

Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson
OSU Master Gardener



No sooner had I finished my last column recommending spring, as opposed to winter grass planting, than we got a little rain and I realized that I *could* start grass seed this fall. So I did. I now have essentially the entire lawn reseeded and mulched with either peat moss or compost. I just hope that the baby grass can survive the sun next week while I'm off playing. Finishing this column is one of the last things I have to do before I can pack, so I'm actually writing this on October 6, right after the paper came out yesterday.

As we get into more fall weather be sure to bring in any delicate house plants that have been vacationing outside. Pick off any dead foliage and clean the surface of the soil. This usually encourages any tree frogs that are hiding to jump out. Give plants a thorough spraying, paying special attention to the undersides of leaves to discourage any other passengers finding a way into your kitchen. Remember, things like the pantry moths that find their way into the kitchen come into the house on plants, or more usually in the case of pantry moths, on flowers.

Look for bargains in nurseries and plant stores. They all want to clear space for Christmas inventory and this is a good time to get great deals, sometimes on perfectly good plants. Buyer beware however! I saw a beautiful flowering vine with HUGE pink blooms all over it potted up as a hanging plant, but I don't know if it could take the harsh indoor climate and I'm certain that it's tropical and won't survive outdoors.

It's time to:

- Plant bulbs, including garlic!
- Begin copper spray treatment

ASAP, but after harvest, for fungal diseases if necessary. This is an organic control.

– Keep baby grass plants alive by watering faithfully once they peek out of the ground.

– Transplant one-year-old biennials, like foxglove, that have survived summer to where you think you might actually like to have them grow next summer.

– Keep leaves raked up if you want grass. Leaves are THE best mulch for a freshly manured garden bed because they are mostly weed-free.

– Get those house plants indoors.

– Put some bulbs (hyacinth, paperwhite narcissus and amaryllis come to mind) in pots or vases. They will bloom indoors for you several weeks after you start watering them.

– Clean up the vegetable garden.

– Apply lime once every three years. Do NOT lime acid loving blueberries, rhodies, azaleas, etc.

– Remember to water outside. Foundation plantings that are somewhat sheltered by the roof overhang and newly planted perennials, trees and shrubs need special attention.

OK, whew! I think that will give y'all plenty to do and I can go pack for my road trip. Mom and Dad, my brother and his wife and I are driving to San Francisco for a (VERY) few days. I'm looking forward to seeing the changing fall colors in the mountains and exploring a BIG city.

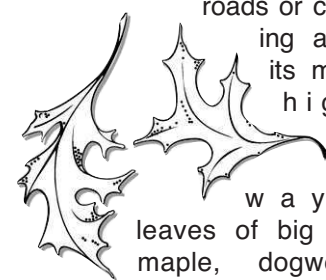
Don't forget to take a little time to breathe as the salmon return.



It's time to enjoy the colors of autumn

Unlike New England or other regions around the nation that have influxes of tourists coming to see the leaves turn, Oregon's fall foliage is not as well known. Except, of course, among Oregonians.

Right now, as the days shorten and the nights grow cooler, Oregon's rural and urban forests are taking on an amazing transformation. Whether hiking along a trail, driving through Oregon's back roads or cruising



along its major highways, leaves of big leaf maple, dogwood, red alder, vine maple and even poison oak all catch our eye with their brilliant changing colors and hues.

Oregon's rural forests are primarily composed of coniferous or "evergreen" trees, but they do show some color. The trees in cities, and urban forests, are usually home to more deciduous trees associated with fall color.

Where are some good places to take in the sights of the season? Good fall color can often be found in city parks or in arboretums, and a scenic

drive is often a good way to observe fall colors. In the northern part of the state, Oregon's Historic Columbia River Highway is a great place to see fall colors. Every twist and turn in the road offers another perspective of nature, or another opportunity for a good photograph.

This time of year often generates questions from adults and children alike; questions such as "Why do leaves change color?" and, "How can I get that color in my yard?" Urban Forester Paul Ries with the Oregon Department of Forestry has answers to both questions.

"The leaves of deciduous trees change color each fall due to a combination of environmental factors," says Ries. "During the summer months, a leaf is green because the tree is making chlorophyll through the process of photosynthesis." Ries says that as day length wanes in the fall and temperatures cool, photosynthesis begins to shut down, revealing "the natural color pigments of the leaves" – what we know as fall colors.

Weather can enhance or subdue the visual experience. Frosts, freezes, rain and excessively cloudy days make for

less vivid colors. Cool, dry and bright sunny days make for the best colors. The seasonal sweep of leaf change begins at higher elevations first, and, tree health also plays a role, i.e., healthy trees will display

brighter colors than unhealthy ones.

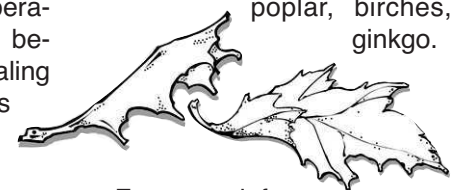
Homeowners interested in creating fall colors by planting selected hardwood or deciduous tree species might like to try planting any of the following:

Reds: oaks (especially scarlet oak), sweetgum, black gum or tupelo, dogwood.

Purples: sweetgum, autumn purple ash.

Oranges: sugar maple (also turns red), sassafras, vine maple.

Yellows: some maples and ashes, honeylocust, yellow poplar, birches, ginkgo.



For more information about trees, tree care, and fall colors: <http://www.pnwisa.org>.

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.

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.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Luan Tran, Administrator
960 Missouri Avenue
Vernonia, 503 429-8841
Mass Schedule
Sunday 12:00 Noon
Religious Education
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

359 "A" Street
Vernonia, 503 429-5190
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

662 Jefferson Ave., Vernonia,
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.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 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.

ST. AUGUSTINE (CANTERBURY) EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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