

Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson
Columbia County Master Gardener

Discovery is one of the great joys of gardening. Yesterday I discovered on my rounds an almost pink day lily that I'd forgotten I'd planted. The begging neglect I've been practicing in that part of the yard allowed it to survive until it bloomed. I also found the last survivor of clear yellow lilies that I planted several years ago.

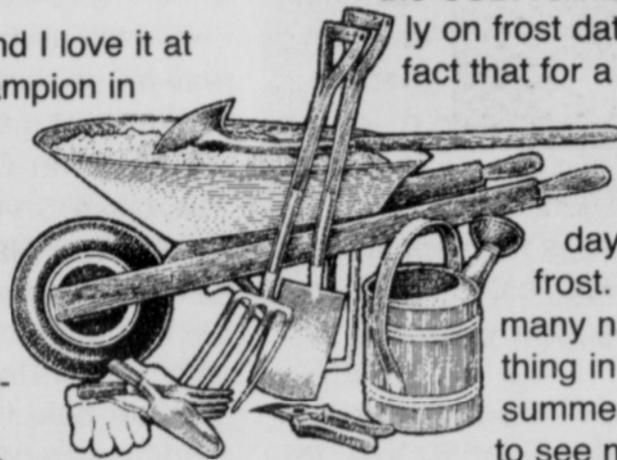
My yard is a riot of color and I love it at this time of year. The rose campion in the front is a bright mist of electric pink within its gray foliage, the perennial sweet pea planted in the same space has survived and should begin blooming soon, the fungal diseases are backing off (a little) and the lawn is finally fully green. Success!

I had the opportunity this weekend to give another gardener permission to remove a shrub. An old *japonica* of some kind, the poor thing was clearly in deep distress. Since my friend had never really liked it, I told her



it really was OK to cut it down and dig it out. Yes, she probably could have cut it back and fertilized and sprayed and done all manner of things to save it, but why? Compost, or in this case wood chips for mulch are also valuable garden materials. Next year she can have the lilac she's always wanted by her porch.

I wanted to talk some science this month, but I've got the worst cold ever and don't have the strength for the research, so I'll just blither away. One of the great problems for gardeners in our area, the maritime Pacific Northwest, is the difficulty applying the USDA climate charts. These are based almost entirely on frost dates. While helpful, this doesn't address the fact that for a long, long, long time after the last frost,



we have this cloudy, cool weather. In most parts of the country, apparently, a short spring and then summer with hot days, or at least SUN closely follows the last frost. If you've lived here for long you know that many natives truly don't know what that big bright thing in the sky IS, since we see it so seldom – summer, spring, fall or winter. Recently, we seem to see more of it in the winter. Fall has always been the best season for sun in western Oregon.

What does this mean? More fungal disease, more slugs, and much less heat. And it turns out that many plants, particularly the traditional vegetables in a garden really want HEAT. So, the goal often becomes one of increasing the heat available. But be careful! You don't want to make the climate any better for either disease or slugs, nor do you want to fry your plants. This is incredibly easy to do, since the sun will be HOT when it does come out, and even behind the clouds can still be warmer than you think. How hot does your car get in the grocery store parking lot with the windows rolled up, even on a cloudy day?

I've been trying to remember that this is the latter part of July and I'm having a hard time. We just last week planted potatoes and beans, don't have any straw mulch down (no need when it keeps raining). On the positive side, the weather has allowed several trees in pots to continue to survive as is, though they desperately need either repotting or planting in the ground. I hope I'm running out of time because I would like some summer weather. It's nice today, but I can see high clouds moving in already. Again.

Volunteers wanted to consider city tree ordinance

The City of Vernonia is seeking people who are interested in investigating the feasibility of a Vernonia tree ordinance and tree board. The purpose of the tree board would be to study, investigate, develop and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets, and in other public areas. The committee would make recommendations to City Council.

Anyone interested in serving on the feasibility committee should submit a request by August 31 to City Recorder Kate Conley, at city hall. For information call Conley at 503-429-5291.



Fifth Sunday Service with group singing

A 5th Sunday Service will be held July 31 at 6:00 p.m. at Vernonia Community Church, 957 State Ave.

Everyone is welcome to join in this time of singing, fellowship and teaching. For more information, call 503-429-6790.

HONEY DO? WE CAN HELP!!!!

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- Rock walls • Block walls
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- Instant Lawn
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Hours: Mon - Fri...7AM - 5PM
Saturday....8AM - 5PM
Sunday....10AM - 4PM

SCAPPOOSE SAND & GRAVEL
33605 E Crown Z Road
(corner Hiway 30 & Vernonia Hiway)
503-543-8821

Church Directory

ST. AUGUSTINE (CANTERBURY) EPISCOPAL CHURCH

375 North St. (Vernonia Grange Hall)
Vernonia, 503 705-2173
Please call for service schedule.

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.

VERNONIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sam Hough, Evangelist
410 North Street
Vernonia, 503 429-6522
Sunday School 9:45 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 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.

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.

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.

VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

662 Jefferson Ave., Vernonia,
503 556-1961 for Information
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

John Aitken II, Pastor, 396-1856
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.
Vernonia, 503 429-8301
Morning Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Bible Study 10:30 a.m.