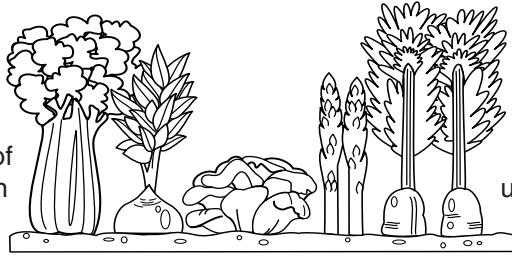


Can You Dig It?

From page 6

an organic chemical, or try some form of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM is widely used in commercial orchards and organic farms. It's complicated but also fun, especially with kids, to order and release bugs.

Back to the vegetable garden: Last month the garden looked sort of out-of-control, with big piles of compost on top of the beds sprouting weeds, and field peas taking over. Dennis spent most of a weekend pulling the weeds and field peas, raking the beds into shape, planting a bed of potatoes and piling the resulting mulch of dying vegetation on top of the spuds. All of a sudden, it looked like a garden. He's had to take off the top layer so the potatoes could emerge but they're coming. I bought squash and cucumber plants, planted the peas and beans and, poof, seven of the ten beds are planted. The remaining three



have last year's volunteer potatoes coming up now. The plan is to harvest new potatoes out of these beds and plant corn. Maybe even this afternoon. I've put soda bottle irrigators on the squash, cukes and tomatoes, and drip hoses will go on the beans and corn. Now if I can just find some straw to keep the moisture in later, this phase of the veggie garden will be done. This is the first year I've had a nearly instant garden and it feels great to be successful so early.

Don't worry, the sun will return. The rivers are high and we shouldn't have to worry too much about drought this year. It is usually relatively cold and wet through June but, by the second or third week of July, we should start having some real summer weather. I'll be hiding in my house, 'cause it will be too hot for me, but all of you sun lovers will get some weather to enjoy.

See you at Vernonia Country Market, June 19, 10 a.m. - 4:00

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