

# September

## Garden hints from your OSU Extension Faculty

The Oregon State University Extension Service encourages **sustainable gardening practices**.

**Preventative pest management** is emphasized over reactive pest control. Always identify and monitor problems before acting and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem. The conservation of biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) should be favored over chemical controls.

Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. First consider cultural, then physical and biological controls. Choose the least-toxic options (insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides — when used judiciously).

Recommendations in this calendar are not necessarily applicable to all areas of Oregon. For more information, contact your local Extension office at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/find-us>

### Maintenance and Clean Up

- Early-September: Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to lawns. Reduce risks of run-off into local waterways by not fertilizing just prior to rain and not over-irrigating so that water runs off of lawn and onto sidewalk or street.
- Recycle disease-free plant material and kitchen vegetable and fruit scraps into compost. Don't compost diseased plants unless you are using the "hot compost" method (120 degrees to 150 degrees Fahrenheit).
- Harvest winter squash when the "ground spot" changes from white to a cream or gold color.
- Pick and store winter squash; mulch carrot, parsnip, and beets for winter harvesting.
- Protect tomatoes and/or pick green tomatoes and ripen indoors if frost threatens.
- Reduce water on trees, shrubs, and vines east of Cascades to harden them for winter.
- Stake tall flowers to keep them from blowing over in fall winds.
- Dig, clean and store tuberous begonias if frost threatens.

- Harvest potatoes when the tops die down. Store them in a dark location.
- Optimal time for establishing a new lawn is August through mid-September.
- Aerate lawns.
- **Willamette Valley:** Stop irrigating your lawn after Labor Day to suppress European crane fly populations.

### Planting/Propagation

- Divide peonies and iris.
- Plant or transplant woody ornamentals and mature herbaceous perennials. Fall planting of trees, shrubs and perennials can encourage healthy root growth over the winter.
- Plant daffodils, tulips and crocus for spring bloom. Work calcium and phosphorus into the soil below the bulbs at planting time. Remember when purchasing bulbs, the size of the bulb is directly correlated to the size of the flower yet to come in spring.
- **Western Oregon:** Plant winter cover of annual rye or winter peas in vegetable garden.

## Pest Monitoring and Management

- Continue monitoring late-season soft fruits and berries for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). If SWD are present, use an integrated and least toxic approach to manage the pests. To learn how to monitor for SWD flies and larval infestations in fruit, visit: <http://bit.ly/SWDmonitor>
- Apply parasitic nematodes to moist soil beneath rhododendrons and azaleas that show root weevil damage (notched leaves).
- Control slugs as necessary. Least toxic management options for slugs include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; use with caution around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits, or any other chemical control.
- Monitor trailing berries for leaf and cane spot. Treat if necessary.

- As necessary, apply copper spray for peach and cherry trees.
- Spray for juniper twig blight, as necessary, after pruning away dead and infected twigs.
- **Coastal and Western Valleys:** Spray susceptible varieties of potatoes and tomatoes for early and late blight

## Houseplants and Indoor Gardening

- Clean houseplants, check for insects and repot and fertilize if necessary; then bring them indoors.

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Trade-name products and services are mentioned as illustrations only. This does not mean that the Oregon State University Extension Service endorses these products and services or intends to discriminate against products and services not mentioned.

For additional OSU Extension gardening information, visit: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening>



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