

Tomato lovers: nix disease, grow the best

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Knowing the whys and hows of tomato diseases gives gardeners a leg up for successfully growing the most-treasured of vegetables.

Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service, troubleshoots the following common problems that might afflict your tomatoes as the season goes on.

Blossom drop — It's usually caused by dry soil and dry winds, but also may be caused by a sudden cold spell, heavy rain or too much nitrogen. Usually not all blossoms will fall off, and another set of flowers will appear.

Blossom-end rot — The end of the fruit farthest away from the stem turns brown or black — a condition caused by irregular watering practices and calcium deficiency. It is most common in western Oregon. Water deeply and regularly. Add lime to the soil in the fall to increase the calcium level for next year's crop.

Leaf roll — A physiological problem that is most often the result of heavy pruning



KYM POKORNY
Your Garden

or root injury. Some tomato cultivars display leaf rolling as a normal growth habit. Plants may lose leaves but will recover. Learn more in Extension's guide on leaf roll.

Sunscald — Green tomatoes can get sunburned if exposed. There is no cure, only prevention by reducing foliage diseases that can cause leaf loss. Take care when pruning to protect the developing fruit.

Early and late blight — These are fungal diseases caused by warm, wet weather and characterized by irregular, greenish water-soaked spots on lower leaves and stems. The spots rapidly enlarge to form purplish black lesions, which girdle the stems and leaves, killing the foliage. Avoid overhead watering, give plants plenty of room, stake and prune to keep air circulating and plants dry. Remove diseased



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Be on the lookout for tomato problems so that you can treat them appropriately and have a successful harvest.

leaves.

Slow-ripening fruit — Temperatures above 85 degrees can slow the ripening of tomatoes, which ripen quickest at 70 degrees to 75 degrees. Wait for cooler weather to allow for vine-ripening to occur. Fruit just showing color changes can be picked and stored at room temperature to ripen.

For more information,

photos and control methods for these and other tomato maladies, consult Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Management Handbook. Or call your local OSU Extension Master Gardeners.

For general information about growing tomatoes, check out Extension's publications *Grow Your Own Tomatoes and Tomatillos* in English and Spanish.

MI TOWN

Our newly-minted Western Oregon University graduates bid farewell to MI Town following Saturday's graduation ceremonies that combined happy tears with nostalgia, optimism and abundant good wishes. We'd like to add our congratulations and high hopes as our best and brightest begin another exciting chapter in their lives. Come September, we'll welcome new freshman students eager to start on a new journey of their own as well as our returning sophomore, junior, senior and graduate students. WOU is indeed the crown jewel in MI Town's crown and we look forward to so many good programs, classes and activities our hometown university has to offer.

Summer activities are in full swing at the Independence and Monmouth Public



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

Libraries and if you'd like to learn more about what's happening for kids — stop by your nearest library during open hours or browse through all the program information on their web sites. There are programs for all ages with live music performers, summer book and prize giveaways and free family friendly movies. If you're new to the area, please take a few minutes from your busy day and see what activities would be best for you and your family. It's also a great way to meet your neighbors and make new friends. Thanks to the

Friends of the Independence and Monmouth libraries for helping to provide funding, so we can all share interesting activities for the summer.

The schedule is out for the Music in the Park Series at Main Street Park Amphitheater in Monmouth. The Shinkle Family Band will entertain us beginning at 6:30 p.m. on July 5. We'll pack our picnic baskets or have the opportunity to buy food and beverages right in the park, and enjoy a concert featuring folk and country music with our families, friends and neighbors. Several local businesses have provided funding for these free summer-time events, so please support your community merchants and organizations.

The June birthday celebration at Monmouth Senior

Center is scheduled for June 30 at 1 p.m., and all area seniors are welcome to share cake and ice cream, games and other fun activities. The center is located at 180 Warren St. S., in Monmouth.

If you didn't have the opportunity to read Larry Dalton's letter to the editor in last week's *I-O*, please take a moment to find the paper or check the webpage (www.polkio.com). No matter what our political or religious views may be, nothing is accomplished by demeaning others whose ideas are different. Let's take the time to be kinder to one another.

Want to meet a NASA scientist? Stop by the Monmouth Library at 3 p.m. today, and discover what's going on with the space program. Kids of all ages will enjoy this event.

PEDEE NEWS

Portia Perkins and husband Jack hosted Portia's sister Paula Taylor and husband Chuck, of Davenport, Iowa, for a week at the first of the month. Portia showed them the Oregon sights, including Woodburn Mall, which Paula loved, and the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum in McMinnville, which Chuck loved as he is a WWII buff. A few days after they arrived, Portia's nephew and wife Jason and Sheryl Taylor, son Jordan, and daughter Jasmine flew into Portland to join the group on a trip to Pacific City, where they rented a house and enjoyed beach life, walking the beach and watching the very tame wild life. They climbed the Cape Kiwanda sand dunes one day, and of course, stopped at the Lincoln City Mall to shop, then checked out Newport Beach and Tillamook, and went on to the Portland Zoo, and OMSI.



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

This was the first trip to Portia and Jack's home for Chuck, Sheryl and Jasmine. Portia feeds a ton of birds daily so they got to see the huge flock of pigeons, her crows and ravens and the scrub and Stellar jays. She feeds the pigeons and jays right outside her front room/dining room windows and Jack built a 6-foot high platform that is further away for the crows and ravens. It was the perfect time of day with the sun hitting the windows so that the birds were unable to see everyone watching them and taking pictures.

The open house for Audrey Cameron's retirement from 25 years of teaching at the Weekday School of the Bible in Dallas was especially nice, with many old and new friends, plus family, coming to honor her. Several Pedee people and former Pedee people were there, including Joan Kaiser, whom I hadn't seen in several years. She still lives in a grand old house in Monmouth.

In lieu of a traditional Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year, Pedee Church will be having several opportunities for kids and families to gather for activities throughout the summer. Their first activity will be a "Lawn Camp" in Daniel and Heidi Russell's back yard Friday, from 4 p.m. until the next morning at 10 a.m. They will be cooking over a fire and sleeping in tents or under the stars. Then the next week everyone will meet at our house on Friday afternoon

from 1:30-4:30 for a scavenger hunt in the woods, plus play lawn games. Then each succeeding week another family will host the group for more fun activities. This is for anyone who would like to come out, so call Heidi at 503-838-2129 if you'd like to participate. If you can't come, please send your kids for a fun time. We'd love to get to know you!

The women's Bible study is taking a break for the summer and will get going again in September. They're all too busy planting and weeding, and then canning and freezing.

Many people will be coming to Oregon and particularly our area for the eclipse on Aug. 21. If you do something special for that week, please let me know. My phone number is 503-838-3512 and my email is kovasha@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

These Polk County groups would welcome individuals who have time or expertise to volunteer. Organizations that would like to be added to this list should call 503-623-2373 or email IONews@polkio.com.

- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide – 503-930-7636
- After DARC — 503-623-9501
- American Cancer Society Road to Recovery — 1-800-227-2345
- Arc of Polk County — 541-223-3261
- Ash Creek Arts Center – 971-599-3301
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Polk County Inc. — 503-623-8473
- Central School District — 503-838-0030
- City of Dallas — 503-831-3502
- City of Independence — 503-838-1212
- City of Monmouth — 503-751-0145
- Crime Victims Assistance Program — 503-623-9268
- Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce — 503-623-2564
- Dallas Fire Department — 503-831-3532
- Dallas Food Bank — 503-623-3578
- Dallas Kids, Inc. — 503-623-6419
- Dallas Police Department — 503-831-3582
- Dallas Public Library — 503-623-2633
- Dallas Retirement Village — 503-623-5581
- Dallas School District — 503-623-5594
- Delbert Hunter Arboretum — 503-623-7359
- Ella Curran Food Bank — 503-838-1276
- Falls City Arts Center — 503-559-6291
- Falls City School District — 503-787-3531
- Family Building Blocks — 503-566-2132, ext. 308.
- Friends of the Dallas Library — 503-559-3830
- Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington and Oregon — 1-800-338-5248
- H-2-O — 503-831-4736
- HART (Horses Adaptive Riding and Therapy) — 971-301-4278
- HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley — 503-363-1651
- Heron Pointe Assisted Living — 503-838-6850
- Independence Health and Rehabilitation — 503-838-0001
- Independence Public Library — 503-838-1811
- Kings Valley Charter School — 541-929-2134
- Luckiamute Watershed Council — 503-837-0237
- Luckiamute Valley Charter School — 503-623-4837
- Meals on Wheels — 503-838-2084
- Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce — 503-838-4268
- Monmouth-Independence YMCA — 503-838-4042
- Monmouth Public Library — 503-838-1932
- Northwest Human Services — 503-588-5828
- Oregon Child Development Coalition — 503-838-2745
- OSU Extension Service - Polk County — 503-623-8395
- Perrydale School District — 503-623-2040
- Polk Community Development Corporation — 503-831-3173
- Polk County Community Emergency Response Team — 503-623-9396
- Polk County Museum — 503-623-6251
- Polk County Public Health — 503-623-8175
- Polk County Resource Center — 503-623-8429
- Polk Soil and Water Conservation District — 503-623-9680
- Relief Nursery Classroom — 503-566-2132
- SABLE House — 503-623-6703
- SALT (Senior and law enforcement together) — 503-851-9366
- Salvation Army — 503-798-4783
- SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) — 503-391-8423
- Salem Health West Valley Hospital — 503-623-8301
- Victim Assistance Program-Polk Co. District Attorney's Office — 503-623-9268 x1444
- Willamette Valley Hospice — 503-588-3600
- WIMPEG Community Access Television — 503-837-0163

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FRIDAY - TUESDAY • JUNE 23 - 27

| | | |
|---|-------------------|------------|
| CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS (Digital) (PG) | (12:25 2:40 4:55) | 7:10 |
| IT COMES AT NIGHT (Digital) (R) | | 9:25 |
| 47 METERS DOWN (Digital) (PG13) | (12:25 2:45 5:10) | 7:25 9:45 |
| TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT (Digital) (PG13) | (12:15 3:30) | 6:45 10:00 |
| CARS 3 (Digital) (G) | (11:30 2:05 4:40) | 7:15 9:50 |
| WONDER WOMAN (Digital) (PG13) | (12:45 3:50) | 7:00 10:05 |
| ROUGH NIGHT (Digital) (R) | (11:50 2:15 4:40) | 7:05 9:30 |
| PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES (Digital) (PG13) | (12:0 4:15) | 7:10 10:10 |
| THE MUMMY (Digital) (PG13) | (11:35 2:10 4:45) | 7:20 9:55 |

WEDNESDAY • JUNE 28

| | | |
|---|-------------------|------------|
| 47 METERS DOWN (Digital) (PG13) | (12:25 2:45 5:10) | 7:25 9:40 |
| TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT (Digital) (PG13) | (12:15 3:30) | 6:45 10:00 |
| BABY DRIVER (Digital) (R) | (1:45 4:25) | 7:05 9:45 |
| CARS 3 (Digital) (G) | (11:30 2:05 4:40) | 7:15 9:50 |
| WONDER WOMAN (Digital) (PG13) | (12:45 3:50) | 7:00 10:05 |
| ROUGH NIGHT (Digital) (R) | (11:50 2:15 4:40) | 7:05 9:30 |
| PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES (Digital) (PG13) | (12:0 4:15) | 7:10 10:10 |
| THE MUMMY (Digital) (PG13) | (11:35 2:10 4:45) | 7:20 9:55 |

THURSDAY • JUNE 29

| | | |
|---|-------------------|------------|
| 47 METERS DOWN (Digital) (PG13) | (12:25 2:45 5:10) | 9:40 |
| THE HOUSE (Digital) (R) | | 7:15 |
| TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT (Digital) (PG13) | (12:15 3:30) | 6:45 10:00 |
| BABY DRIVER (Digital) (R) | (1:45 4:25) | 7:05 9:45 |
| CARS 3 (Digital) (G) | (11:30 2:05 4:40) | 7:15 9:50 |
| THE MUMMY (Digital) (PG13) | (11:35 2:10) | |
| DESPICABLE ME 3 (Digital) (PG) | | 6:00 8:15 |
| ROUGH NIGHT (Digital) (R) | (11:50 2:15 4:40) | 7:05 9:30 |
| PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES (Digital) (PG13) | (12:0 4:15) | 7:10 10:10 |
| WONDER WOMAN (Digital) (PG13) | (12:45 3:50) | 7:00 10:05 |

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