. Any interested persons are invited to attend.

The committee also request anyone having addresses of class members to please sent them to Beverly Vibbert, Annala at 1806 Country Club Road, Hood River, 97031, or to Mike Bush at 600 Pine Street, Madras.



It doesn't take long to become buddies when you have a few things in common, or even if you don't.

Two fourth grade classes from Warm Springs elementary spent a day and a night with students of the Fir Grove elementary school in Beaverton. The children had a chance to share smiles, ideas and cultures.

While in Beaverton the Warm Springs students put on a dance performance for the Fir Grove students and their families. The Students opened the exhibition with the Lord's Prayer and then danced the Owl Dance, the Butterfly Dance, the Skip Dance and

several others. The majority of the audience joined in the Circle Dance.

Exchange programs permit students to become exposed to cultures other than their own. In a small, isolated community like Warm Springs the young people have the opportunity to see the world a little differently by participating in this type of program.

The fourth grade of Fir Grove school will be visiting Warm Springs on May 13 and 14. Channel 8 television will be covering this exchange.



The Lord's Prayer performed by the fourth grade class of Warm Springs Elementary projected much Indian belief for the people of Beaverton, Oregon.

Spilyay Tymoo Photo by Shewczyk