



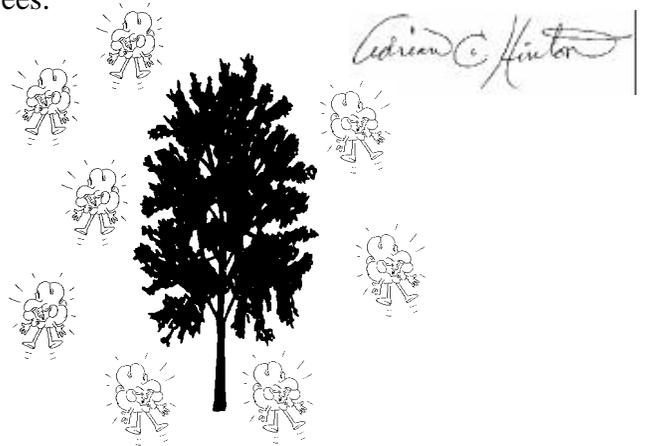
GREETINGS FROM THE COUNTY AGENT

Welcome to early (very) spring! We still have a few more weeks until we officially can say that "Spring has sprung."

There are some very important activities, duties, fun jobs and some not-so-fun things that need to be done this "interim" time of year.

Most of you know by now that our combined "Hinton Around" and "On the Home Front" newsletter is on a yearly subscription ending in December. The rate is \$3.00/yr (six issues) for mailing to your home. You can pick it up free of charge at the Extension Office.

I hope you are having a very productive and exciting time getting ready for spring. Check out my "Timely Tips for the Season" for a few friendly reminders of some things you may want to think about doing before "Popcorn pops on the apricot trees."



TIMELY TIPS FOR THE SEASON

1. Get the delayed dormant oil on all fruit and "sick" ornamental trees when buds are swollen but before they are open. (See article in this issue)
2. Keep bulbs moist and well fertilized as they bloom and complete their bloom period.
3. Check on the location of honey bees in your neighborhood. They will help you pollinate your fruits and flowers. (Bees will fly about 3-4 miles).
4. Let your children, grandchildren, and spouse and others plan and plant your garden this year. This is a great "family affair" that brings joy and nutrition all year.
5. Plan your growing season to have your "best veggies" and other produce ready for the County Fair in August.
6. Spring is a great time to loosen your tight lawns by aeration. (See article in this issue)
7. Prune roses before they start to bud. Also keep deadheads off.
8. Apply pre-emergent for crabgrass (April 1-15). Crabgrass germinates when soil temperature gets above 50° F.
9. Start seeds indoors - **GET AHEAD OF MOTHER NATURE!** (4-6 weeks optimal time)
 Tomatoes Squash Watermelon Cucumber
10. Plant pansies, peas, strawberries and other cool season plants.
11. Fertilize your lawn with a complete fertilizer plus zinc, iron, and sulfur.
12. Prune trees and shrubs before they bud out.
13. Apply Florel Fruit Eliminator on crabapples and other trees where you don't want fruit. See label for specific tree and time to apply.
14. Give hydrangeas "the blues." If you want blue hydrangeas instead of pink start feeding them aluminum sulfate before the buds form.
15. Check your sprinkler system. Fix the leaks now. Call the USU Office for a water check program.
16. April through May, plant potatoes, garlic, onion, shallots, radishes, carrots and other cool season crops.



NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

We are in the process of getting a new name for our combined Horticulture and Home Front newsletter.

As you read the newsletter think of a good name and send it in to the Extension Office. A grand prize will be awarded and the winner will be announced in the next newsletter. Don't be shy –send in your best newsletter name by May 20. Call 370-8463 with your suggestions.

PROVO CITY PARKS

ADOPT-A-FLOWER BED PROGRAM

FREE FLOWERS AND GARDEN SPACE OFFERED

Spring is here, and many of us, green thumb or not, prepare to plant flower gardens. For those who have no garden space or those who want to help, Provo City Parks and Recreation is offering a fun alternative. It's called Adopt-A-Flower Bed. Individuals and groups are invited to pick a flower bed in any of Provo City's Parks or one of the planters on Center Street and "adopt" the space. Provo City will supply the flowers, water and fertilize the flower beds. The volunteers are asked to plant, remove deadheads and keep the flower beds weed free throughout the growing season. Provo City will install a plaque in the flower bed to recognize your service to the community.

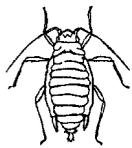
Thanks for volunteering!

For more information contact Matthew Brimhall at 852-7646 or Karen Thomas at 852-6606 or email Provo.KThomas@email.state.ut.us.

DELAYED DORMANT OIL

By Julia B. Tuck

Delayed Dormant Oil is a protective measure that can be applied to your woody plants this spring after the buds begin to swell. There is a delayed dormant oil spray guide available in the office for



5¢ that shows the bud development stages for apple, pear, apricot, peach, cherry and plum trees. The circled development stages on the page indicate the range of time when the delayed dormant spray should be

applied.

The oil, which is available at full-service nurseries, should be a "superior" or supreme grade. Only half of the recommended oil dosage should be applied to pears.

Oftentimes, the oil is mixed with another pesticide, such as malathion or a fungicide such as Bravo or Captan.

The weather has been unusual this year, so monitor your trees closely. If you call the office, we will tell you when to spray and tell you the recommended pesticides to add to the dormant oil. They change from year to year, depending

on the current formulations and resistance of the target pests.

You should thoroughly spray the upper trunk and branches of each tree or shrub. Do not spray the lower trunk, because many beneficial insects lay their eggs in this location.

Spraying will help control spider mites, some aphids, juniper scale, pear psylla and other insects.

PRUNING

by Julia B. Tuck

You will want to finalize the pruning of your fruit trees before the sap starts to run. Our office prefers "natural target" pruning for the health, safety, and beauty of your tree.



Proper pruning will increase your fruit yield and will ensure good fruit color. You can take a tip from the commercial growers and prune your trees so that sunlight can get into the tree. You can also improve your fruit crop if you remove some of your blossoms. You will get larger, nicer fruit for your enjoyment.

We have a natural target pruning guide in the office for 10¢. We also have many booklets on how to prune properly and we have booklets on how to take care of your home "orchard."

In the spring we have pruning demonstrations that you are welcome to attend. A picture is worth a thousand words...

FRUIT TREE PRUNING DEMONSTRATIONS

March 4 - 4:00 p.m. Kevin Card 756-5711
10894 North 5750 West, Highland

March 8 - 5:00 p.m. Nephi County Building
160 North Main, Nephi

March 13 - 4:00 p.m. Melanie Aird 785-6826
399 East 1100 North, Pleasant Grove

March 18 - 11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Point
10650 North Frontage Road, Lehi
Howard Passey - 768-0930

March 20 - 4:00 p.m. Susan Wilkins
225-3674 278 North 100 East, Orem

March 22 - 4:00 p.m. Gary Hannig
375-5124 2810 Indian Hills Dr., Provo
(2780 North 930 East)

Please call these numbers for more information if you live in this area and are interested in attending.

COMPACTION IS A DIRTY WORD

by Julia B. Tuck



We have been having such unusual weather this winter that a lot of you have called the office, eager to go out into your yards and start planting your vegetable gardens and aerating your lawn.

At this time, please refrain from “tromping” around in your yard. It is too early to plant vegetables (we have a guide available in the office for about 25¢ that lists recommended varieties for Utah and when to plant them) and the soil is still too wet for aeration. Walking on your yard now will cause compaction of your soil (you don’t have “dirt” – you have “soil”) and lead to problems later.

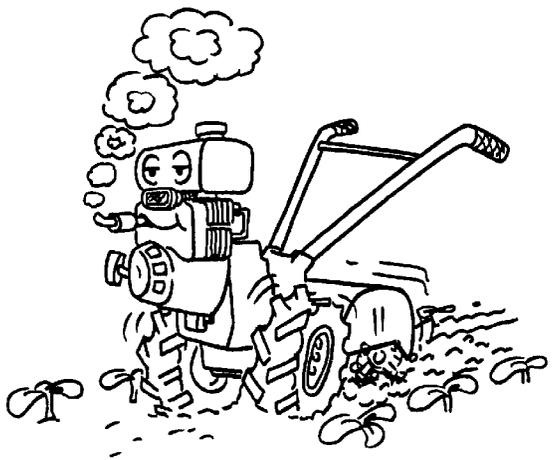
You need to stay off lawns and gardens when they are wet – not just now, but throughout the year. Once you have stepped on wet soil and have compacted it, it is very hard to change the compacted soil structure.

We have alkaline soils in Utah (called Aridisols) that, when compacted, make it hard for roots to go down deeply. When the soil structure breaks down, the soil does not drain well and the roots cannot get enough oxygen to thrive.

If you have a lawn with compacted soil, we suggest that you “core” aerate your yard. The core aeration actually takes out little plugs of soil and improves the environment for growing turf. There is also aeration done by tines pushed into the soil. These can actually be a source of compaction, because instead of removing plugs, they compact the soil around the tine area.

Make sure your lawn is not wet when you aerate or you will compact the soil as you use the machine and walk on your turf.

If you are unhappy with your soil, you can improve its “tilth” (the physical condition of the soil as it relates to ease of working with it) by adding organics to it.



KEEPING YOUR “TURF” HAPPY

by Julia B. Tuck

Some herbicides are applied to your lawn prior to the emergence of weeds. These are called preemergence herbicides.

Preemergence herbicides are often effective with just one properly timed application. Other times, 2 applications spaced 6-8 weeks apart may be required for satisfactory weed control.

The decision to use a preemergent herbicide has to be made **before** the weeds germinate. Correct identification of the weeds is essential for effective weed control. Most preemergent chemicals are fairly selective, so it is important to know the history of the weeds in your lawn (which weeds were there last year) so you know which herbicide to use.



Mid-April is a good time in Utah to apply your preemergent chemicals.

We have excellent booklets in the office that will help you identify your weeds and tell you which herbicide to use and when to apply them.

Once the weeds have emerged, preemergence herbicides are ineffective. If you need help identifying “tough” weeds that survived the preemergent chemicals, you may bring in a weed sample. Include the roots, and, when possible, the flowers or seed heads. Bring samples in on Monday or Tuesday and have it identified. It only costs \$1.00 which is worth your peace of mind.

Keeping your lawn in good condition and unstressed by using proper irrigation, fertilization and mowing practices will help your lawn resist invasion by weeds, insects, and diseases.

We have a lawn watering guide available in the office for 10¢ that will help you determine how much water **your** lawn needs. We also have suggestions for fertilizing and mowing your lawn.

All of the information available for sale in our office is sold at our cost. We are a non-profit educational facility here to serve you. Stop by the office and visit us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 1 - PROFESSIONAL TREE CARE WORKSHOP - Camp Williams \$20 fee
 Learn about: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Trees; Tree Roots; Conifers in the Landscape; Planting Issues; Utah Tree Insect Pests; and an Outdoor Session on Tree Problems and Solutions

APRIL 25, 26, 27 - YOUTH FARM FIELD DAYS (Payson, Vineyard, Highland)

APRIL 28 & 29 - HOME AND GARDEN SHOW - Spanish Fork Fairgrounds

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This newsletter is an educational effort of the Utah County office of Utah State University Extension, 51 South University Ave., Room 206, Provo, UT 84601.

The phone number for USU Extension is 370-8460. If you do not have a touch tone phone, stay on the line and the receptionist will help you. **With a touch tone phone**, at the greeting press the number of the desired subject area:

- 1) garden, yard, trees, insects
- 2) food, finances, clothing, housing
- 3) pastures, field crops, dairies
- 4) 4-H and youth

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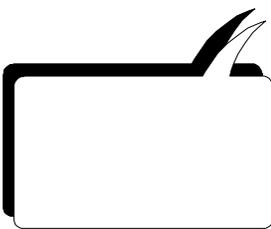
Please check -

If the date on your mailing label says 2/2000 it is time to renew your subscription. Make check payable to "Utah County Extension" and mail to address above. Send \$2.50 for five issues ending Nov/Dec 2000 or send \$5.50 for 11 issues ending Nov/Dec 2001. (We are trying to get the majority of future renewals in December, easier for the secretaries.)



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