



## How Your Garden Grows

### How to prepare plant soil

By Taun Beddes

I have received many questions lately as to why garden seeds may not have germinated this year. The main reason is weather related. However, successful germination depends on four factors: (1) establishing soil is appropriate for growing vegetables, (2) planting when soil temperatures are warm enough, (3) planting at the proper depth, and (4) using proper irrigation.

Most Cache Valley soils are suited to growing vegetables. However, especially when problems are experienced, it may be worth obtaining a soil test. Tests performed by labs are often more accurate than do-it-yourself kits available for purchase. Utah State University offers this service inexpensively. For a \$14 test, needed soil characteristics and potential problems can be determined. For more information concerning soil testing visit the following website: [www.usual.usu.edu](http://www.usual.usu.edu).

In addition to soil testing, improving garden soil with compost materials can improve the garden soil. In fact, one of the most basic principles of successful gardening is adding compost to the soil often. This improves soil structure, makes many nutrients more available to plants and helps conserve water. An interesting fact sheet on how to improve garden soil can be found at: [http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/HG\\_H\\_01.pdf](http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/HG_H_01.pdf).

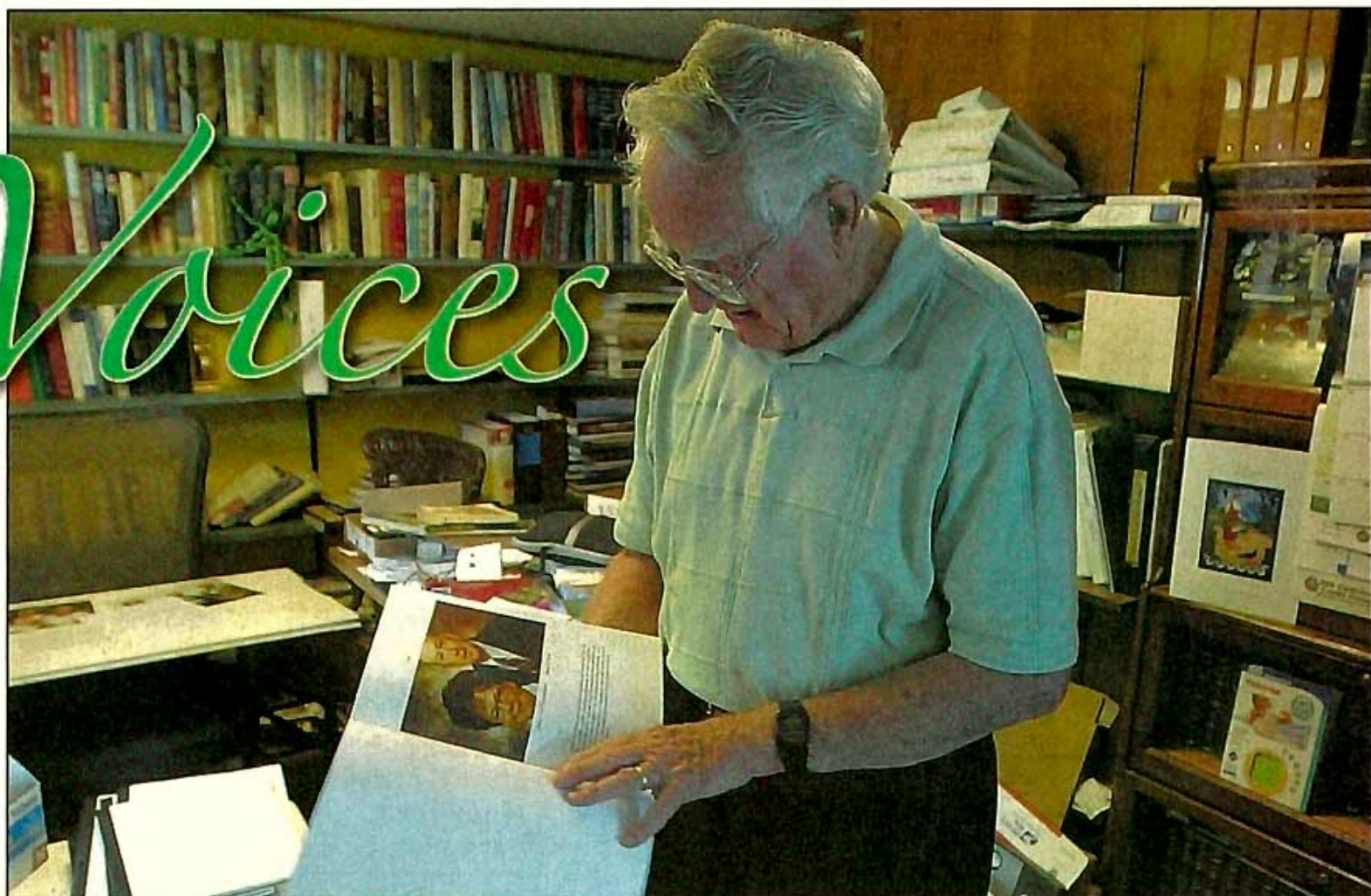
Recommended planting dates are not absolute and how warm or cold the growing season has been should be considered when planning the garden. The last two springs have been unusually cool. Because of this, normal planting times have been later than usual, due, in part, to lower than normal soil temperatures. These lower temperatures can make seeds more susceptible to rotting in the soil and can delay germination. This is the most likely reason

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Beddes



## Voices



Photos by Braden Wolfe/Herald Journal  
From top: William 'Robert' Thornley displays one of the transcripts he made of old oral history interviews at his home in North Logan; a stack of transcripts of old oral history interviews; Thornley displays the digital copies of old oral history interviews; a view of the tapes of oral history interviews.

### Oral histories of Smithfield tell stories both sad and exciting

By Alison B. Law  
Features writer

Voices of the past are being heard loud and clear in Smithfield thanks to an oral history project headed by William "Robert" Thornley.

While getting acquainted with the Smithfield Museum after joining the Smithfield Historical Society Board, Thornley found four boxes of old cassette tapes. The tapes dated from 1977 to 1981 and included town and church meetings as well as interviews of people. As Thornley looked through the tapes he recognized many names of people he'd known as a child growing up in Smithfield.

"I thought they ought not just sit there," he said. Knowing he didn't have the capability or the knowledge to take the cassettes and put them into a digital recording and transcribe them, Thornley decided to seek help. Before applying for a grant, he helped put together a non-profit, tax free foundation named the Clark and Gladys Robert Family Foundation after his parents. He then applied to the Utah Humanities Council for a grant to record the oral histories. Upon receiving the grant and matching funds totaling \$6,000 the process of recording the oral histories began.

Thornley had a cassette player that was about 30 years old, but in almost new condition. He played the tapes in the player and used a digital recorder to digitize the recording. The digital recorder was then plugged into the computer, making an audio file. This also brings up a timeline by minute and second to make it easy to know where things were in the interview. This allows those using the computer recordings as they do research to find specific parts on the audio file.

Once the audio files were complete, Thornley began to look for transcribers. He was surprised by the number available and found two who were willing to help at a reduced price. He would send

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## New York to implement clothing recycling program

NEW YORK (AP) — Here's the truth about fashion: It changes quickly. So what do you do when you're stuck with a closet full of barely worn shirts, dresses and shoes?

Starting in September, New York City will launch one of the largest textile recycling initiatives in the nation. The aim is to make it easy to donate clothing, almost as easy as throwing it away.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans pitch almost 10 pounds of socks, jeans, shirts and sheets per year, per person. In New York, where 190,000 tons of textiles entered the city's landfills in 2008 alone, the plan would place 50 collection bins in high-traffic areas.

"I moved three times in the last five years, and each time I ended up throwing away clothes," says 25-year-old Tracy Feldman. "It is just too hard to haul it all over the city. If there was a bin on my block, I wouldn't hesitate to recycle them."

The city is taking bids for a 10- to 15-year contract with a nonprofit company that will be responsible for the bins. Good-

will Industries International is one of the companies bidding on the contract.

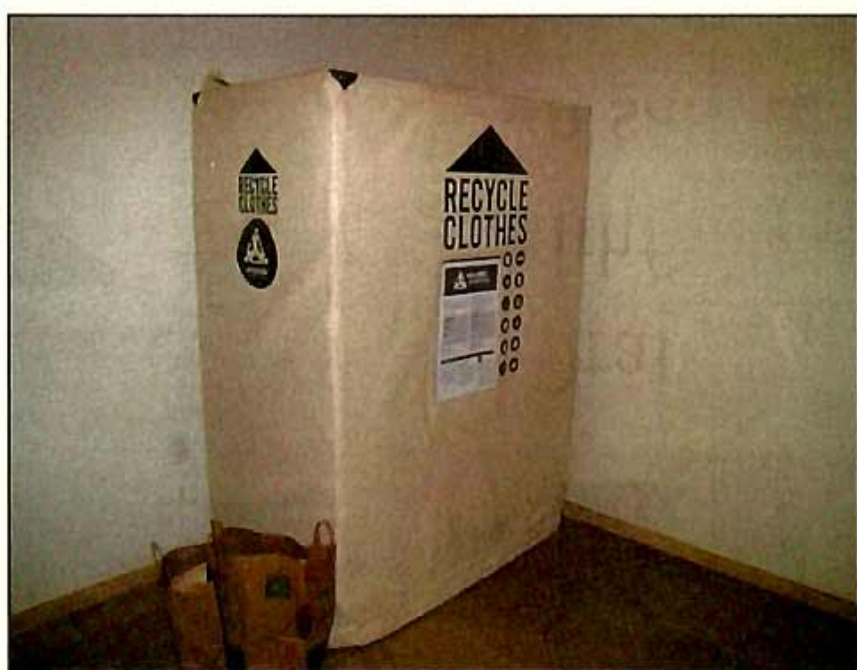
"There has not been another program like this that we know of," said Goodwill spokesman Alfred Vanderbilt. "We think they are being very creative and we hope this sets a new standard."

A Goodwill Industries survey of 600 adults in the United States and Canada found that more than half of people who donate clothing say they wouldn't go more than 10 minutes out of their way to make a donation.

Robert Lange, the director of the Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling in New York, said his department discovered the same problem.

"You can open a black bag at the landfill and see what looks like new clothing," he said. "It is easier to throw it out than recycle."

Not all used clothing can be recycled into usable clothing — take those old, stinky sneakers and torn clothing. But that doesn't mean those items can't be donated. While Goodwill is mostly looking for clothing that can be resold, there are



AP Photo  
A Wearable Collections clothes recycling bin is seen inside EPIC Residences last week in New York City. The company's employees collect the bins as often as once a week, and tenants never have to go farther than their lobby to get rid of old clothing.

ways to recycle even the old tattered pieces.

At Wearable Collections, a New Jersey-based textile recycling company, almost half of donations are good for resale, according to the owner. The other half is split nearly evenly between being used for rags for businesses like the automo-

tive industry and being broken down for insulation. Less than 5 percent of the total is unusable and goes to the landfill.

Officials say that if New York's campaign is successful, it could lead to a nationwide movement to recycle clothing.

Not only would that clear up some room in the nation's

landfills, it could also create jobs, said Brenda Platt, co-director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance based in Washington, D.C. She profiled 20 textile recycling companies and estimates that the industry creates 85 times more jobs than landfills.

Wearable Collections has been offering free bins to apartment buildings and dorm rooms throughout the East Coast for the last few years. The company's employees collect the bins as often as once a week, and tenants never have to go farther than their lobby to get rid of old clothing.

Adam Baruchowitz, the owner of Wearable Collections, is enthusiastic about city governments and charities working together. "I think it is going to raise the consciousness of textile recycling, which is a good thing for us," Baruchowitz said.

And if all goes as planned, New York may be just the beginning.

"If this is as effective as it can be, it will influence other locations," Lange said. "We will be leading by example."