



# Country Living

Provided to you by the

**OSU Extension Service Columbia County**

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## February 2024

### Programs for you . . .

**Listen to the Gardening Spot on KOHI (1600 am) radio - Every Saturday, 8:05 to 8:15 a.m.**

**February 1<sup>st</sup>.....Columbia County Beekeepers Monthly meeting.** Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. Linda Zahl will talk about the winter cluster and what is happening inside the hive. All are welcome to attend. Contact Linda Zahl at [ColumbiaCountyOregonBeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:ColumbiaCountyOregonBeekeepers@gmail.com) for the zoom link or attend in person at the OSU Extension Office.

**February 18<sup>th</sup> .....Annual Grafting Workshop, Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am-noon in the OSU Extension office in St. Helens.** Participants will receive instruction on grafting and have five rootstocks that they can graft any of a number of different apples onto their rootstocks in the workshop. Cost: \$20. We can only accept 15 people since knives will be in use and we need space to keep everyone safe. You can pre-register by calling 503 397-3462 (the Columbia County Extension office).

**February 20<sup>th</sup> Chat with Chip** postponed during Master Gardener training cycle.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> ..... Columbia County Small Woodlands Tree Sale. New Date and Place.** The Columbia County Small Woodlands Association has an annual tree sale in St. Helens. You can purchase a variety of trees in very small quantities. The sale this year will be on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at **the Columbia County Fairground** in St. Helens from 8:30 am- 1:30 pm. They sell both forest tree seedlings, some native shrubs, and some ornamental tree seedlings. Get there **early** for the best selection. It is very well attended.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>..... Hazardous Waste Collection Event 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Columbia County Transfer Station, 1601 Railroad Avenue, St. Helens.

**On-line Bee School.....** Columbia County Oregon Beekeepers will join Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association for their **online** Bee School **March 18, 19, and 21st**. Then we will have our own Field Day on April 6th or 15th depending on the weather in Trenholm. For registration contact Linda Zahl [Columbiacountyoregonbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:Columbiacountyoregonbeekeepers@gmail.com)



**Oregon State University**  
Extension Service  
Columbia County

*Chip Bubl*

Chip Bubl, OSU Extension Faculty, Agriculture

Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, Family and Community Health, 4-H Youth, Forestry, and Extension Sea Grant programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Columbia county cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

## Next Steps

I was hired as the Columbia County Ag Extension Agent in June of 1978. It took two people at OSU/Corvallis a half hour to make their decision. I was sure I was not going to get the job. But they said yes! I actually started work on September 1 due to prior commitments with the agricultural company I worked for. I stepped into a role that Don Coin Walrod had occupied for a number of years and he had followed George Nelson who started in 1929. So in almost a hundred years, there have been three people in this position.



My wife, Nancy, gave birth to our first son five months later. She had been teaching prior to the move and soon went back to it for a long career in the St. Helens School District. Our children grew up here and don't live far away. We love it here.

My position started out as Ag and Forestry assignment but an administrative role was added about three months later. A year later, we were able to hire Chal Landgren in the Forestry Extension role. That was a great hire. It took about 4 hours.

Everyone here (farmers, gardeners, ranchers, forest owners, homeowners, etc.) have been wonderful to work with. You are so curious, innovative, and just fun to be around. I am sure I am learning more from you than you are from me. But if I have been of help, well, that has been my true reward. The same goes for the all the professionals at the local ODF office, Columbia SWCD/NRCS, ODFW, and the watershed councils over the last 40 plus years.

I have always had an equally great working relationships with the County Commissioners, the other elected county officials, County Counsel, our local budget Committee, and the County staff, who have all played such a supportive partnership role through the many years with OSU Extension in Columbia County.

I have also been able to work with outstanding colleagues, both in faculty positions throughout the state and Washington and our local office support staff. The support staff that worked directly with me, Mary G, Carmen M, Evelyn L, Vicki K, Sonia R, Kara O (during the pandemic cycle), and now Kym L, have all been sharp, energetic, and just nice people who understood public service.

I will be officially retired as of February 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a search for a new OSU/Columbia County Extension Agent. Some details are on the back page. I plan on continuing the newspaper columns, at least until the new person is in place and possibly the Chat with Chip after the MG teaching cycle is done (or we can find an alternative night). The newsletter is more likely to be slimmed down to mostly announcements and the garden calendar, though that is still under consideration.

You will still be able to reach me at my [chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu](mailto:chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu) email address after retirement. Take care and thank you for all your friendship, humor, ideas, and love of gardening, farming, livestock, forestry, and the larger natural world.

Chip

# February Garden Calendar

## Planning

- Tune up lawn mower and garden equipment before the busy season begins.
- Have soil test performed on garden plot to determine nutrient needs if you haven't done so in some time. Contact the Extension office for a list of testing laboratories or view <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em8677> online.
- Select and store healthy scion wood for grafting fruit and nut trees. Wrap in damp cloth or peat moss and place in plastic bag. Store in cool place.
- Plan an herb bed, for cooking and for interest in the landscape. Among the deer-proof choices are rosemary, sage, thyme, and lavender. Choose a sunny spot for the herb bed, and plant seeds or transplants after danger of frost has passed (late April-early May).
- Plan to add bee-friendly herbaceous perennial flowers to your landscape this spring. See: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9289/html> for good information.

## Maintenance and Clean Up

- Repair winter damage to trees and shrubs.
- Make a cold frame or hotbed to start early vegetables or flowers.
- Fertilize rhubarb with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Incorporate cover crops or other organic matter into soil.
- Prune and train grapes; make cuttings if you want more vines.
- Prune fruit trees and blueberries.
- Prune deciduous summer-blooming shrubs and trees.
- Prune and train trailing blackberries (if not done prior late August); prune black raspberries
- Prune fall-bearing raspberries (late in Feb. or early March)

- Prune clematis, Virginia creeper, and other vining ornamentals.

## Planting/Propagation

- Plant windowsill container gardens of carrots, lettuce, or parsley.
- Good time to plant fruit trees and deciduous shrubs. Replace varieties of ornamental plants that are susceptible to disease with resistant cultivars.
- Plant asparagus if the ground is warm enough.
- Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts), indoors or in greenhouse.
- Where soil is dry enough and workable, plant garden peas and sweet peas. Suggested varieties of garden peas include: Corvallis, Dark Green Perfection, Green Arrow, Oregon Sugar Pod, Snappy, Knight, Sugar Snap, Oregon Trail, Oregon Sugar Pod II.
- Good time to plant new roses.

## Pest Monitoring and Management

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Use delayed-dormant sprays of lime sulfur for fruit and deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose, bacterial canker of stone fruit and eastern filbert blight. Sterilize tools before each new cut.
- Control moles with traps.
- Monitor for European crane fly and treat lawns if damage has been verified.

Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Always identify and monitor problems before acting. First consider cultural controls; then physical, biological, and chemical controls (which include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, organic and synthetic pesticides). Always consider the least toxic approach first.

**February 20<sup>th</sup> through early May: 2024 Columbia County/OSU Master Gardener™ classes: Sign-ups being taken now.** You can register immediately online at <https://beav.es/qBc> or visit <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/columbia/course-content-how-join> to learn more about becoming an OSU Master Gardener. Registration is entirely online this year. If you need assistance with the online registration please contact Kym Luth at 503-397-3462 or by email at [Kym.Luth@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Kym.Luth@oregonstate.edu).


### **Search for new OSU/Columbia County Ag Extension agent**

Please share out with all of your connections!

The Oregon State University Extension Service is seeking a new member of our team who is committed to supporting sustainable, ecological agriculture and gardening and the long-term viability of farms in Columbia County. This is a full-time (1.0 FTE, 12 month), Fixed-Term Assistant Professor of Practice position, based in the Columbia County Extension Office in St Helens, Oregon, with an academic home in the Department of Horticulture.

**Please visit the full posting, including application instructions, here: <https://jobs.oregonstate.edu/postings/148723>**

**Closing date: February 8, 2024**



Chip Bubl, OSU Extension Faculty, Agriculture