

## Fertilize and keep garlic weedfree

By Judy Scott, OSU Extension

Fertilize garlic in the spring if you want a large and healthy crop of bulbs by summer, advises Chip Bubl, garlic expert and agricultural agent at the Columbia County office of the Oregon State University Extension Service in St. Helens.

If you planted garlic in the fall, by springtime it will be ready for either a side dressing of fertilizer or a broadcast application over the entire bed. (October is the best month to plant garlic in most places in Oregon.) "High-nitrogen organic fertilizers such as bloodmeal or a synthetic source of nitrogen are best," Bubl said.

Fertilize garlic again just before the bulbs begin to swell in response to lengthening daylight (usually mid-May).

Keep garlic well weeded, as it cannot stand much competition. As the spring weather dries out, water garlic to a depth of two feet every eight to 10 days if needed. Many years, there is enough soil moisture from spring rains that no watering is needed. Very sandy soils are the most likely candidates for watering. As mid-June approaches, taper off on the watering.

"Don't wait for garlic leaves to start to die back to check for maturity," Bubl said. "Sometimes the bulbs will be ready to harvest when the leaves are still green."

The best way to know if garlic is ready to pull from the ground is to pull one up and cut it open cross-wise. Then look for well-developed cloves and three or fewer outer "skins" or covering layers over the bulb. Or dig a representative bulb, pull the cloves apart and count

the skins as you go.

Start checking for mature cloves about late June, Bubl suggested. Harvest garlic when the head is divided into plump cloves and the skin covering the outside of the bulbs is thick, dry and papery.

"If left in the ground too long, the bulbs sometimes split apart and become difficult to harvest as intact heads," Bubl said. "The skin may also split, exposing the cloves, which will cause them not to store well. In addition, unseasonable rains or irrigation in late June or July can aggravate some garlic diseases."

Dig, and then dry the mature bulbs in a shady, warm, dry and well-ventilated area for a few days or longer. Garlic dried without shade can sunburn, leading to inedible cloves. Then remove the tops and roots. Brush dirt off the bulbs. To braid garlic together, harvest it a bit earlier while leaves are green and supple. Avoid bruising the garlic, as it will not store well.

Store bulbs in a dark, dry, well-ventilated place. Protect from high humidity and freezing. The refrigerator is not the place to store garlic. Cool temperatures stimulate sprouting.

The publication "Garlic for the Home Garden," FS 138, is available free online, or order a printed copy for \$1 plus shipping and handling by calling 800-561-6719.

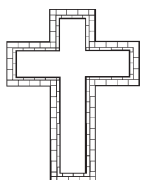


## "Main Street" is where it happens

"Join us on Main Street! Where Jesus makes a difference every day!" is the theme of this year's Vernonia Christian Church Vacation Bible School. The Vacation Bible School will be held June 20-

24, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at the church, 410 North St.

Join us on Main Street! is open to children in fourth through sixth grades. Register by calling Susan at 503-429-0181, or online at [vacationbibleschool.com/vernoniavbs](http://vacationbibleschool.com/vernoniavbs).



## Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson  
Columbia County Master Gardener



All around us the world continues its variations on producing green – with the occasional accent by concentration or quick attention. Four square feet of spinach, from one six-pack, is an exercise in heavy picking (leaving the tougher

stems between plants as mulch), speedy processing (two to four half-pints frozen), and standing back to watch it grow so you can do it again next week. The peas have also loved this wet weather. So have the slugs, snails and mushrooms. It has also been great weather for getting houseplants outside with a minimum of sunburn or shock.

*Some things that fly there be, –  
Birds, hours, the bumble-bee:  
Of these no elegy.*

*Some things that stay there be, –  
Grief, hills, eternity:  
Nor this behooveth me.*

*There are, that resting, rise.  
Can I expound the skies?  
How still the riddle lies!*

— XIV, Emily Dickinson

I'm having a hard time writing this month so I'll admit (again) to deliberately drawing your attention to the wealth of information provided by the OSU Extension Service Columbia County extension.oregonstate.edu/Columbia in their publication *Country Living*. You can call them at 503-397-3462 to get on the mailing list. Food preservation classes begin in St. Helens August 2

(Jams & Jellies), August 9 (Fruit & Pie Fillings), August 16 (Pressure Canning Vegetables & Meats), August 23 (Tomatoes & Salsas). Call the extension office to hold your spot for a single class at \$20, or the entire series for \$70.

Included in this month's *Country Living* is the calendar for Saturday seminars at Joy Creek Nursery, plus an extensive list of plants poisonous to livestock; and interesting data showing nearly two times a power of ten in increased harvest if carrots, beets, cabbage, and onions are weeded in the first four weeks after planting. It also included a horrifying article about a new species of yellow jacket wasp in Columbia County that enters through an outside hole and chews through sheetrock to build giant nests inside. The extension service recommends professional treatment of these bees. Even our local yellow jackets have been known to come boiling out of a wall if their exterior hole is blocked before they are all dead.

May the life around you bring you blessing. I'll end with another favorite, by Mary Elizabeth Frye

*Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.*

*I am in a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the falling snow.*

*I am in the morning hush,  
I am in the graceful rush  
Of beautiful birds circling in flight,  
I am the starshine of the night.*

*I am in the flowers that bloom,  
I am in a quiet room.*

*I am in the birds that sing,  
I am in each lovely thing.*

*Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there.*

*I do not die.*

## Church Directory

### VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH

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

### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Larry Gibson, 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.

### 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.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor John D. Murray  
359 "A" Street, Vernonia  
503 860-3860  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### VERNONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Ralph Young, Pastor  
957 State Avenue, Vernonia  
503 429-6790  
Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Family Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Prayer 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday Ladies Study 7:00 p.m.  
Nursery 10:15 a.m.  
Vernonia Community Preschool

### 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)  
Various Home Group Meetings

### PIONEER BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

John Cahill, Pastor  
939 Bridge Street, Vernonia  
503-429-1161  
[www.pbfalive.com](http://www.pbfalive.com)  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Thursday Prayer 7:00 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.

### 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.