

Master Gardener program slated

The Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener classes will be held Mondays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. beginning Jan. 6, 2003.

The program is designed to teach volunteers how to make better use of gardening resources and abilities, and then, teach others. Volunteers are given training in soil management, vegetable gardening techniques, landscape maintenance, pest control and many other aspects of gardening. During the gardening season, these new Master Gardeners help teach others to do a better job of growing and caring for plants, fighting off pests and making the community a better place to live.

There is a \$40 fee for reference materials.

For more information, call Columbia County Extension in St. Helens at 503-397-3462.

Can you dig it?

By Schann Nelson



I fortunately spent the last sunny day before a hard frost at my house, bringing the last of the houseplants inside and gathering the last of the tomatoes. I am more careful with this transition from outside to inside than I am with a lot of stuff I do with plants. I definitely don't want to bring in any nasty aphids or spider mites, I don't need any (more) large spiders in the house and I think it's tragic when I accidentally bring in a

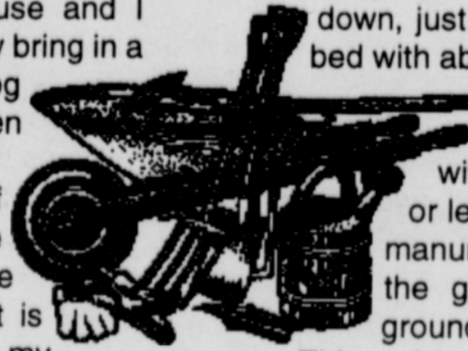
poor, little frog. One year I found a shrunken, dried frog during spring-cleaning, though I think he may have gotten in through an old window casing.

Now I very carefully clean each and every dead leaf off of any plants I bring inside. I use a lot of rocks on the top of the soil of potted plants to diffuse water and I take them all out. When the surface of the soil in the pot is "clean," I give the plant a thorough shower outside with my handy water wand, so I can get to the bottom side of the leaves. Then I replace the rocks and bring the plant inside. I've found that a layer of rocks on top of the soil on pots in the house keeps the dirt from getting a nasty layer of mold in mid-winter. Aquarium gravel is pretty and works great!

Last month I didn't talk about the most important bulb I plant, GARLIC! I always plant at least one whole bed of garlic. This usually yields about 7-to-10 nice braids. This year, I didn't get to the garlic until after it was too dry to braid, but I have a nice big bas-

ket to pick through to get my "seed" for next year. Since I have a lot of garlic, I pick through it and plant only the largest cloves. Over the years I have done this, so I now have a dependable, large-cloved garlic. If you have to buy garlic to plant for the first time, you can plant it all, then make sure that you save your largest cloves to plant next year.

You can plant garlic any time from now through late January, into a nicely raked bed. I plant mine in a grid with cloves about 5-6 inches apart in all directions. This makes a denser bed, overall, than planting in straight rows. I stick the clove, root end down, just into the surface of the soil. Then I cover the bed with about two inches of stuff from the chicken coop.



Since the garlic grows only roots through the fall and winter, I've never had any trouble with burning it. Then I add a thin layer of straw or leaves to discourage weeds sprouting from the manure. In late January or early February, before the garlic has started to peek up through the ground, I add another layer of manure and mulch.

This makes the garlic actually about 2-4 inches under the surface of the soil by the time I harvest in July. This method requires almost no weeding, as the garlic comes up through the layers of mulch. Pretty much all you have to do after the second application of mulch, is make sure that the bed doesn't dry out in the spring. Garlic likes lots of fertilizer and lots of water to develop large cloves. When the tips of the leaves start to turn yellow it's time to quit watering and start thinking about how much great garlic you can harvest from that little bit you planted last year.

Since I actually write stuff down now, I have results from this year's tomato trial. My absolute favorite tomato remains the heirloom variety Tiger-Like. It's early, productive, tastes good and is beautifully striped. My other favorite is Sun Gold, a cherry tomato that beats the socks off of all the red cherry tomatoes I've tried, including the Super Sweet 100 I planted this year. You have to remember that these cherry tomatoes don't turn red and are ripe and sweet when they are gold, but you get a LOT of thumb-sized tomatoes. The sauce tomato, Oregon Spring, was very productive, I just forgot that it was a sauce tomato. Next year I'll plant more, along with the Italian sauce tomato that didn't get in a good spot. If I plant a section of sauce tomatoes maybe I can keep them straight.

Other tomatoes I'll plant again are First Lady II (very productive and dependable), Willamette (this year was the first year I remember planting these and I was very pleased with the large slicing tomatoes), Persimmon (which barely makes the list because it's not very productive, but the taste of the few tomatoes I get is worth the space) and Caspian Pink (a Russian heirloom that didn't do well, but that I want to try again because it's supposed to taste like Brandywine).

The losers are Legend (which I got because it's early and resistant to late blight, but it didn't do anything), Stupice (which I tried before and still don't like as well as Tiger-Like), Super Sweet 100 (see above), and Brandywine Red (I love the taste of these but, like Persimmon, you don't get many tomatoes and Persimmon seems more dependable).

Enjoy the sunny fall days and crisp nights. Cover your bare dirt with something (leaves, straw, cover crop) to protect it from the rains to come. Plant bulbs and wait for spring.

Church Directory

<p>VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH</p> <p>Pastor Paul Pastor 850 Madison Avenue Vernonia, 503 429-1103</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Evening Service Youth Ministry Children's Ministry Nursery Available</p> <p>Men's Ministry 7:45 a.m. 3rd Saturday each month</p>	<p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</p> <p>Darwin Harvey, Pastor 662 Jefferson Vernonia, 503 429-4615</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bible Study, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Youth & Kids, Thursday 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS</p> <p>Lee Knowlton, Branch President 1350 E. Knott Street Vernonia, 503 429-7151</p> <p>Sacrament Meeting, Sunday 10 a.m. Sunday School & Primary 11:20 a.m.</p> <p>Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women, Sunday 12:10 p.m.</p>
<p>VERNONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH</p> <p>Grant Williams, Pastor 957 State Avenue Vernonia, 503 429-6790</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Children's Church w/Nursery Sunday 6:00-7:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High, AWANA, Adult Study Nursery provided Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study, Thurs. 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>John Cahill, Pastor 359 "A" Street Vernonia, 503 429-1161</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Evening Worship Saturday, 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</p> <p>Kevin Reiner, Pastor, 543-2254 2nd Ave. and Nehalem St. Vernonia, 503 429-8301</p> <p>Sabbath School 9:15 a.m. Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>D.J. Dickey, Pastor Grant & North Streets Vernonia, 503 429-1919</p> <p>Sunday Services: Adult Prayer & Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:15 a.m. Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Service: All Family Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>NEHALEM VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH</p> <p>500 California Ave Vernonia, 503 429-5378</p> <p>Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Nursery available Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>ST. AUGUSTINE (CANTERBURY) EPISCOPAL CHURCH</p> <p>The Rev. Robert Grafe, Pastor 375 North St. (Vernonia Grange Hall) Vernonia, 503 429-3700</p> <p>Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</p> <p>Pastoral Associate Juanita Dennis 960 Missouri Avenue Vernonia, 503 429-8841</p> <p>Mass Schedule Sunday 12:00 Noon Religious Education Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN CHURCH</p> <p>Joel Stith, Pastor 410 North Street Vernonia, 503 429-6522</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Every Wednesday: Ladies' Bible Study 9:15 a.m. Children's Choir 3:00 p.m. Family Bible Study 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Fellowship, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.</p>	

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