

Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson
OSU Master Gardener



What strange alchemy is this? The bleak landscapes that we have had to work at a little to admire after months of gray and wet yield to a dazzling display. Suddenly, the land is ALIVE again! The very air is redolent with scent and song. Now we remember why it's worth all the gloom for these heavenly days of sun, warmth and gentle breezes. I could just feel everyone's spirit rise with hope as the sun returned in all its glory. I hope you got to enjoy that lovely first warm weekend! There can't be many things more glorious than watching the grandbaby explore the outdoors. And I hope you got your lawn mowed *before* the sun came out 'cause you'll need to mow again soon.

Finally, I think I've got something! The peas are coming up! As you may recall, I raked out a small bed for shelling peas and broadcast dry seed on the surface. Then, instead of trying to cover the seeds with soil, I covered them with two inches of very loose mulch. The peas started to emerge as soon as the sun came out and once they cleared the surface of the straw, I could practically SEE them growing. Wow!



The mulch of leaves was raked off the top and end of this bed; then part of the bed was smoothed to a flat surface. You can see the mulch remaining on the back portion of the bed. Pea seeds were broadcast more or less evenly on TOP of the soil and covered with two inches of mulch. A month of serious weather later, tiny pea plants began to emerge!

I planted broccoli and Walla Wallas at the same time I planted the peas. They have survived all of the rain and snow. Our beautiful Saturday made it clear, however, that the slugs were hiding from the cold. The broccoli plants, with barely two leaves, didn't have much to give up, but evidence shows that slugs started chowing down as soon as they warmed up enough to move.

Wise gardener that I am, however, I am ready with my traps and deterrents and pheromones. Yellow jacket, pantry moth and fly pheromone traps work well and don't contain any volatile chemicals. Pheromone traps work by luring the target bug into the

Fee waiver asked for Schaumburg

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services are for senior citizens only. Rider services are available to anyone in the community.

Council considered a letter from Casey Mitchell, Bruce Holz and Jim Prpich, asking the city to forego \$10,724 in system development charges for the house being built for Dean Schaumburg. After discussion, which included concerns by councilors Brett Costley and Randy Parrow about setting precedent by waiving the fees, council agreed to table the item until they see the proposed city budget.

A resolution accepting the county's offer to give Knott Street to Vernonia was unanimously approved. This puts all

of Knott St. inside the city's urban growth boundary.

Council was reminded that two council positions (Randy Parrow and Steve Whiteman) and the mayor's position come up for election this November and expire in December 2008. Anyone interested in serving in any of these positions may file nomination papers between June 4 and August 26 for the November 4 election.

Mayor Sally Harrison said a letter from KUPL regarding the June 14, Fishing with Father event asks the city to close public access to the lake two days prior to the event so the lake won't be 'fished out' after fish stocking and before the event.

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trap with irresistible mating scents (pheromones) to a usually sticky death. The more of these pests you eliminate early in the season, the fewer that will plague you in September and October. Slugs and certain weeds in certain locations require a more aggressive approach including liberal amount of several different types of slug and snail bait applied several times over the season, and the judicious application of herbicide.

Latest trick: Mix a small amount of glyphosate (RoundUp, etc.) as described for putting in a sprayer. Pour some in a small pail. Carry your pail of poison around the yard and apply it to offenders with a foam paintbrush. This allows very precise application to the leaves without any spray drift. I will choose a larger brush next time as the one inch I used was too small to be very effective against the large phlox and dock I'm trying to control in the perennial beds this year.

Happening soon: The Columbia County Spring Garden Fair! Make sure to mark April 26 on your calendar! This is your best chance to get a variety of tomato starts grown by our very own Master Gardeners (Still a class every year!). There will be over 5,000 locally-grown tomatoes available for a measly \$1.00 each. It's *hard* to restrict yourself to a reasonable number. Not to mention great deals from local nurseries on all kinds of garden plants, art, arbors, baskets, shrubs, etc. With raffle prizes every hour and a full complement of experts, including the Oregon Department of Forestry this year, this is undoubtedly the premier gardener's event in the County. Arrive early at St. Helens High School for best selection, gates open at 9:00 a.m. This event in well worth the trip over the mountain.

Chip Bubl, our beloved county extension agent, will be teaching two classes at the extension office in St. Helens. The first was last night, but Chip will cover the identification and control of 25 of our most common weeds at 6:30 p.m., April 30. Chip's classes are wonderfully filled with knowledge, sources, stories and humor and always encourage lively discussion. Find a reason to go someday!

Interested in learning more about our forests? Nicole Strong, OSU Extension Forester, coordinates a loosely organized group to support and encourage women forest owners. The group, called WOWnet (Women Owning Woodlands) can be accessed through yahoo groups or at Wownet@lists.oregonstate.edu. The next meeting will be April 24 at Clackamas Community College. The group will work in the field to identify wildflowers and share a potluck dinner afterwards.

This is my FIFTH year of monthly columns. I have a great time writing these articles, and I don't seem to be running out of stuff to talk about. It's hard believe that I have written almost 60 of these columns. My thanks to my loyal readers for your encouraging comments. I'm sure glad you appreciate the conversational style. I couldn't write this any other way.

Enjoy the sun! Start planting as soon as the ground is dry. Move stuff around when it's misty and damp so plants won't notice. Exterminate weeds, slugs and yellow jackets! Finish cleaning up the dead stuff so you can plant new stuff. Mulch soon after you weed to control the next crop of weeds. So much to do...

Church Directory		
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 2nd Ave. and Nehalem St., Vernonia 503 429-8301 Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:15 a.m. ASSEMBLY OF GOD Wayne and Maureen Marr 662 Jefferson Ave., Vernonia, 503 429-0373 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.	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.
VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH Carl Pense, Pastor 850 Madison Avenue, Vernonia 503 429-1103 Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School	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. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Rev. Luan Tran, Administrator 960 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia 503 429-8841 Mass Sunday 12:00 Noon Religious Educ. Sunday 10:30 a.m.
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS Marc Farmer, 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.		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. Children and Nursery 10:00 a.m. Youth Group 6:00 p.m. Preschool Tues. & Thurs. 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Prayer 7:00 p.m. Friday Adult Volleyball 7:00 p.m.