

Bundle up: It's planting time already

Master Gardener tells why

By Paul Fattig
of the Daily Courier

You say it would be a cold day in hell before you would start thinking about gardening in the middle of January?

Pull on a heavy coat. "Cold crops, some of them you can put in right now — peas, cabbage," explained Paul Logue, president of the Josephine County Master Gardeners Association. "Now is the time to think about putting out transplants."

"Even summer squash, you can start your seed germination right now," he added.

Moreover, folks who find their green thumbs itching to work the soil should take the 10th annual Master Gardening training, which begins Thursday, Logue said.

The program, sponsored by the Oregon State University Extension Service, consists of 60 hours of classroom study, covering everything from ornamental plants and lawn care to fruit trees and vegetables.

The class will be taught every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until March 31. Instructors will include Extension Service Agents, members of the university's horticulture department and community horticulturists.

There is a \$50 fee for materials. Graduates of the program will become associate members of the Josephine County Master Gardeners Association. To pay for the extensive training, participants contribute 60 hours of community service, including 30

hours in the Josephine County OSU Extension Service office and the Master Gardener plant clinic room.

Logue, a retired businessman who took the course three years ago, said the program is adjusted for the local climate.

"We'll work with you and show you some of the little tricks of how to work with the soil," Logue said. "We can show you how to get the proper pH. A lot of people overlook that. If you have a high acid soil, there is an awful lot of nutrients that never become available for plant use."

"Most of the soils throughout Josephine County are acid or slightly acid," he added. "Sometimes you have to do a little liming to sweeten the soil."

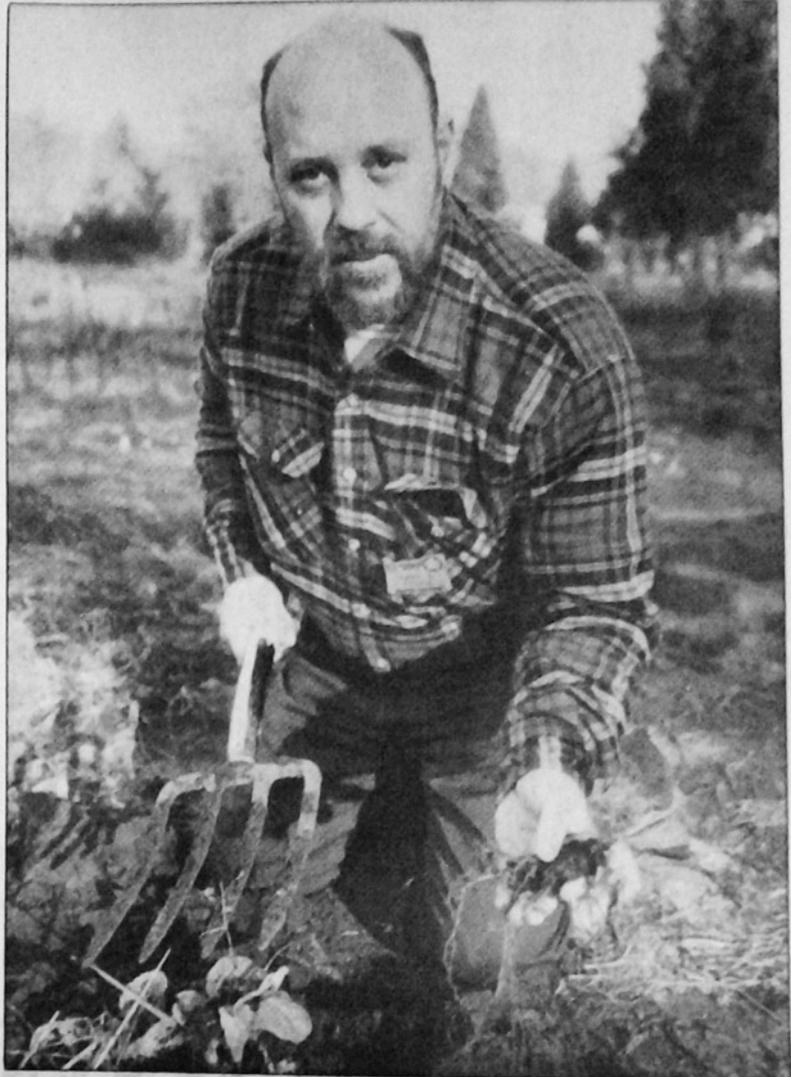
The class is limited to 40 people.

Participants can register for the class as late as next week, but should contact the local Extension Service office, according to R.C. Hinman, chairman of the Josephine County OSU Extension Service office.

For further information, contact the local Extension Service office at 475-6613.

The class serves as an incentive for local gardening buffs who are often found thumbing through seed catalogs, day-dreaming about warmer days, Logue said.

"Yes, people should be thinking about gardening now," he said. "They should make sure they get seeds that are adaptable to our area. The seeds should be disease- and stress-resistant."



January is a good time to prepare for spring gardening, says master gardener Paul Logue.

Grants Pass Daily Courier
1/26/88

Area Master Gardeners Arrange Two Spring Fairs

Master and novice gardeners alike will be able to reap knowledge and advice at two upcoming spring fairs.

Those interested in organic gardening also may want to attend a farm tour set for June 19.

The Jackson County Master Gardeners' Association will host its eighth annual Spring Garden Fair Saturday and Sunday. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Jackson County Extension Service building, 1301 Maple Grove Drive, Medford.

Plants and garden items will be on sale.

Admission is free.

The Josephine County Master Gardeners' Association will sponsor its 10th annual Spring Garden Fair April 30 and May 1. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 30 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 1 in the 4-H Activity Building, 215 Ringuette St.

The fair will feature information booths, commercial booths, plant sales and garden equipment sales.

Admission is free.

The organic farming tour will be at Windy River Farm, 348 Hussey Lane in Grants Pass on Jan. 19, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call Sheryl Lee at 846-7173 or Linda Messerli at 846-7327.

Grants Pass Daily Courier
04/21/88

Extension Service: Here to Help

Need a hand?
Give 'em a call

Howard Huntington
The Daily Courier

Practical advice on gardening from the ground up and on improving your home is available from the Oregon State University Extension Service in Grants Pass.

The Extension Service office, at 215 Ringuette Street, has many advisers and printed materials available at little or no cost to consumers. Hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays. The phone number is 476-6613.

Gardeners can learn how and when to plant vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants on every scale, from a single pot to several acres.

Those who want to take a closer, hands-on look at the latest techniques are encouraged to take part in the Extension Service's next Master Gardener Program, which will begin in January.

The program offers 60 hours of instruction divided into weekly, six-hour classes on everything from planting and fertilization to insect control and turf management.

Extension Service agents and visiting specialists from OSU teach the courses.

Students pay a \$50 fee for materials and must contribute 60 hours of work to the program between April and September, sharing their knowledge with other gardeners at plant



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

R.C. Hinman takes a soil sample.

clinics or helping in other ways.

Program graduates may join the Master Gardeners Association taking part in activities such as the Spring Garden Fair, April 30 and May 1 at the 4-H Club Activity building in Grants Pass.

Master Gardeners also may volunteer to be regular assistant advisers.

Interested people should register promptly because the program is popular. Enrollment is limited to about 50 people.

Numerous brochures on gardening and bulletins on horticulture are available at the Extension Service office for 10 cents to \$2.50.

Gardeners who are struggling against plant diseases or other puzzling problems are encouraged to bring samples to the office. Advisers will make house calls if the need is great enough.

The Extension Service also offers a range of soil tests at prices ranging from \$5-\$4 for the basic program.

Personal advice and brochures on home economics also are plentiful at the Extension Service. For a \$6 fee for materials, local residents may join study groups that meet monthly to learn about the latest major appliances, food safety and other household subjects.

The Extension Service also schedules workshops on tailoring, financial planning and other topics as needed.

And agents are available by phone to answer questions about everything from weatherizing homes to removing stains. Tips on food shopping and microwave cooking are offered. In addition to the Master Gardeners, there is a Master Preservers Program to reveal secrets about quality preserving, canning and pickling.

Grants Pass Daily Courier
04/21/88