

Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson



Garden Glory Time! This time of year I'm a danger on the road as I strain to see what is inside that fence and what is around the corner. Everything is still green, the flowers are blooming and Vernonia looks great. Now that the heat is here, we begin the challenge of keeping things alive until the rains come again.

Regardless of what you may read elsewhere, the only time to water in our part of the state is in the morning. Evening watering allows the build up of molds and other nasty stuff you don't want, as well as creating a more comfortable traveling path for slugs. Make sure that foliage has a chance to dry out before dark. Since spraying precious water in the air when its hot and sunny just doesn't make sense (unless you are watering the children to keep them out of your hair) you have to water before the sun hits your yard. This is the one time of year I'm thankful that large parts of my yard stay shady so late in the day, since I can't seem to get out there in the morning very often.

If you have a very limited water supply make use of every drop. I have kept small gardens, perennials and hanging baskets alive when I had to pack all of our water by making good use of every drop of gray water I could. Water used to wash produce and dishes (and bodies) can still be used on plants. A mild soap solution can improve soil condition and control some pests. Mulch keeps water in the ground once it gets wet. I have worked for a long time to make sure that water stays where I put it and doesn't run all over the grass, which only looks dead. Grass naturally dries out and turns brown in summer and will green up just fine when the rains return.

I'm never planting bush-type peas again, except for the nearly leafless "Novella." They are simply too difficult to harvest. I break the vines trying to get to the ripe peas and then lose the rest of the crop. A piece of fencing would keep them off the ground and (hopefully) greatly improve yields. I am going to try to grow a crop of peas in the fall again, and will be planting that as soon as the garlic comes out of the ground.

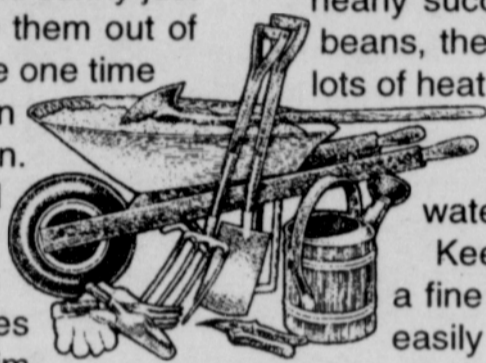
I sprayed my garden with a light-weight "summer oil" for a heavy infestation of flea beetles this year. Like magic, the beans, potatoes and tomatoes became free of small holes. I have tolerated the infestation for a number of years, but this year I decided to try out my new hose-end sprayer. It worked like a charm. I'm excited now about spraying things like kelp and fish fertilizer to boost growth organically.

I planted bush limas for the first time and they are very slow to get growing and nearly succumbed to the flea beetles. Unlike pole beans and bush string beans, the limas remain only a couple of inches tall. Apparently they want lots of heat. The variety I planted is supposed to be a short season type that will tolerate cool weather, so I'd hate to see how longer season beans would do. I really don't like to put out a lot of effort (and water) and not get any results. No melons or eggplant in my garden.

Keep an eye on the cabbage moths. Their caterpillars can devastate a fine cabbage, cauliflower or broccoli almost overnight. They can be easily controlled with the application of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) or hand picked. Bt is a microscopic organism that is harmless to humans, pets and bees and can be used up to the day of harvest. Usually, I have to apply it only once or twice a season. It is available as a wettable powder and can be applied using a spray bottle. Hint: Use a little dish soap, or a spreader/sticker so that the Bt stays on the leaves. Otherwise, all of these vegetables just shed water like a duck's back. The caterpillars have to eat just a bit for it to be effective.

Hopefully, I will be able to try more summer pruning. According to the Extension Service, any tree or shrub can safely be pruned in summer. This is supposed to be an effective way to keep trees small. Vigorous growth and sprouting is not stimulated and, because removing leaves slows carbohydrate storage, summer pruning should have a dwarfing effect. I have a flowering plum at the front of the drive that really needs to be tamed.

Get out and enjoy the summer! Plants, unlike children, are very forgiving. If you don't like the way something grows or looks you can just throw it out and make compost out of it.



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. 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>Jeff Cheney, 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. 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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