

Here's the scoop on fertilizers

Spring is the time for thinking about fertilizers. Organic options are a great way to go.

Organic fertilizers such as manures, compost or bone meal are derived directly from plant or animal sources, according to Ross Penhallegon, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. Inorganic fertilizers such as ammonium sulfate or ammonium phosphate are often called commercial or synthetic fertilizers because they go through a manufacturing process, although many of them come from naturally occurring mineral deposits.

Inorganic fertilizers usually contain only a few nutrients — generally nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur and sometimes micronutrients, either singly or in combination. These nutrients are in a form readily available to plants. However, since they are lost from the soil quickly, you may have to fertilize plants several times during the growing season unless you use a specially formulated, slow-release type.

Some nutrients, such as nitrate, are quickly available for uptake by plant roots, Penhallegon said. If you need only a certain element such as nitrogen and want it to be quickly available to



KYM POKORNY
Your Garden

your plants, an inorganic fertilizer such as ammonium nitrate might be in order.

Organic fertilizers usually contain plant nutrients in low concentrations. Many of these nutrients have to be converted into inorganic forms by soil bacteria and fungi before plants can use them, so they typically are more slowly released, especially during cold weather when soil microbes are not as active.

But organic fertilizers have advantages. They don't make a crust on the soil as inorganic fertilizers sometimes do. They improve water movement into the soil and, in time, add structure to the soil. Organics feed beneficial microbes, making the soil easier to work. But they may cost more than chemical, or inorganic, fertilizers because they are less concentrated, supplying fewer nutrients pound for pound.

Since many chemical/inorganic fertilizers are concentrated and very soluble, it's easier to apply too much

and damage your plants. Fresh, non-composted manure can damage your plants as well, because some manure contains harmful amounts of salts. They can also be a source of weed seeds.

Penhallegon has collected information about the nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) content of many of the organic substances commonly used as fertilizer in Oregon. His report, "Values of Organic Fertilizers," also contains information about how quickly an organic fertilizer releases available nutrients and a reference list on organic gardening.

"One of the most difficult things to determine for an organic gardener is how much organic fertilizer to use, say on 1,000 square feet of garden," said Penhallegon. "For a fertilizer with an N-P-K ratio of 12-11-2, this means 12 percent is nitrogen, 11 percent is phosphorus and 2 percent is potassium. In simple terms, this means each 100-pound bag of the fertilizer would contain 12 pounds of nitrogen, 11 pounds phosphorus and 2 pounds nitrogen."

"For example, using 12-11-2 fertilizer, if we knew we wanted to apply 1 pound of nitrogen, we would use 1/12th of 100 pounds," he

said. "This equals about 8 pounds of this fertilizer applied to get 1 pound of nitrogen out there in the soil."

Blood meal (12.5-1.5-0.6) releases nutrients over a period of two to six weeks.

Burned eggshells (0-.5-.3), fish emulsion (5-1-1) and urea (urine) (46-0-0) are the fastest-acting organic fertilizers, lasting only a couple of weeks.

To boost the nitrogen content of your soils, apply nitrogen-rich urea (42 to 46 percent N), feathers (15 percent N), blood meal (12.5 percent N) or dried blood (12 percent N).

Organic amendments highest in phosphorus include rock phosphate (20 to 33 percent P), bone meal (15 to 27 percent P) and colloidal phosphate (17 to 25 percent P). High in potassium are kelp (4 to 13 percent K), wood ash (3 to 7 percent K), granite meal (3 to 6 percent K) and greensand (5 percent K).

To make soil less acidic, gardeners want materials rich in calcium, including clamshells, oyster shells, wood ashes, dolomite and gypsum (all are at least 30 percent calcium carbonate or straight calcium).

Many garden centers and feed stores carry organic fertilizers and amendments for gardens.

ENGAGEMENTS

Barnes-Cruikshank



Brooke Barnes of Amity and William Tell Cruikshank of Sheridan are planning an August wedding.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Doug and Carla Barnes of Amity. Her fiancé is the son of Bryce and Carrie Cruikshank of Sheridan.

Brooke, a 2013 graduate of Perrydale High School, is a student at Chemeketa Community College in McMinnville.

William, a 2014 graduate of Central High School, is a student at George Fox University in Newberg pursuing his bachelor's degree in business management.

The wedding is set for Aug. 1 at William's grandparents' home in Dallas.

BIRTHS

Winter

Natalie Marie Winter was born to John and Mandi Winter of Independence at 2:44 p.m. on March 4 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

She weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 20 1/4 inches long.

Natalie joins Jason, 19 months.

Grandparents are Jonathan and Jenny Naylor of Independence and Carmen Winter of Corvallis.

Great-grandparents are Thomas and Lillian Montgomery of American Fork, Utah, and Paul and Norma Kirk of Tualatin.

Delsman

Axel David Lynn Delsman was born to Josh Delsman and Nicole Hale-McKibben of Dallas at 9:15 p.m. on March 6 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 20 inches long. Axel is the couple's first child.

Grandparents are David and Bette McKibben of Dallas, Charlie and Cindy Delsman of Dallas, and Twilla Friesen of Culesac, Idaho.

Great-grandparents are Ed and Lavina Friesen of Dallas, Walt Gibson of Salem, Billie Gibson of Dallas, and Bob and Carol Delsman of Ashland.

Minahan

Morgan Eben Minahan was born to Nick and Trinity Minahan of Dallas at 1:54 a.m. on March 7 at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis.

He weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Morgan is the couple's first child.

Grandparents are Terry and Carlotta Hall of Dallas and Mark and Joni Minahan of Dallas.

Ceja

Ezra Lee Ceja was born to Javier and Cassie Ceja of Dallas at 12:27 p.m. on March 10 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

He weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Ezra joins Makaylah, 11, and Xzavier, 2.

Grandparents are Edward Bennett of Dallas, Javier Ceja of Salem and Tammy Lopes of Salem.

Great-grandparents are Billie Quinton of McMinnville, Lois Diaz of Buffalo, Mo., and Abel Ceja-Mendez of Michoacan, Mexico.

MI TOWN

Springtime has always been a season of renewal and a celebration of new life, with baby lambs romping in fields and birds building nests for their little families. Springtime brings us St. Patrick's Day celebrations — where everybody is Irish for just one day — and corned beef, cabbage and songs to sing around the piano. Easter brings us hope, joy and the promises of renewal of mind and spirit. Springtime is happy and good for young and old and everyone in between.

What doesn't belong in springtime — or any other time of year — is meanness and hatred. It seems there is an abundance of nastiness and bad behavior that continues to crop up nearly everywhere. Fraternity brothers are singing racist songs that are going viral on



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

the Internet; some church leaders are screaming hatred from their pulpits; people are shooting at each other and targeting law enforcement officers; politicians are saying hateful things about each other; people are talking about "taking our country back." The words and actions seem to be escalating faster every day.

People with income from trust funds complain about "lazy people" who use food stamps to feed their families. (Full disclosure here: Members of my family represent every race, religion, ethnic,

and socioeconomic group. An insult to one is an insult to somebody I love. I love my country and believe our nation is strong and true.) I think that's pretty representative of most of us. When hateful slurs are made, people are hurt, and nothing good comes from any of it.

The anonymity of the Internet has given everyone the chance to scream, yell and carry on, and it's probably healthy to get it all said to those who are in agreement with what we have to say. After all, we do have First Amendment rights. What's so sad and mean is to hear vicious words said in the presence of children or others for no other purpose than to be hateful and hurtful. Wouldn't it be great to make springtime resolutions — to really think about others who are different — and

not criticize those who aren't like us. We can all do better.

The recent change to daylight saving time is a reminder to check your home smoke alarms. If you haven't checked your smoke detectors lately, Polk County Fire District No. 1 members can stop by your residence to change batteries and check your alarm to be sure it is working properly. Call 503-838-1510 during regular business hours for more information.

See you Thursday for soup and pie at the Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St. Doors open at 11 a.m., and variety of soups and pie will be served. Cost is a suggested donation of \$3 per bowl of soup and \$2 per slice of pie. It's a wonderful way to celebrate springtime in MI Town.

Music from the Redgate Winery Fieldhouse

Saturday March 21, 1-4 PM
featuring **Diamondback**
\$5.00 cover • Must be 21
Food available
Tasting fees & glasses of wine \$5.00
8175 Buena Vista Road
Independence • 503-428-7115 • www.redgatevineyard.com

INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8
450 S. 2nd St., Independence
Showtimes 503-606-3000
www.independencecinema8.com

Friday March 20 through Thursday March 26
Matinees are all shows before 6pm.

New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$7.25
Children \$6.75
Senior \$7.00
Pricing does not reflect 3D showings.

MCFARLAND (Digital) (PG)	(1:10 4:00)	6:50 9:30
GUNMAN (Digital) (R)	(2:00 4:40)	7:20 9:45
DISNEY'S CINDERELLA (Digital) (PG)	(1:30 4:15)	7:00 9:25
INSURGENT (NEC Dolby 2D) (PG13)	(1:05)	6:40
INSURGENT (NEC Dolby 3D) (PG13)	(3:50)	9:20
INSURGENT (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(1:35 4:20)	7:10 9:50
CHAPPIE (Digital) (R)	(1:45 4:30)	7:15 9:55
RUN ALL NIGHT (R)	(1:25 4:05)	6:45 9:10
SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (Digital) (PG)	(1:40 4:25)	7:05 9:35

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...for local news, sports and community events.

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West Valley Housing Authority will hold their **Work Session Meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. The Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. An Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 will be held immediately following the Regular Meeting.**

Agenda for the meeting is posted on the Housing Authority website at www.wvpha.org. The location for the meeting is handicapped accessible. Please advise the West Valley Housing Authority if you need any special accommodations to attend the meeting. For information, please call 503-623-8387, TDD 1-800-735-2900.

Recycle this newspaper.

Polk County Museum presents...

Family Day
Sat. March 21st
1:30 til 4 pm
Admission & Refreshments are FREE!

Welcome one and all to an afternoon of fun-filled experiences!

Take a Step Back In Time ...to the era of pioneers. Help churn butter for home-made biscuits & jam.

For the Young'uns Demonstrations

- Scavenger Hunt
- Spinning & Weaving
- Play Dress-Up
- Quilting & Handwork
- Period Costumes
- Blacksmithing

We want to show Polk County our appreciation for their support throughout the year!
560 Pacific Hwy, Rickreall 503-623-6251
<http://polkcountyhistoricalsociety.com>

WAGON WHEEL DOLLER'S
33rd Annual **Doll Show & Sale**
March 28 Pre-Sale \$6 9am - 10am
10am - 4pm Admission: Adults \$4
Kids 10 yrs & under Free

Food Available on site

Polk County Fairgrounds
520 Pacific Hwy W, Rickreall
Dolls, Bears, Books, Toys, Miniatures & Related Items, Doll Stringing

No Appraisals

Sales Table Reservation \$32 per table

Arleta Day 503-581-1206
Sally Bradford 503-399-7679

Hwy 22
Rickreall Salem
Polk Co Fairgrounds

RV Space Available

Knights of Columbus
St. Thomas Moore Council
Congratulates
the winner of our recent fund raising raffle event
Reinar Morales of Dallas
has won the
2015 Alaska Fishing Trip to Pybus Point Lodge

We want to thank the individuals and businesses that contributed prizes:

American Outdoors • Dallas Animal Clinic
Heidi's Barber Shop • Gordon Wava
Les Schwab Tires • Murphy's Grill
Shannon Morgan 31 • Tim's Automotive
VanDuzer Vineyards • Charlotte & Bill Geary
Dallas Health & Vitality • Ixtapa Restaurant
Mira Mar Restaurant • Platinum Spa
Some Things • Town Barber Shop
Wing & Prayer Alpacas