

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at dearabby.com or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



Dear Abby: I have been in a relationship for two years with a man I love very much. We're both in our early 20s. I have a house. He lives with his parents and is going to school.

Last year, after living together for a few months due to COVID, I invited him to move in with me. It took him five months to even give me an answer about whether he wanted to. It has now been eight months since he went back home to his parents. He says he "will" move in, but won't commit to giving me a date.

I have been blown off by him for his family multiple times, and I know it's not something that'll ever change. I'm wondering if we'll last, or if I should take a step back in the relationship.

Dear Abby: I am wondering how to handle finding a hair in your food or on your plate while eating at home, or even while eating at a friend's? I try to prevent it from happening by tugging gently at my hair, pulling out the loose ones and brushing off my sleeves and shoulders before I start cooking. However, once or twice a month, my husband finds one and

complains about it, sometimes loudly. Of course I don't do it on purpose! It embarrasses me and makes me feel horrible and defensive.

Should he mention this, or let it pass? If we were at a friend's house, I know he wouldn't say anything, and I wouldn't either, for fear of causing embarrassment.

Dear Abby: We are part of a close group of six couples who have a great time together. Although our political philosophies and worldviews are different, we always have adult and stimulating discussions. The problem is, one of the couples doesn't believe in the COVID vaccination. We'd like to have a BBQ, but only with those of us who have been vaccinated. Is there a way we can do this without hurting the feelings of that couple?

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Gardening corner

Be mindful of drought conditions

BY LIZ DOUVILLE

Drought is a harsh word for farmers and gardeners to hear. We were reminded that drought conditions are here in Central Oregon with the recent startling news reports that three major reservoirs are in peril.

Conserving water, not considering the impending drought-impacted restrictions, should be a prime concern of all who choose to live in Central Oregon. It should be simple to understand: We live at a high desert elevation.

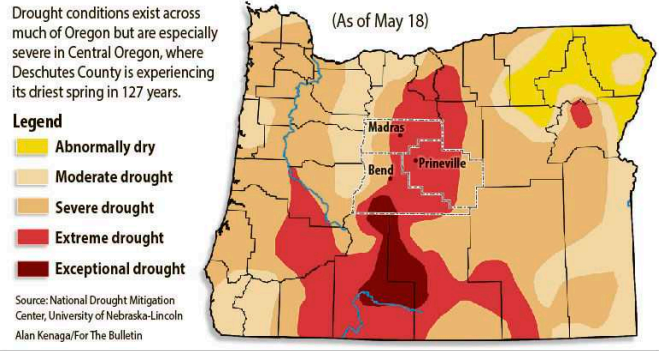
According to a U.S. Drought Monitor map issued on May 18, 2021, most of Central Oregon registers as being in D2 (Severe Drought) to D3 (Extreme Drought). Parts of Lake and Klamath Counties are in D4 (Exceptional Drought).

My mind can't help automatically reverting to the TV of the 70s and "So — whatcha gonna do 'bout it?"

There's nothing we can do to prevent a drought, but there are some strategies we can enact that will help minimize the toll it takes on your landscape.

Start by monitoring the irrigation system and where the water goes. Is part of the water going down the driveway or sidewalk? Maybe redirecting a few sprinkler heads would eliminate the runoff. Can you change the timing of your sys-

Drought conditions in Oregon



tem to irrigate a shorter time span?

Be sure you know what the watering regulations are for your city. My neighborhood is in an irrigation district. Rather than being on regulated irrigating hours, the irrigation should be done early in the morning or early evening when the heat of the day has passed and evaporation has lessened.

Mulching is one of the best things you can do for your garden. A 2- to 3-inch mulch covering over your garden can block weed growth, keep the soil moist and, as it decays, will feed both the soil and the plants growing in it. A general rule of thumb is that mulches and compost are held back approximately about an inch from the base of the plant. The most popular mulches are organic commercial mulches.

For years we have read that

pine needles acidify the soil. A two-year study of mulching with pine needles showed the pH of the soil was the same as the reading two years prior. They may not look as pretty but you'll have to admit they are cost-effective.

It is helpful to stop fertilizing. Let's admit it — we are far too generous when instead we should be more aware of enriching the soil. Fertilizers encourage plant growth; the more a plant grows, the more moisture it needs.

Removing spent blooms before they have a chance to set seed saves energy for your plants. The plants don't need to put energy (which they need water for) into producing seeds.

It might not be fun at the best of times, but getting those weeds out of the garden is especially important during drought. The

reason: Weeds' roots steal valuable moisture from the soil. Mark your calendar: June 13 has been declared National Weed Your Garden Day.

If you are looking to plan a more drought-tolerant garden you might consider some of the following:

• Become familiar with the native plants that grow well in our area. Read the "Selecting native plants for home landscapes in Central Oregon" publication EC 1623 from the Oregon State University Extension Service. Here's some food for thought—In England sagebrush is considered an exotic ornamental. Why not in Central Oregon?

• The list of drought-resistant herbs includes most of the common cooking herbs on a shopping list. Chives, garlic and onion are excellent choices for low-water gardens.

Additional low-water herbs include lovage, which has a celerylike flavor. I plan to add a container of lovage to my unheated greenhouse for winter use as a substitute for buying celery, of which half usually ends up in the compost bin. Oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage and thyme are low-water common cooking herbs that are also easy to dry in the microwave.

It can be exciting to meet new challenges and realize you aren't part of the problem. Reporter: douville@bendbroadband.com

YOUR HOROSCOPE

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

MOON ALERT: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021: You are elegant and expressive. You have a sharp intellect and are curious to explore ideas and concepts. You are a humanitarian. You care. This year you will be content, happy and satisfied with your success because you finally have the opportunity to do what you want to do.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Something about your personal wealth will please you today. This might be why you want to buy beautiful things for yourself and loved ones. Actually, you might attract money to you and become even richer! Tonight: Entertain at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Oh happy day! The Moon in your sign is dancing with lucky Jupiter and fair Venus. The silver lining after the storm. This is why you feel warm-hearted, congenial and generous. Because others will sense this, they will want to share time with you. Tonight: Tell someone you care.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You need a breather. Indeed, today is the perfect day to seek solitude in beautiful surroundings and pamper yourself. A massage, a quiet place, a book or your favorite videogame — take time for yourself to feel special. Tonight: Look for financial advantages.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A meaningful conversation with someone, probably a female acquaintance, will be important to you today. You might express your affection for this person or, vice versa, they might tell you how much they like you. Tonight: Socialize with others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You are high-viz today, which is a good thing because people will admire you. The impression you create on others is one of being generous, warmhearted and caring. (You love good press.) Ask others to help you. Kaching! Tonight: Seek quiet time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Because your appreciation of beauty is heightened today (along with your sense of adventure), do something different so you can enjoy art galleries, architectural buildings and pristine nature. Tonight: Enjoy artistic friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today can be financially beneficial for you. It's a good day to negotiate or divide something. It's also a sexy, passionate day! Yes, you can have it all! Tonight: Romance with a boss?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This is a fabulous day to schmooze with good friends, partners and spouses. Enjoy the company of others, because they are happy to see you as well. Sports events and fun activities with kids will delight. Tonight: Make travel plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your health feels more robust today because you are happier. You are also more confident because things are moving forward with respect to home and family. God smiles from above. Tonight: Favors might come to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This is a wonderful, lighthearted, fun-loving day. Enjoy any social outing, particularly with children and young people. The arts, sports events, picnics — any social diversion will delight you. Zooks! Tonight: Schmooze with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You have a warm feeling in your tummy today because all is well for the moment. Relations with family members will be rewarding, perhaps literally. Take time to alphabetize your blessings. Tonight: Focus on health.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Conversations with siblings, relatives or neighbor plus short trips will please you today because you're in a happy mood and eager to share your joy with others. Discussions about the arts or big questions will be stimulating! Tonight: Time to play!

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