

March/April 2008

Jeff Banks

USU Extension Agent

Green Thumb

Late winter is a great time to year to start preparing for this year's gardening season. To assist you, the Extension office will be sponsoring two different workshops. They will be taught at both Fillmore and Delta. Below you find the details for the classes. We would invite anyone interested to attend these very informative classes.

TURF MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS



Date: Wednesday, April 2, 3:30 p.m.

Place: Courthouse Commission Room, 50 South Main, Fillmore, Utah

Utah

Date: Wednesday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.

Place: USU Extension Conference Room, 83 South Manzanita Ave., Delta, Utah

Instructor: Matt Palmer, USU Extension Agent, Sanpete County

Workshop Description: Participants will learn management techniques to help improve their lawns. The class will cover lawn pests, fertilizer requirements and watering requirements.

HOME GARDEN DRIP IRRIGATION WORKSHOPS

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 3:30 p.m.

Place: USU Extension Conference Room, 83 South Manzanita Ave., Delta Utah

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.

Place: Courthouse Commission Room, 50 South Main, Fillmore, Utah

Instructor: Jeff Banks, USU Extension Agent, Juab County.

Workshop Description: Participants will learn about a practical and user friendly drip irrigation system designed by Juab County gardeners. The system uses PVC pipe, fittings and ball valves. The system can help save time in weeding, irrigating and in water savings.

Early Vegetable Planting

By Robert Palfreyman, Master Gardener

Are you ready to start planting? If you prepared the ground properly last fall, you won't have too much work to do with the soil before you can get started. Be sure that the soil is almost dry before you start to work it.



If you don't know the condition of your soil, an early application of 16-16-8 fertilizer would be best.

You can plant peas, radishes, asparagus, spinach, onions, cabbage, turnips, broccoli, and rhubarb between March 15 and May 1. Carrots, potatoes, beets, cauliflower, lettuce, parsnips and parsley can be planted between March 22 and July 1. Average germination temperatures for the two groups listed above are 35-85° F. Most plants will not do too well until the soil warms.

Seeds alone don't make the garden. Other factors to consider:

- **Garden Location:** You need an area that gets plenty of sun. Tomatoes do like afternoon shade.
- **Soil Condition**
- **Weed Control:** Weeds rob plants of needed nutrients and harbor insects which can spread viruses.
- **Insect Control:** Control insects when they first appear or they might get to eat more than you do!
- **Correct Watering:** Too much water as well as too little will kill plants.
- **Correct Fertilizer:** Nutrient deficient plants are more susceptible to disease.
- **Plant Spacing**
- **Row Spacing**
- **Planting Depth**
- **Crop Rotation**
- **Disease Resistant Varieties**

March and April Garden Tips

By *Adrian Hinton, USU Extension Area Horticulturist*

Sharpen Your Tools.

Have your mower blade sharpened. Check for blade wear and check oil bearings. On electric lawnmowers check the cables for damage.



Do Your Soil Test Now if you need to know what your soil is lacking. Pick up a soil test kit (boxes, bags and forms) at the Extension office. You'll need to send your sample to the lab at Utah State University.

Contact Landscaping Pros Early to avoid a long delay.

Keep a Garden Journal. Jot down some of your successes and failures from last year.

Till the Soil when it contains no ice crystals and a handful crumbles easily. Don't try this when the soil is too wet—it

causes compaction. In a new garden bed, dig down about eight inches, removing clods and stones. Add no more than 3" of organic matter plus any other fertilizers or supplements that the soil analysis recommends.

Get Those Fruit Trees Pruned

(save the peaches and nectarines until mid-March). Prune early flowering shrubs (lilac and forsythia) as soon as the blooms fade. Next year's flowers will set within 10 days of the end of bloom, so timing is important. Prune back unruly growth on shrubs before leaf growth begins.

Cut the Lawn Fairly High—3".

Many Vegetables Can Be Started in boxes in a cold greenhouse or in a cold frame.

Divide Snowdrops Now.

Plant Conifers and Shrubs in

April. Be sure to give them plenty of water for the first few months after planting. Put peat or wood chips around the base of the plant to retain moisture.

Fruit Tree Pruning

Now is the time of year to start thinking about pruning fruit trees. Pruning when trees are dormant lessens the risk of spreading disease. Fire blight in apples and pears is a very common bacterial disease. Sanitation is the key to eliminating this blight. Remove dead limbs or trees and dispose by burning or placing in the trash. Sanitation of pruning equipment is also important. Clean equipment after cutting dead or diseased wood before cutting sound wood. A 5:1 solution of water to bleach is sufficient for a dip or spray solution. Also, remember that sharp equipment does less damage to the tree. Pruning guides are available in the USU Extension office or on the Extension web site, <http://extension.usu.edu/htm/publications>.

