

## Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson  
OSU Extension Service Master Gardener



One of the best things about writing a garden column is that, no matter how many other articles I have to write (All of my meetings fell in the same week this month) I can excuse at least an hour of "garden research" before I sit down get this done. At this time of year, in an hour, I can isolate and determine how to fix some of last year's mistakes, plan on moving some shrubs and think about pruning.

Though using RoundUp to reduce the populations of buttercup and dandelions in the yard was successful for that goal (There are significantly fewer specimens of *Ranunculus occidentalis* and *Hypochaeris radicata*.), my follow-up did not go so well. First, I should have reseeded the area as soon as the ground was visible. Had I done this at the time, I would have had at least some growth of desired species. I put off re-seeding because the weather got too hot, I didn't order the seeds I wanted, and the house wanted paint. I did buy, but didn't get on the ground before the dog ATE it, a package of corn gluten pre-emergent herbicide. It didn't appear to have any effect on the dog. I wish I had gotten it on the ground though, as it might have prevented the large mats of young dandelions sprouting in some places.

When I finally did get and spread seed, it was apparently too late in the year. Though there was nice initial growth (sprouting) almost all of what I spread has died. I may see some of that come back in the spring, as I have with other non-grass lawn mixtures I've tried. I've found that some things, particularly yarrow, don't show up until the second year. My plan for these spots of (mostly) bare earth is to weed them with a hoe, reapply glyphosate herbicide to a persistent patch of buttercup, and reseed early in the spring. Hopefully, the clovers will have time to become established and begin reseeding themselves before the hot weather, and begin to thicken up and look like a lawn in the fall.

The \*#^! Heather still needs to be moved. It only needs to move about a foot, so it's really not such a big job. One of my favorite MG tips was "Only do one thing to a plant per day." In this case, it

will be at least a two-day project. One day to cut back last year's growth to encourage bloom and improve shape. Another day to separate the plant from the ground and move it into the prepared hole.

I am very pleased with the sawmill dust (Thanks, Corey and James.) I used for mulch last year. It is turning into soil quite nicely, and the weeds sprouting now are small and easy to pull.

Thinking about pruning is an actual step in the process and, undoubtedly, the one that I spend the most time on. Those of you who know me may believe that this is my normal procrastination, but it's not. (Really!) I spend a lot of time, especially after the leaves have fallen, walking around and around my trees. I take a long time deciding what I really want to cut and why. In earlier years, many of the fruit trees got too tall to prune from the ground, partly because of the way they were pruned. Over the last several years I have brought most of them down to the point that I can reach everything I need to with loppers, if not with the hand pruners.

Sometimes putting things off isn't a disaster. I bought a few 'Paperwhite' narcissus during the summer and never got them in a pot. When I've done this in the past, I've put them in dirt in some kind of pot. They are very reliable flowers to force

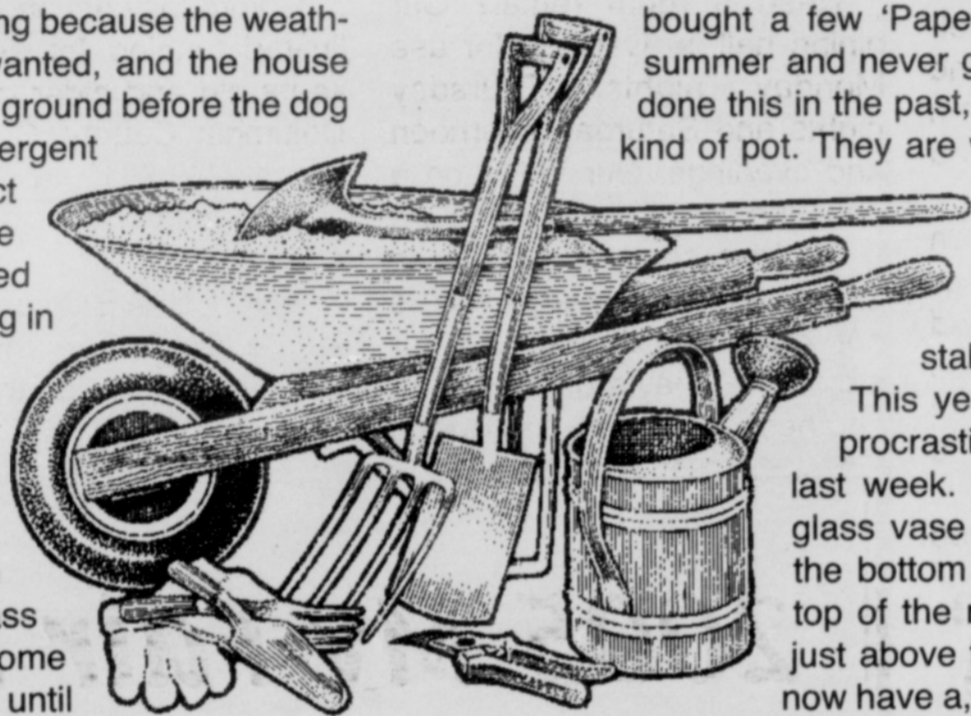
indoors and always come up. But the blooms end up way above the pot and get droopy and have to be staked or fall all over the place.

This year, by divine inspiration and procrastination, I got them potted up last week. I used an urn-shaped, blue glass vase with about 2" of marbles in the bottom of it. I set the five bulbs on top of the marbles and added water to just above the surface of the marbles. I now have a, soon to be glorious, bouquet

with the flowers forming just a few inches from the

top of the vase sitting in the window sill above the sink.

Read the catalogues and plan your garden!



## State tax refund can help vets

As tax time approaches, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is reminding taxpayers of an opportunity to donate part or all of their Oregon tax refund to the Oregon Veterans' Home. Charitable Check-off allows taxpayers to designate all or part of their Oregon tax refund to various charities including the Oregon Veterans' Home. Last year, Oregonians donated more than \$13,000 to the Home via this method.

Since 1997, the Oregon Veterans' Home, a 151-bed long-term healthcare facility, has provided skilled nursing and rehabilitative care for veterans. Located in The Dalles, it is Oregon's only state veterans home. The Oregon Veterans' Home accepts spouses of veterans and veterans from elsewhere; it is Medicaid certified.

Making a donation is simple. If you fill out the Oregon Form 40, look for line 61, enter code 12 and choose the amount you'd like to donate. If you use Form 40S, go to line 30, enter code 12 and choose the amount. All donations are tax deductible.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to help Oregon Veterans. The Oregon Veterans' Home thanks you in advance.

## Church Directory

### VERNONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Grant Williams, Pastor  
957 State Avenue  
Vernonia, 503 429-6790  
Sunday Breakfast 9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 9:45 a.m.  
\*B.L.A.S.T. w/Nursery 10:00 a.m.  
\*Bible Learning and Scripture Training  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Jeff Cheney, Branch President  
1350 E. Knott Street  
Vernonia, 503 429-7151  
Sacrament Meeting, Sunday 10 a.m.  
Sunday School & Primary 11:20 a.m.  
Relief Society, Priesthood and  
Young Women, Sunday 12:10 p.m.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

John Cahill, Pastor  
359 "A" Street  
Vernonia, 503 429-1161  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship  
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

### NEHALEM VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH

Gary Taylor, Pastor  
Grant & North Streets  
Vernonia, 503 429-5378  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Nursery available  
Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastoral Associate Juanita Dennis  
960 Missouri Avenue  
Vernonia, 503 429-8841  
Mass Schedule  
Sunday 12:00 Noon  
Religious Education  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

### VERNONIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sam Hough, Evangelist  
410 North Street  
Vernonia, 503 429-6522  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Every Wednesday:  
Ladies' Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  
Ladies' Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Children's Choir 3:00 p.m.  
Family Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Kevin Reiner, Pastor, 543-2254  
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.  
Vernonia, 503 429-8301  
Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.

### ST. AUGUSTINE (CANTERBURY) EPISCOPAL CHURCH

375 North St. (Vernonia Grange Hall)  
Vernonia, 503 795-2173  
Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.

### VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH

850 Madison Avenue  
Vernonia, 503 429-1103  
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Darwin Harvey, Pastor  
662 Jefferson  
Vernonia, 503 429-4615  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study, Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Youth & Kids, Thursday 7:00 p.m.



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