

## Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson  
Columbia County Master Gardener



We have been doing a bit of digging and dividing and then potting or re-potting perennials for sharing the wealth. Some of the flowers in the garden borders have reappeared after a layer of weeds was removed. Dried to form a curtain of easy to remove stems, a million tiny seeds came cascading down as soon as you touched them. Next year's weeds will be somebody else's problem! Reappearing are the monarda *Raspberry Ice* [Hooray!] and the purple cone flowers *Echinacea Purpurea* that I've cultivated from seed.

This is the first year that I have tried to have a vegetable garden without several bales of straw. The actual portion under cultivation is less than half the capacity. A lot of effort has had to go into keeping plantings from being overwhelmed by weeds. Just getting around in the garden is tricky because the pathways are not fully mulched or raked up to the edges of the beds on a daily basis. As a result, there is a lot of exposed soil, most of which has come up in noxious weeds of one kind or another. I have laid down swathes of those very weeds that, last year, I would have thrown over the fence to the cow and chickens. I'm proud to say that asters and crocosmia have managed to establish a foothold.

Not having the pasture grazed allowed a glorious display of the weedy herb commonly called self-heal. It grows vigorously in garden soil and is often an unwelcome invader in perennial beds or lawns. This year, in my yard, there was a large patch of self-heal, unmowed or grazed, and sprinkled with daisies. The purple flowers with dark foliage were able to reach their full height of about one foot. No photos though. Sigh.....

Benevolent neglect in the garden has allowed thick stands of evening primrose to block the path, hanging from one bed to another. Along with foxglove, I try to maintain a rotation of these biennials. The scent of the primrose can be dangerously intoxicating, you can watch the unfolding of the blooms as darkness settles around the yard, and foxglove provides early flowers. The new red veined cultivar of ordinarily curly dock appears to reseed prolifically, to tolerate transplant fairly well, and to be drought tolerant. I've also finally got parsley going to seed (and blocking another path), a feat I never managed to achieve in the heavily cultivated and mulched garden of the past.

Another effect of the surface of the soil being exposed is that it dries into a concrete-hard surface, stitched by a lacework of endless, miniature deep, dry crevasses. Water disappears into these cracks and can make watering a thankless task. When the heavy clay soil dries out, it can take several soaking rains to make cultivating possible. Areas you want to produce on should not be allowed to dry out so that the soil remains workable. I've seen no sign of the supposedly hardy 'Russian Sage'. Lack of irrigation had dried out both a poor day lily (that I paid dollars for) and my vertical red barberry. But, quick response to water gives me hope that some of these may survive.

Apples are having a great year. Apples tend to bear heavy crops in alternate years. Having the bearing year coincide with that soft warm weather for a few weeks in early spring days allowed the bees to wake up, thus creating a bounty of apples. While many plants succumbed to the return of nasty cold weather, the apples appear to have set heavy crops this year. The heavy weight can cause limbs to break disastrously or even cause whole trees to uproot themselves. Be sure to contact the extension canning and preservation hotline for the latest safety recom-

mendations if you want to preserve the abundance for the cold, bleak months ahead.

Now is a good time for summer pruning. If established trees have reached mature size this will reduce the number of 'water sprouts' that have to be pruned out in winter. Things to watch out for: prunes and plums set fruit on two-year old wood, know where on the branch the fruit is set and avoid any fruiting spurs, cut at the branch collar to encourage bark growth over the wound.

It's just too good to stay inside on such a lovely evening. Enjoy the moments of quiet between lawn mowers and leaf blowers and dogs and ....

## Coho salmon season has opened on coastal waters

The wild coho salmon season on most Oregon coastal rivers opened on September 15 and fishery managers are anticipating a big season.

Big because almost 300,000 wild coho are expected to return to coastal rivers and lakes, and that means anglers will be able to harvest even more fish than last year.

For the fourth year in a row, ODFW will open selected rivers and lakes to the harvest of wild coho. Locations that opened September 15 include Nehalem, Tillamook Bay, Nestucca, Siletz, Yaquina, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos, and Coquille rivers. Other locations will open October 1 including Tenmile Lakes and the Alsea Basin.

Coho fisheries in these systems are managed by season quotas and will be closed when the quotas are met, so anglers should check the status of the quotas before fishing. The exception is Tenmile Lakes, which will be managed under a fixed season that ends December 31.

Wild coho fisheries in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes are allowed without quotas under permanent rules as shown in the 2012 Sport Fishing Regulations.

The daily bag limit for wild coho is one fish on all of these water bodies, but seasonal limits, harvest quotas and angling deadlines vary by location. For

a complete description of the 2012 wild coho seasons, as well as in-season updates on quotas, go to [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/coastal\\_salmon\\_seasons.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/coastal_salmon_seasons.asp).

While harvest quotas remain conservative – coastal coho continue to be listed under the federal Endangered Species Act – the 2012 river-specific quotas are all larger than in 2011.

"On some rivers, like the Umpqua and Siuslaw, the quotas are almost double what they were a year ago," said Mike Gray, ODFW fish biologist in Charleston. "If the actual return approaches expectations, and the fish cooperate, we're going to have a great coho season on the coast."

According to Gray, the large returns in recent years are about more than just a chance to fish for them.

"Of course we're always excited to be able to offer additional fishing opportunity," he said. "But to see a fish species listed as threatened bounce back to where we can now allow some directed harvest is pretty significant."

"Obviously the time and effort agencies, watershed councils, and private landowners have put into restoring watersheds and salmon habitat is paying big dividends for fish and for fishing communities," Gray said.



## Church Directory

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| <p><b>VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH</b></p> <p>Carl Pense, Pastor<br/>850 Madison Avenue, Vernonia<br/>503 429-1103<br/>Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.<br/>Children's Sunday School</p> <p><b>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</b></p> <p>Larry Gibson, Pastor<br/>2nd Ave. and Nehalem St., Vernonia<br/>503 429-8301<br/>Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.<br/>Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b></p> <p>Wayne and Maureen Marr<br/>662 Jefferson Ave., Vernonia,<br/>503 429-0373<br/>Sunday School 9:45 a.m.<br/>Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b></p> <p>Rev. Luan Tran, Administrator<br/>960 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia<br/>503 429-8841<br/>Mass Sunday 12:00 Noon<br/>Religious Educ. Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> | <p><b>COVENANT CHURCH VERNONIA</b></p> <p>Pastor John D. Murray<br/>359 "A" Street, Vernonia<br/>503 860-3860<br/>Sunday School 9:45 a.m.<br/>Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.<br/>Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>VERNONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH</b></p> <p>Ralph Young, Pastor<br/>957 State Avenue, Vernonia<br/>503 429-6790<br/>Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.<br/>Family Praise &amp; Worship 10:30 a.m.<br/>Wednesday Prayer 6:30 p.m.<br/>Thursday Ladies Study 7:00 p.m.<br/>Nursery 10:15 a.m.<br/>Vernonia Community Preschool</p> <p><b>VERNONIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b></p> <p>Sam Hough, Minister<br/>410 North Street, Vernonia<br/>503 429-6522<br/>Sunday School 9:45 a.m.<br/>Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.<br/>(meets in Youth &amp; Family Center)<br/>Various Home Group Meetings</p> | <p><b>PIONEER BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP</b></p> <p>John Cahill, Pastor<br/>939 Bridge Street, Vernonia<br/>503-429-1161<br/><a href="http://www.pbfalive.com">www.pbfalive.com</a><br/>Sunday School 9:30 a.m.<br/>Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.<br/>Thursday Prayer 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>NEHALEM VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH</b></p> <p>Gary Taylor, Pastor<br/>Grant &amp; North Streets, Vernonia<br/>503 429-5378<br/>Sunday School 9:45 a.m.<br/>Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.<br/>Nursery available<br/>Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS</b></p> <p>Marc Farmer, Branch President<br/>1350 E. Knott Street, Vernonia<br/>503 429-7151<br/>Sacrament Meeting, Sunday 10 a.m.<br/>Sunday School &amp; Primary 11:20 a.m.<br/>Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women, Sunday 12:10 p.m.</p> |
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