

Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson
OSU Master Gardener



“Baby, it’s cold outside...” Though the solid high pressure over us may have shifted by the time you read this and let the clouds roll back in, bringing with them our classic winter dilemma. If it’s warm enough outside to work, it’s usually wet (if not raining). If it’s clear and sunny during the day, it’s also so cold you don’t want to go out! Well, settle back, fill your cup with some warm libation, read those new seed catalogues and dream of next year.

On the other hand, you can garden inside: buy some bulbs and put them in pots and watch them bloom. The big amaryllis are especially fun for children. Not only do you get a HUGE bulb, ‘planting’ it in its pot is something very small children can help with. And nothing I know puts out such huge, long-lasting, tolerant flowers in bold reds, soft pinks, and delicate whites. These make great gifts for gardeners (or their kids).

Though I generally don’t approve of gift certificates, I will gladly accept and greatly appreciate certificates to plant catalogues. That’s how I got my tree peony from Jackson Perkins. The list price seemed just too much, but with a little help from my friends, it brought the price within a range I could justify. I would recommend gift certificates to a local nursery (especially if they specialize in something you know the recipient likes), or the ‘higher-end’ catalogues such as Jackson & Perkins, White Flower Farm or Smith and Hawkin.

One of the joys of home ownership is repairing nature’s damage. This kind of weather can cause a lot of damage if plants are not cared for. Sunscald, particularly on young fruit trees, can kill a young tree. This happens when the bark on the south side of the tree warms up in the sun during the day and sap starts to flow. After sunset, when it gets cold again, the trapped sap freezes and

destroys cellular tissue, causing permanent damage. The newspaper I wrapped my young trees with worked just as well, or better, than the white plastic tree protectors I got from Raintree. Sure, the paper got wet, but it did not break off fruiting spurs when I put it on.

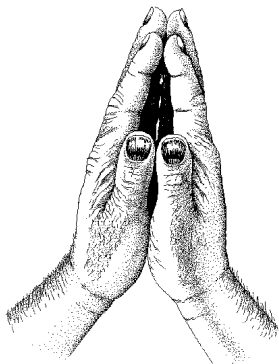
Potted outside plants need extra protection as well. Anything in a pot is more susceptible to weather related damage. I usually bring most of my pots up close to the house where they get some shelter, and maybe even a little warmth from the foundation. Be sure that plants under the eaves get enough water, things can still dry out in the winter, especially if it’s below freezing for extended periods. But, you have to water before plants and pots freeze. You don’t want them soaking wet when it freezes, but you don’t want them bone dry either.

If you are buying a live Christmas tree this year, take care when you bring it indoors if you want to be able to plant it. This can be a great way to get kids interested, if you can keep the tree alive through it’s first couple of year. The trees we like for Christmas trees are not inside plants. They are not even plants that enjoy limitation by pots, though it can be done. Trees are big by definition, at least in these parts. Bring your live tree inside slowly, adapting it to the change in temperature and humidity gradually, over the course of several days. Drying out indoors probably kills most live trees; they will take up a LOT of water. Don’t keep a live tree inside for more than a week, and then gradually move the tree through the same slow transition back outside. Keep in a sheltered spot and make sure the root ball stays moist at all times. Mulch the root ball heavily and plant as soon as the soil starts to warm up in February or March.

Happy Holidays and may you find peace in the New Year.



New Year’s Day prayer gathering



Everyone is invited to join in a New Year’s Day prayer at Shay Park (Adams Ave. at Bridge St.) on Sunday, January 1 at 1:00 p.m. Please join other believers in joining hands and giving thanks and prayers over the people and leadership of this community and the nation.

Stay after for awhile and say hello and Happy New Year. Breaktime will have coffee and some refreshments. Participants may also bring something if they wish to help support this event.

This event is sponsored by Living Water Ministries of Vernonia. For more information, contact Mark Brown at 503-961-5281 (cell) or Ben or Lisa Edgar at 503-429-7387.

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.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

David Jenkins, Pastor
662 Jefferson Ave., Vernonia,
503 816-1989
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
(in the parsonage)

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.

VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH

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

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.

ST. AUGUSTINE (CANTERBURY) EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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.

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.

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.



VERNONIA INN

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Just one block off scenic Nehalem River Hwy. (Oregon 47)