

Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson
Columbia County Master Gardener



Has it frosted yet? What can I do to protect the houseplants on vacation outside? Where am I going to put them all? Why did I make up so many pots of flowers? These are the questions plaguing the gardener in October.

The freezing temperature is largely dependent on elevation, with higher elevations generally getting lower temperatures earlier. Predicting when it will freeze and how “hard” it will freeze is a lively topic of discussion among gardeners. Certainly, the yard and garden are preparing for the winter, but this process will continue over the next month or so. Goodness! I’ll be writing for the next paper by then. We could be having a freeze nearly every night. So much to do in such a short time. Sheets and pillow cases make great temporary frost blankets. I’ve been known to cover large swathes of garden with blankets and sheets just to get another couple of days to deal with something. Quite festive in the morning!

I try to get information about the general weather conditions from television. (No internet at my house right now. Sigh...) I find the moving weather tracking the most informative. I can at least infer what might be happening here since I know they aren’t going to talk about Vernonia specifically. Then I make an educated guess about whether I need to get hysterical, or not, about whatever is left outside. It’s possible that we may not have a hard freeze and frozen ground until winter begins in December. However, the true tropical plants that thrive on heat and sun won’t survive on damp and cold. For that you need a full-fledged green house. However, a simple cold frame can continue to grow salad greens nearly all winter. Even easier, if you can get them established now, there’s nothing sweeter or more fun than cutting a fresh cabbage in Janu-

ary or plucking tiny pansies out from under the snow. Now is the time to dig young biennials like fox glove and evening primrose, to move around the yard or put in pots for next year. I have grown very fond of large pots with several plants that last over a season. I like my potted plants to provide color for more than a single season. So I put in a few early spring bloomers, as well as a later season ground cover and something taller. These pots stay outside over the winter though I move them out of the wind and group them together. A couple of my favorite combinations: hostas, daffodils and ferns; mint, a couple of sedums and yellow creeping jenny. Be bold, experiment!

Any time between now and the fall rains, get out and plant bulbs for spring, including garlic. If you are planting a whole bed, work in about 10 pounds of lime per 100 square feet of area. If you are planting individual bulbs, work a bit of lime and bone meal into the soil at the bottom of each hole, put your bulbs on top and cover with soil. I don’t have enough sun to have much success with other bulbs, but daffodils only need to be under about three or four inches of soil, as opposed to the six inches recommended. Plant day lilies nearby and you’ll never have to cover or trim your daffodils, the lilies’ foliage will cover them nicely.

Other fall stuff to do: Gather all the garden tools, stakes, markers and other assorted impedimenta for cleaning, repair and sharpening later. If you must have lawn, you can get a head start on next year if you are quick. Seed heavily and keep damp until grass is visible, then make sure it doesn’t dry out before the fall rains set in. Clean up dead and dying plants and compost. Bait for slugs. Cover any space you may want for garden next year with at least a couple of inches of some kind of mulch. Worms, and

other invertebrate garden citizens will work for you under the mulch. Bait for slugs. Pressure wash the outside of the house to dislodge any wasp nests or old spider webs.

Apply indoor/outdoor long lasting insecticide around the perimeter of your house, around all the doors and windows, and behind the furniture. Very little exposure to you and your loved ones, but an inhospitable environment for flies, spiders, earwigs, fleas, etc. Bait for slugs.

Bring houseplants inside before they freeze, unless you need a passive-aggressive way to get rid of some giant plant you don’t want or have room for any more. Enjoy the fall color. I think fall has the most invigorating weather of the year. Cool yet not cold. Warm during the day, cool at night. Get prepared for bad weather and roads. Look forward to being snowed in. Winter is coming!

Hunting season tips given to keep your trips trouble free

With hunting season kicking into gear, the Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division and the Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) provide the following reminders and tips to keep your outdoor adventures memorable and trouble free:

- Oregon Disabilities Hunting Permit Information – Bag limits have changed in many of the Wildlife Management Units; particularly in regards to the harvest of antlerless deer, and in some cases antlerless elk. Many units now only allow subjects with Disabilities Permits to harvest legal bucks or bulls. Refer to page 88 of the 2012 Oregon Big Game Regulations (<http://tinyurl.com/8hkke4646>) for more information.
- Know Before You Go – Every hunting season, law enforcement officers deal with many trespassing complaints because hunters go onto property without considering or knowing ownership, or they

think it’s permissible to trespass when tracking a wounded animal or retrieving an animal from the other side of a property boundary or fence. REMEMBER: It is the responsibility of any hunter to know whose property they are on. Hunters need to contact the landowner and ask for permission prior to entering private property. The landowner has the right to deny access.

- Hunter Orange – Oregon requires youth hunters age 17 and under to wear hunter orange when hunting all game mammals and upland birds (except turkey) with any firearm. It’s also strongly recommended for adults, too. Refer to pages 6 and 27 of the 2012 Oregon Big Game Regulations for more information.
- Tagging and Possession – Oregon law requires hunters who harvest an animal to immediately validate the approach

See Tips on page 13

Beware of Salmon poisoning in dogs at this time of the year

From page 1 travenous fluids may be needed. Get the dog to a veterinarian as soon as Salmon Poisoning is suspected. The longer before treatment starts, the harder and more expensive the treatment will be, and the greater the chances that treatment will not be successful. If your dog is seen eating fish, talk to your veterinarian about a preventive shot of an-

tibiotics to avoid Salmon Poisoning. Most dogs are immune to future Salmon Poisoning, once they have had and survived it. Special emphasis on MOST, not all dogs develop immunity. Preventive measures include disposing of raw fish waste in a can with a tight fitting lid, leaving dogs home when fishing, or leashing dogs when near water.

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	COVENANT CHURCH VERNONIA 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.	PIONEER BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP John Cahill, Pastor 939 Bridge Street, Vernonia 503-429-1161 www.pbflive.com Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Thursday Prayer 7:00 p.m.
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.	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	NEHALEM VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH 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.
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) Various Home Group Meetings	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.
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.		