

Mai Vang

From: Jason R. Syverson <syverson.j@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 2:16 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Subject: Summary Abatement Update Photos for 02/04/2025 Hearing for Jason Syverson
Attachments: BucketStorageTrio.jpg; DrivewayHoneyberries.jpg; Cherries.jpg; HoneyberriesSouthrow.jpg; Hazelnutsandhoneyberries.jpg

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The photos will be sent in two connected emails, 11 files total. This is part 1 of 2.

[I'm not sure if I'm supposed to send what I intend to say along with my photos, but I'm better at writing than public speaking, so I'm including my statement here if that's all right.]

I haven't done a good job of keeping the buckets and totes for my garden tidy, which I've improved. I was stacking gardening supplies in an unappealing way that made them appear like refuse rather than utility items*.

I can't remove or rearrange the buckets or totes along my fence line, within my backyard and along the driveway, because they are winter protection against rabbits for my perennial fruit and nut bushes, and they need to stay on from late fall until spring. Unfortunately, I didn't install them in time before the rabbits majorly damaged several plants, but the plants haven't suffered further harm since I placed the plastic barriers.

To increase the curb appeal of the bucket and tote planters, I've been collecting burlap since November so that I can give them a more decorative wrapping for upcoming seasons. (Burlap will not be put on the plastic containers that serve as rabbit and rodent barriers, since it would give mice and voles a texture to climb up and into the plant area.)

As is common in urban settings, my soil has varying levels of lead contamination. I haven't tested my entire yard, but I have submitted enough soil samples to the U of M to know that it's present throughout. This is less of an issue for fruits than it is for vegetables, since plants are more prone to uptaking lead into their leaves and roots, rather than into their fruits, so I have fruiting plants planted directly in the ground.

To err on the side of caution, I don't want to grow root vegetables, tubers, bulbs, or leafy greens--carrots, potatoes, onions, shallots, garlic, lettuce, etc.--directly in the ground, but I don't want to lose out on available garden space. Containers provide that solution. Containers also vastly ease the harvesting of potatoes without the risk of damaging them during digging.

The buckets also give me flexibility in being able to rearrange plants somewhat, and without risking utility lines that in-ground roots or digging could disturb (which is more a consideration for the front yard and the boulevard, rather than the driveway). I intend to grow plants in my driveway, front yard, and boulevard in planters, so that I can utilize the space without needing to dig it up.

Many of the buckets will contain soil in the off-season and can't be stacked high when they're full. They will still be visible in the cold months, since not all of them can get tucked away in the garage. Others will be used as barriers against rabbits.

* I was trying to gather enough mulch before winter, and planters before spring, and unloaded them in the driveway. Last year I stored my mulch in 55 gallon barrels, but I left some mulch out in cardboard too long this time and it froze solid in the box and stuck to it. I used the unseasonably warm temperatures recently to unseat the mulch. It was still frozen into a brick, but I was able to get it out of the box and break it up with a hammer so that it would fit into the storage barrel.

Going forward, I'll do a better job of keeping the mulch housed in the barrels when it's not on the garden beds, and keeping the planters more intentionally arranged, whether they're full or empty.



Left: Hazelnuts with winter rabbit protection.

Middle: Northern Honeyberry row (they were small and/or damaged enough that spare tree tubes fit most of them).

Right: A hazelnut with basal stems that were eaten before the buckets were put into place.





Protected
Honeyberries.
South Row



**Nanking Cherry
Bushes (vertical
row)**

Shown here are the
barriers against
rabbits. Each bush
lost approximately
1/3-1/2 its height
before the plastic
brolectors were put
in place.



Honeyberries in Driveway with Plastic Rabbit Barriers



Bucket Storage

Top left: Buckets stored on the NE side of the garage, in the backyard.

Top right: View from driveway, showing how the bucket storage looks from there. The fence on the left is the same as the fence next to the buckets in the top left photo.



Bottom left: Buckets stored on the NW side of the garage, in the backyard.



Above: These are some examples of mayo jar planters; they contain mini cherry tomatoes.

Right: My garden in early summer, 2024. The honeyberries and cherries are uncovered, and the buckets hold tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes.





The young cherry bed, plus the honeyberry on the end, before their growth spurt last summer. The winter protection is on from late fall to spring. Bird netting or row covers will be applied during the fruiting months once the plants regrow their fruiting branches.



**Concept Sketch for Burlap Bucket
Decoration**



Soil Report
88765.pdf



Some of the day's harvests
from the 2024 season.





A few examples of my bucket planters for peppers and tomatoes, and my container-grown potatoes