

Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson
Columbia County Master Gardener



It's here – it's here! It's finally summer! Despite my gloomy predictions we ARE going to have a summer – in fact I've heard we will settle into our 'typical' summer drought. "Drought?" you say in questioning tone, "How can rainy wet Oregon have a drought?"

While I certainly don't know the mechanics of the weather pattern, I do know that once it well and truly stops raining there is a good likelihood that it won't rain again for many months. Our cool wet springs have lately disguised the fact that sometimes it doesn't rain from May to December.

This can become a real problem for the gardener. Lack of water will kill all plants eventually. Those grown for vegetables and flowers, or recently planted, are practically defenseless and depend on their long relationship with mankind to provide for their needs. If you have a dry well or a high water bill this may force the gardener into difficult choices of where to spread the short supply of this essential element. Saving water becomes a major preoccupation.

The two best ways I know to conserve the available water are drip irrigation and mulch. Drip irrigation can be as simple as a bucket placed near a much loved or recently transplanted tree, or as complex as an entire system of soakers, drippers and sprayers that all connect directly to your water source, or any combination thereof.

The vegetable garden will need a good watering of at least one inch per week throughout the rest of the season. Be sure to water in the morning if at all possible to get the maximum advantage. Watering in the

evening is another option but a poorer one as the garden that is damp at night is a hotel extraordinaire for slugs and molds and blights. Try to avoid overhead watering, especially of those precious tomatoes, to discourage late blight. Deep, slow watering is the best, as it encourages root growth. Wilting is a natural response to dry hot weather especially visible in the squash family. Even with adequate water every day, a big squash plant will wilt in order to conserve the water it does have. While I don't think it's possible to overwater a squash, it may be that your water could safely be used to sustain other plants without obvious wilting.

Young trees and shrubs, planted this spring or last, will also need a steady supply of water. It takes them at least two years to develop an adequate root system. This is a great place to use the power of mulch. Nearly anything that covers the ground will work. Besides the typical and attractive bark dust or straw, you can also mulch in these outlying areas with dried lawn cuttings, garden weeds dried and not going to seed, newspapers weighed down with something like wood sawdust or lawn clippings, the stuff you clean out of your gutters (great for cane berries), or anything else that will slowly decompose and protect the soil surface. If you can get a soaker hose under your mulch you are saving the maximum amount of water you can. Congratulations!

Lawns go dormant in the heat of summer. When water is in short supply it's best to just let this happen. It will cut way down on your mowing and make weeds like the false dandelion, so aptly described last month by Chip Bubl in [Country Living](#), easier to get rid of. Both mechanical and chemical removal of weeds are more effective when the weeds are also affected

by sun stress. If you choose mechanical means to attempt to rid yourself of stubborn weeds, remember that it requires continual removal of any growth. Thistles, docks, dandelions, blackberries, etc. require an extremely stout heart and body to keep them down.

A note on pest traps: For the first time in a long time my Pantry Moth pest traps are beyond full and I haven't been able to replace them. The air at night is filled with little fluttery moths eager to reproduce inside my cupboards and closets. The fruit flies are also a pest that I controlled well with pheromone traps last summer. I highly recommend the use of both of these products. I've also found fly traps and yellow jacket traps effective at reducing populations over time.

Time to get out and enjoy the weather we wait for all year. There's nothing like a soft summer evening to fill the heart.

Rainier Classic Car Show, July 29

The Rainier Car Show will be held July 29 at the Ol'Pastime Tavern in Rainier. This Classic Car show will be a benefit for the Columbia County Women's Resource Center (CCWRC).

Registration for the show starts at 8:00 a.m. with the

show running from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration the day of the show is \$20. The pre-registration price is \$10 and registration can be done at the Ol'Pastime, Hometown Pizza or by calling CCWRC at 503-397-7110.

Volunteers can make a difference

Great local agency is seeking one time and ongoing volunteers! The Women's Resource Center is now recruiting one-time volunteers to assist with our annual maintenance. There are also ongoing opportunities to serve on our 24 Hour Crisis Line and our Board of Directors.

Volunteers for the Resource Center receive full training and ongoing support. More information about these opportunities is posted on our website, www.ccwrc.com.

The Women's Resource Center is the only agency of its kind in Columbia County, dedicated to serving survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Summer Facility Maintenance – Brief orientation provided by the Center. In order to keep our facility safe and functioning there is a maintenance closure. Volunteers are needed to help with cleaning, painting, carpentry, landscaping and other repair items. The Center can use your help if you have

available time and talent between August 20 and August 29.

Crisis Line – Formal training required, provided by Center. Volunteers carry a cell phone that the crisis line is transferred to from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. weekdays, and from 1:00 p.m. Friday to 8:00 a.m. Monday morning, depending on volunteer's schedule. There may be opportunities for work with clients in the office and/or on the telephone (at the Center) when they call in.

Board Member – Candidates will go through a screening process. The Board of Directors meets monthly and is responsible for the mission, overall direction and policies of the Center. Volunteers are expected to attend a minimum of nine meetings per year and other miscellaneous board functions. Orientation and training are provided.

For more information and to request a volunteer application call our office, 503-397-7110 or email volunteer@ccwrc.com.

Church Directory

<p>VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH</p> <p>Carl Pense, Pastor 850 Madison Avenue, Vernonia 503 429-1103 Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School</p> <p>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</p> <p>Larry Gibson, Pastor 2nd Ave. and Nehalem St., Vernonia 503 429-8301 Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m. Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</p> <p>Wayne and Maureen Marr 662 Jefferson Ave., Vernonia, 503 429-0373 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</p> <p>Rev. Luan Tran, Administrator 960 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia 503 429-8841 Mass Sunday 12:00 Noon Religious Educ. Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>COVENANT CHURCH VERNONIA</p> <p>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.</p> <p>VERNONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH</p> <p>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</p> <p>VERNONIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH</p> <p>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</p>	<p>PIONEER BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP</p> <p>John Cahill, Pastor 939 Bridge Street, Vernonia 503-429-1161 www.pbfalive.com Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Thursday Prayer 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>NEHALEM VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH</p> <p>Gary Taylor, Pastor Grant & North Streets, Vernonia 503 429-5378 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. Nursery available Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS</p> <p>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.</p>
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