

## Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson  
Columbia County Master Gardener



We are swimming gloriously in the sea of green, with occasional sun breaks. Having been between water sources for nearly a month meant carrying water, and watching the vegetable garden just sit there wilting has been hard. As is often the case, we got our water running and have had several

good rains and now we are, gratefully back to the typical Oregon June. What? You mean I've lost a whole month!

You can stand in the garden and watch the onions soak up water, all those roots ready and waiting for even a few drops. A few things have dried out to the point of only (possibly) returning from the root. Hopefully, we'll be able to get out and practice Oregon's most common method of gardening, eliminating the jungle of weeds. Now that the weather has seen fit to grant us another damp ground period, hand pulling, especially BEFORE anything aggressive goes to seed, can make a huge difference. You can turn all this vegetation into compost, though if you don't want to spread the weeds you'll have to work your compost hard and hot to eliminate seeds.

It's not too late to start a garden. In fact, now is the time to begin planting your fall and winter garden. And you thought you were done for the 'season'. Not in this part of the country. Since most of the vegetables that do well here, do well in the spring *and* fall, it's hard to define a consecutive group of months as 'the gardening season.' Nearly year 'round harvest is possible, even without a greenhouse. The extensive family of cole\* crops, root vegetables, alliums, greens (including arugula, spinach and Oriental) and legumes can all be started directly in the garden or started and set out in the garden later in the month. The biggest key to success for a fall/winter garden is having the irriga-

tion water to keep things growing during August, September and early October. Flea beetles can be a problem, especially for root crops. A sacrificial crop of radishes or floating row cover will help.

The other hard thing about winter gardening is finding the plants. This is one time that ordering seeds is really the only way to go. The seed displays are put together for spring-summer gardening and generally don't include the varieties you need. Nursery outlets haven't caught on to this and don't put out fall crops in most places. The good news is there is still time to go online and get seeds, and tons of advice on what varieties to plant and grow now. The Territorial Seed Company has lots of tools and schedules and culture advice, as always, as do many other sites. I tend to stick to one or two because I don't need to spend any more time at this machine. I'd rather be planting seeds than ordering.

It was a great year for rhodies, though. Now it's time to snap off the left-over flower bracts and do any pruning you may want to do. Lilacs, forsythia, and (soon) mock orange, all want summer haircuts after they bloom. Lilacs, unless you are trying to grow a hedge, will also appreciate elimination of some of the low growing sprouts. Both mock orange and forsythia seem to grow into better multi-stem bushes. Summer pruning of water sprouts that have shot up since the last time you pruned apples, pears, plums, etc. can help keep these plants small and make less pruning in winter.

Themes of next month's gardening will be hand weed pulling, mulching and watering. If you're lucky enough to own a weed-whacker you can find and reclaim the edges of your road and other completely overgrown areas. If you have road frontage, this is not only a nice thing to do for your neighbors, but can reduce fire

danger and maybe the possibility of an accident. I am a little worried about the places I see that have been sprayed with herbicide, but not knocked down. These look like they'll be an invitation to fire in a month or two.

Try some fall crops this year. There's nothing like FRESH broccoli in November or freshly dug parsnips for Christmas dinner.

\*Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi and some of the 'Oriental' greens

## Make safety and sustainability part of your summer plans

With family barbecues and neighborhood parties in full swing for the Fourth of July weekend and throughout the summer, Waste Management (WM) urges customers to keep safety and sustainability in mind.

Safe Disposal of BBQ Coals – Proper disposal of barbecue coals can make summer safer for you, your neighbors and your local WM team.

"Just as those coals helped to start the fire in your barbecue, they can also start a fire in your garbage container or in the back of our trucks," said Jackie Lang, communications director for Waste Management of Oregon. "Coals that appear to be cool can create an unsafe situation for you, your neighbors and our employees. Coals can stay hot for hours or even days after the party is over."

Coals or ashes fresh from the barbecue should never be disposed directly into garbage carts. WM urges customers to allow coals and ashes to cool for several days in the barbecue or a metal container. To speed up the cooling process, you may carefully place coals in a metal container full of water to "drown" them as you would a campfire.

Once the material is entirely cool, place in a bag and then in your garbage cart – not your recycling or yard waste cart.

Safe Disposal of Fireworks:

- Fireworks require special handling after the celebration. The National Council on Fireworks Safety advises soaking used fireworks in water for 15 minutes before disposal. Dispose of all fireworks debris, used matches, wrappers, etc., in your garbage cart to prevent littering and water contamination from gunpowder residue.
- Be sure to keep fireworks

debris out of your recycling and yard waste carts. With children and out-of-town guests helping clean up at the end of a long day, fireworks debris sometimes ends up in the wrong cart. This contaminates recyclable materials, meaning that they may end up at the landfill rather than the recycling center.

Greening Up Your Event:

- Each year, Americans toss out enough paper and plastic cups, forks, and spoons to circle the equator 300 times. To reduce this waste, the greenest solution is to use reusable dishware. If reusable dishware is not an option, consider tableware made of recycled material.

- Be sure to provide convenient, clearly marked containers for recyclables, food waste and garbage. When the event is over, take a quick look inside to make sure materials ended up in the right containers.

- Think locally when planning your menu. Shipping ingredients from another part of the world requires a tremendous amount of fuel. Look to your local farmers' market for in-season fruits and vegetables, as well as meat, eggs, and dairy products.

- Use aluminum foil instead of plastic wrap to cover and store food. When done with the foil, save it to use later, or rinse and toss it in your recycling cart.

- Scrap the traditional paper party invitations and go digital! Online invitations are often free, and always more sustainable.

- Encourage guests to car pool; it helps save time, money and the environment.

For recycling tips and a complete list of what is recyclable in your area, go to [www.wmnorthwest.com](http://www.wmnorthwest.com).

## 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.