

Tall Timber Topics

A newsletter for
those interested in
Forestry, Woodland
Management and
Christmas Trees in
Northwest Oregon

Fall 2012

Greetings!

Though it's still sunny out as I write this, the forecast says that the fall rains will have finally arrived by the time this newsletter is in your hands. This year we saw the driest July, August and September three-month period on record, dating back over 100 years. Our native trees and shrubs are showing the effects of the dry weather. A lot of bigleaf maples started to turn color early this year. Many native broadleaf deciduous plants like maples respond to summer drought by shutting down for the year ahead of schedule.

Conifers that are growing on shallow or rocky soils may have gotten stressed out this summer. Look for tree tops or limbs that turn red all at once. Sometimes these symptoms won't show up until next year. The effect of the dry summer on seedlings that were planted last year remains to be seen. If you planted trees this past winter, it would be a good idea to monitor your plantings this winter to assess mortality.

With the transition in Forestry & Natural Resources Extension personnel effective this summer, this is the first newsletter that Yamhill County residents are receiving from me. Your comments and suggestions on this newsletter and our programs are always welcome. The best way to contact me is via email or the phone number below.



Water stress, perhaps in combination with other factors can cause top kill like this.

Amy Grotta

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Weeds to Hate: Armenian (a.k.a. Himalayan) Blackberry

By Jody Einerson, OSU Benton County Extension

Nothing beats a wild blackberry pie right out of the oven in my book, but this weed can take over everything in sight in our mild, moist climate, and do it in a hurry. Still widely known as Himalayan blackberry, the recently-renamed Armenian blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), is a non-native invasive that came from Europe as a cultivated crop in the 1880's, and has spread throughout the U.S. Left unchecked, this perennial shrub forms impenetrable thickets up to 10 feet tall, and completely smothers out other vegetation. The stems or canes are long and arching with strong ridges covered in large thorns. The leaves are compound with five clustered leaflets. Our native trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) in contrast, has finer stems and thorns, and three-part leaves. A member of the rose family, it produces white to pinkish flower cluster in early summer, followed by the namesake tasty black berries in late summer.

Armenian blackberry reproduces prolifically from seed dispersed by wildlife. It can also reproduce vegetatively spreading rapidly above ground by tip-rooting where the arching canes touch the soil. Blackberry thrives across a wide range of conditions taking advantage of open habitats such as pastures, fencerows, roadsides and harvested forest land. It tolerates some shade so can be an unpleasant presence in plantations, open forests and riparian areas.

Controlling blackberry is challenging. They can be suppressed by frequent mowing or cutting during the growing season. Killing the plants is harder. Hand pulling or digging can work in small areas or when plants are young, but you must get all the roots. Herbicides can be effective and are labeled for use in many situations.

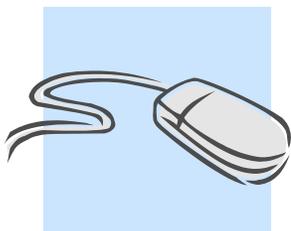
They are generally most effective in fall (September/October) when canes are actively moving sugars to the root system, and many non-target plants are dormant. Two things to remember are to only use chemicals in the manner described on the label, and that herbicide applications in forest lands are a forest practice that requires notification with the ODF.

Many foresters will tell you that the best control is the dense shade of a healthy conifer stand. The challenge is controlling them well enough to meet your goal.



Photo by Brad Withrow-Robinson

New Online Tree Guide



The Oregon Forest Resources Institute has developed an interactive tree identification website. It covers 27 tree species native to Oregon and offers filters for browsing, such as geographic region or tree type (conifer or deciduous). Each species listing includes a photo, and a description of the tree's distribution, life history, management and uses. I found this website attractive and easy to use and a great resource for learners. Find the tree guide at



<http://oregonforests.org/content/tree-variety>

Birds of a Feather - The Cedar Waxwing

By Sarah Karr, Polk County Master Woodland Manager



Who is that bird wobbling in the path ahead of you? If its back is silky brown, if it has bright yellow-tipped tail feathers, a black mask and a faint crest atop its head, and if it is late fall or even winter, you may have come upon an intoxicated cedar waxwing. Earlier in the year, in midsummer and into the fall, flocks of cedar waxwings move through the forest gorging on whatever fruit is available: strawberries, cherries, blackberries, cascara, madrone, serviceberry, among others. Later, and into early spring, they scout out fruit from hawthorn, dogwood, holly, and mistletoe, any fruit that has gone unnoticed until then – and likely fermented. Given that approximately 80% of the cedar waxwing's diet is made up of fruit, once the fruit in your forest starts fermenting, well, the cedar waxwings may get tipsy.



Photo by Deb Zaveson, OSU Yamhill County Extension

Many habitats in the Willamette Valley and adjacent foothills can support the nutritional needs of the cedar waxwing. This includes urban areas where fruit-bearing bushes and trees are becoming increasingly common. In our valley and foothill woodlands, they tend to not only eat but also reproduce in shrub and hardwood stands. You are most likely to see waxwings around forest edges, in open woodlands, and in areas where you have shrubs and smaller trees. If you want to encourage these and many other birds in your forest, you will want to encourage fruit-bearing trees and shrubs, ideally ones that produce across an extended season. The cedar waxwings will do what they can to help; they tend to swallow fruits whole without damaging the seeds, and are excellent seed dispersers.

In our forest, we seldom see just one cedar waxwing; we see flocks of them. They often announce their presence with high-pitched calls. A glance of beautiful crested birds with yellow tips on their tail feathers and buffy yellow bellies assures us that these are cedar waxwings. A very social bird with next-to-no territorial defensive behaviors, cedar waxwings move in flocks from one area of abundant food to another. They even tend to nest in small groups of a dozen or so birds. Some birds stay in the Pacific Northwest year-round, while others winter as far south as northern South America. In late spring to early summer, when fruit sources are scarce, the birds can be seen expertly fly-catching, or they may move into shrubs or small trees to eat bugs such as caterpillars, beetles, and scale insects.

Reading this on paper?

You can receive this newsletter (in full color and with working links) and other news by subscribing to our email list.

Just send an email to vicki.krenz@oregonstate.edu and request to be on the forestry email list. Please indicate which county you are in.

Experiments by Design

Reprinted from TreeTopics, <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>

One of the guiding principles of the Extension Service is to be a source of research-based information. Research-based? Meaning that the information we provide is not supposed to be based on rumor or anecdotes, but is supported by science.

University researchers are obviously an important source of our research-based information. Nonetheless I believe that “research” and “science” come in many forms and on many scales. Many woodland owners like to experiment on their own forests to come up with management techniques that work for them. I’ve found this especially to be the case when it comes to preventing deer and elk damage to western redcedar seedlings: from painting seedlings blue to scare tactics, I think I may have heard it all. Are these experiments “research”? Maybe – it depends on how they are set up and measured.

Recently a forest owner wrote to ask about one such browse deterrent method whereby a cedar and a spruce seedling are planted together (see photo). (The hypothesis: the animals are deterred by the sharp spruce needles; the spruce thereby protects the cedar; eventually, when the cedar has grown above browsing height, the spruce is carefully cut away.) The individual wanted some specific guidance on how to do this, and wanted to see a demonstration site. Although we know that people have tried this method, to our knowledge none of these plantings were carried out in a scientifically valid way. We can provide a hypothesis on how things might turn out, but to date we do not have research-based information to provide. Instead, we can only rely on anecdotal evidence.

I’m a strong advocate for woodland owners contributing to our collective knowledge of woodland management by trying out different techniques on their own properties. However, there are several important design factors to keep in mind if you want to call your experiments “research”:



Photo by Glenn Ahrens

- **Have a control.** Suppose you planted 100 cedar/spruce in the same hole, but did not plant any cedar without spruce. If the cedar do not get browsed, it is not possible to know whether the spruce had any effect. It might just be that the deer were not hungry that year. In a controlled experiment, you leave a portion of the area untreated, or without the variable whose effect you are trying to test.
- **Have a large enough sample size.** Suppose you only plant five spruce/cedar combinations, and of them, two cedars are browsed and three are unbrowsed. It is hard to draw a conclusion from five seedlings. Was the treatment 60% effective, or did the two browsed trees happen to be unluckily planted right along a deer trail? If you had planted 50 spruce/cedar combos, and only two were browsed, then it is easier to say that the technique is effective.
- **Replicate.** What works on a north slope in Columbia County may not be effective on a south slope in the Willamette Valley. By repeating the entire experiment in more than one year or on more than one site, you can draw conclusions that have more power. This is probably the hardest one for small woodland owners to pull off individually. However, collectively there are a lot of experimenters out there. What if we could compile the results from everyone’s scientifically valid experiments? Then we might have some real research-based information.

Upcoming Events



Securing Your Woodland Property - Tues. Oct. 23rd, 7:00 pm, North Plains Fire Station, 31370 NW Commercial St.

Sponsored by Washington County Small Woodlands Association. Speakers from the Washington County Sheriff’s Office will address threats such as arson, vandalism, theft, drug manufacture, trespass, and issues that may be of concern to you.

New Tools for Forest Management Planning - Wed. Oct. 24th, 7:00 pm, Yamhill County Extension Office

Sponsored by Yamhill County Small Woodlands Association. Amy Grotta, OSU Extension Forester will discuss new resources that are available for writing or updating forest management plans, including the “Uniform Plan” guidelines and the Oregon Forest Management Planning website.

Boardman Poplar Tour - Sawmill and Plantation - Thurs. Nov. 1st

Sponsored by Columbia County Small Woodlands Association. Tour the Greenwood Resources poplar plantations and sawmill in the Columbia Gorge. Bus tour departs Portland at 6:00 am and returns 6:30 pm. Cost is \$57. Space is limited. For more information contact KC VanNatta, kc@vannatta.com.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association Annual Banquet - Sat. Nov. 17th, 5:30 pm, Hillsboro

All are welcome. Speaker is U.S. House Representative Suzanne Bonamici, who represents all of Columbia, Washington and Yamhill Counties. Dinner is \$18/person. RSVP by Nov. 5th to Beth Adams, 503-341-4943.

Oregon Tree Farm System Annual Meeting and Workshop - Mon. Nov. 19th, 9 am - 2pm, World Forestry Center, Portland

Morning workshop (free) on Ties to the Land, succession planning for family forest owners. Luncheon (\$25) includes annual recognition program for state Tree Farmers of the Year. To register contact Anne Hanschu, netvetrdh@gmail.com or 503-357-2551.

Log Price Information

Below are domestic prices for delivered logs in Northwest Oregon as reported by the Oregon Department of Forestry for the past five quarters. All values are reported in \$/MBF and are averages of quotes from regional sawmills. Prices for other log sorts and time frames can be found online at:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/pages/state_forests/timber_sales/logpage.aspx

Species	Grade	2011 3rd Q	2012 1st Q	2012 2nd Q	2012 3rd Q
Douglas-fir	2S	530	530	540	530
	3S	490	500	520	490
Hemlock	2S	455	430	465	435
	3S	435	410	450	420
Cedar	2S	900	945	950	975
	3S	900	945	950	975
Red Alder	CR	585	550	560	540

Funds Available for Wildfire Protection

By Kevin Nelson, Oregon Department of Forestry Stewardship Forester

Oregon Department of Forestry currently has funds available through a grant assistance program to help landowners protect their homes from wildfire.

This fire season has shown us that even in the northwest portion of our state, conditions can be right for catastrophic wildfire. As fires become increasingly common in our area, and as fire fighting resources get stretched thin, it is up to the prepared and informed landowner to help protect their own homes and property. In recognition of the fact that not everyone has the time, energy, equipment, or knowledge to protect their own home from wildfire, ODF has secured a federal grant to help pay landowners for taking action on their own land! The grant funds projects like thinning out dense stands of trees, reducing flammable underbrush, limbing trees to prevent ladder fuels from developing, and many more fire-safe practices. The grant funds are available for all residents of Washington, Yamhill, and Tillamook Counties who live in the wildland –urban interface. The process starts with making an appointment for a Stewardship Forester to come out and do a complete home ignition assessment. If you are interested in participating in the program please contact the project coordinator, Nathan Agalzoff (Stewardship Forester ODF Forest Grove) at 503-359-7439.

Oregon Department of Revenue Timber Tax Information Circulars

The Oregon Department of Revenue has some recently updated timber tax information circulars. The first is a two-page “Harvesting Timber and Timber Taxes” brief guide. The second is a more comprehensive “2012 Understanding Oregon’s Timber Tax Programs and How to Complete Forms” (35 pages) with detailed instructions on filling out timber tax forms. To find these publications online go to:

<http://www.oregon.gov/dor/TIMBER/Pages/timbform.aspx>

Research Brief: Leaving Logging Debris on the Land

Logging slash (the tree tops and branches left behind after a timber harvest) gets in the way of planting new trees, so it is often piled and burned, or sometimes removed from the site for bioenergy. Researchers studied two sites in Oregon and Washington to determine whether leaving slash on the site had any effect on the soil and on the growth of new trees.

They found that keeping logging debris on the site improved soil fertility and tree growth, especially on the site that had poorer soils to begin with. The debris also shaded and cooled the soil which conserved water and released less carbon dioxide from the soil into the atmosphere. Leaving slash also reduced the establishment of Scotch Broom and other invasive weeds. One conclusion is that soil quality should be considered when making a decision about slash disposal.

For a more thorough description of this research, read this “[Science Findings](http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/sciencef/scifi145.pdf)” report from the U.S. Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/sciencef/scifi145.pdf>

Update from the Committee for Family Forestlands

By Brad Withrow-Robinson, OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension and Susan Watkins, Yamhill County Landowner, and Vice-Chair of the Committee for Family Forests

The Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) provides a family landowner's perspective to the Oregon Board of Forestry and the State Forester. The Committee's work is guided by landowner inputs such as the 2005 Family Forest symposium and by emerging events.

The CFF recently presented its Annual Report to the Board of Forestry summarizing its work in the past year and looking ahead to the 2012-2013 cycle. Among the issues that could affect family forestlands which the CFF will be addressing are:

- Water issues, including on-going ODF and DEQ efforts regarding the mid-coast TMDL and RipStream riparian protection standards processes.
- Critical infrastructure issues, especially on the eastside, including capacity of contractors and mills whose presence facilitates management of forestlands
- Family ownership of forestland
- Communicating about East side issues from the perspective of family forestlands and their owners.
- Fire Protection Funding

The full CFF report to the Board of Forestry is available on the Board of Forestry website <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/BOARD/CFF/cff.shtml>, which also provides links to past Committee work and an opportunity to send comments to the Committee. The Committee welcomes your thoughts.



A new dean at OSU College of Forestry

Dr. Thomas Maness has been named dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. Dr. Maness is professor of Forest Economics and Policy and has been Head of the Department of Forest Engineering, Resources and Management (FERM) at Oregon State University's College of Forestry since 2009. Maness began his new duties as dean on Aug. 1, succeeding Hal Salwasser.

Maness earned degrees in Forest Management and Forest Operations from West Virginia University and Virginia Tech after which he worked in the forest sector in the Klamath Falls region as a forest engineer developing forest-planning models, designing and installing advanced manufacturing optimization systems for west coast sawmills. In 1989 Thomas earned his doctorate in Forest Economics from the University of Washington and joined the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia. Since joining OSU, he has spearheaded the development of the College's new Professional School and Conservation Management Program.



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