

Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson
OSU Master Gardener



Whoa Nelly, did your garden take off like mine? Went away for Labor Day and wow! For the first year in quite a few the veggie garden thrives – largely due to helpful people doing most of the digging, etc. Biggest success to date: FOUR cucumber plants (var. Homemade Pickles, purchased in 4” pots at Jim’s) climbing a 4-foot section of galvanized rigid fence panel. So far I have four jars of bread & butter pickles, and about 10 jars of dill chunks. We won’t have to buy pickles for anything this year!

I’ve irritated the bejesus out of my esteemed editor by spending too much time trying to get photos of a variety of landscape plants that all suffer from the same pests and diseases. After years of trying to figure this out I’m trying a new tactic: identify the pest/disease and then treat everything that has evidence of the problem (unless specifically NOT recommended on the label). This has been far more effective than trying to follow recommendations on product bottles. Don’t get me wrong: I follow label directions as to dilution and safety, but not necessarily for timing. After all, we have three seasons of weather in any given season!

I decided to start by spraying Neem oil, an organic product that is supposed to be a fungicide, miticide and insecticide. The powdery mildew was affected right away and my two sprays over the summer have nearly eliminated the junk, particularly on the hops. I credit the cucumber harvest partly to two applications of Neem and a little fertilizer. Whatever the weird yellow plague that has caused my cukes to be wimpy, it was nicely controlled, and early signs of blight on tomatoes stopped in their tracks.

Though black spot and other fungal diseases are better controlled, it’s clear that I’d better continue my insect pest control program, particularly for spider mites and white flies. Neem is fairly expensive and, while it says on the label you can use it up to the day of harvest, it tastes YUCKY. A few huckleberries got some unintended overspray and the next time I

Sing, play or listen at local church

The Vernonia Assembly of God Church will be hosting two days of activities, September 19-20.

Starting Saturday, September 19, at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. There will be a Sing Along, Play Along or Just Listen. Bring your instrument

along or to sign up to sing or play, call 503-429-0373. Also scheduled are an ice cream social, a spaghetti dinner, and special guests, country gospel singers Bob and Peggy Tucker.

The church is located at 662 Jefferson in Vernonia. For more information about the events, call 503-429-0373.

State seeks input on beach program

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) is seeking public feedback on its beach water quality-monitoring program.

The program currently has a short, Web-based survey for information about beach use and the public’s perceptions of the monitoring program.

We want to “continually identify the beaches that the public uses most for recreation,” said Jennifer Ketterman, DHS Beach Monitoring Program Coordinator. “We want to hear about how we’re doing and ways we can improve what we do.”

Ketterman said that the program monitors beaches that are used most for water recre-

ation and which have had relatively higher bacteria levels.

“With limited funding for monitoring, the ongoing information from this survey will allow the program to prioritize beach monitoring from a public health perspective,” said Ketterman.

The survey is available at http://survey.emp.state.or.us/cg_i-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?E24E78.

To view the results from the survey and for more information, please visit the program’s Web site: <http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/beaches/>

The program is funded by a federal Environmental Protection Agency grant and assisted by state Parks & Rec, and DEQ.

walked by to pick a snack it tasted like it had been dipped in tea tree oil.

However, since I still see more scab on the apples and plenty of other unwelcome guests, I hope to spray a light summer weight oil BEFORE the apples and pears are ripe. A light coating of mineral oil will help seal leaf surfaces to prevent infections and maybe kill a few bug eggs. It’s surprisingly easy to get around a huge portion of the yard with a simple hose-end sprayer that I can just dump concentrate in and set the dial it to the proper concentration. I’m going to try hard, however, to get some more serious fungicide such as a copper spray (organic) after the fruit is harvested, before the leaves fall and again when most have fallen off. Notice that I have not exactly said when these sprays will happen – such spraying is highly dependent on weather.

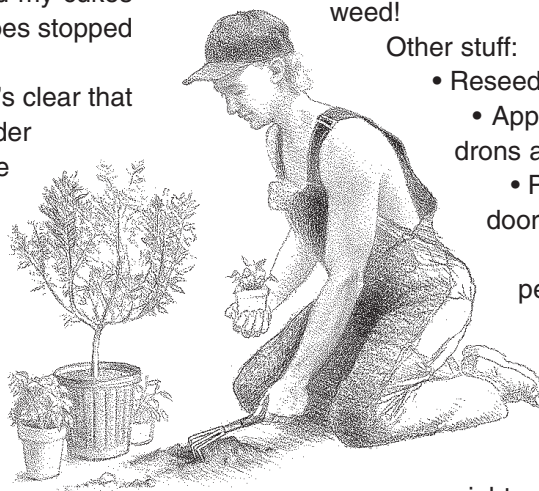
I’ve also experimented this year with foliar fertilizing. Both corn and tomatoes loved getting a spray of weak fertilizer – the increase of intensity in green was astonishing. Make sure that you have watered adequately before you add any other sprays. While foliar products are very unlikely to cause damage when used as recommended, I want my plants to be well hydrated before I do anything else with or to them.

I highly recommend careful, direct application of a RoundUp type herbicide to late dandelions in the lawn, especially effective on a sunny day. A week later you can scratch up the area with a rake, spread some grass seed and when the rains it will grow. Because you are not disturbing the soil much, applying Roundup with a brush also works well on those pesky intruders, like curly dock, in perennial beds. Those huge, wide weed leaves busily send your herbicide right along with all the late season preparation for winter to their deep roots. Be gone foul weed!

Other stuff:

- Reseed lawns until mid-October
- Apply parasitic nematodes to soil beneath rhododendrons and azaleas.
- Plant bulbs for spring – or plant for winter forcing indoors.
- Plant or transplant woody ornamentals and perennials.
- Clean up houseplants, check and treat for insects before bringing plants indoors.
- Consider planting a garden cover crop.

Working hard at hardly working! Enjoy the warm days left – watch the fall colors develop as nights are getting cooler.



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.

VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH

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

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.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Gary S. Walter, Pastor
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St., Vernonia
503 429-8301
Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath School 9:30 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.

VERNONIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sam Hough, Minister
410 North Street, Vernonia
503 429-6522
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
(meets in Youth & Family Center)
Home Group Meeting throughout the week at various locations

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

359 “A” Street, Vernonia
503 429-4027
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 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.

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 Mon. & Wed. 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer 6:00 p.m.
Tues. & Fri. Adult Volleyball 7:00 p.m.