



Tall Timber Topics



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

Spring 2011

Everyone I know has been complaining about the endless rain we have been enduring, so I will not bore you (or depress you) with more of that.

However, the wet weather has presented some not-business-as-usual situations this spring. For example, Christmas tree growers have had a hard time getting new trees in the ground as many fields are too wet for equipment. More on that situation and associated weed control issues can be found further in this newsletter.

A logger called our office the other day, after returning to a job site following several weeks of being shut down due to soggy conditions. Upon returning, they found that the ends of the decked logs had begun to ooze an orange, jellylike substance. What was it and how much of the log was affected? These logs were destined for export, where appearance is especially important. Would this cause a decrease in value at the export facility? Not a problem, says Steve Bowers, aka "Treeman". The orange gunk (a highly technical term) happens frequently but doesn't get noticed if the logs get hauled off right away. Call the mill if you are unsure what they will accept.

If your roads have taken a beating in the wet conditions, identify the trouble spots now. Wait until things dry out, then make any needed repairs such as additional waterbars. OSU has an excellent color publication titled "Managing Woodland Roads." Contact me if you would like a copy.

Lots of interesting events and tours are coming up in our area over the next few months. There will be many opportunities to connect with other landowners and learn from their experiences. I've listed as many details as I could collect on the next page.

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Upcoming Events

Scappoose Bay Watershed Council meeting

Tuesday, May 3rd, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Scappoose Bay Marina

Lonny Welter, a local resident, will be giving a presentation titled “Scappoose Bay Watershed, A Journey Through Time.”



Western Redcedar Management & Utilization Workshop

May 13th & 14th

Clackamas Community College, Oregon City

Co-sponsored by OSU Extension and Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association. Classroom presentation evening of May 13 and field tour to plantings and sawmill on May 14. For details, call (503) 655-8631.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association Annual Potluck

Tuesday, May 24th

Home of Bob and Bonnie Shumaker near Banks. For details, contact WCSWA, www.wcswa.org or the Shumakers, (503) 324-7825.

McCormick’s Piling and Pole Yard Tour

Friday, May 27th

Old Portland Rd., St. Helens

Columbia County Small Woodlands will be touring McCormick’s facility to learn about their specifications for poles and pilings, considerations for transport, and other manufacturing concerns. Sponsored by CCSWA. To RSVP, call Bill Stennick, (503) 556-2014.

Oregon Tree Farm System Inspector Training

Thursday, June 9th

North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora

For professional foresters who are interested in becoming a certified Oregon Tree Farm inspector. For details, contact Michael Atkinson, coyote8199@wildblue.net or Tristan Huff, Tristan.huff@oregonstate.edu.

OSU/Columbia County Small Woodlands Association Summer Tour and Picnic

Saturday, July 23rd

Keasey Family Tree Farm, Vernonia

Tour will feature the management history on this seventh-generation family forest, riparian forest management, and a small woodlot tool demonstration. More details to come.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association Tree Farmer of the Year Tour

Saturday, July 23rd

Howell Tree Farm, Gales Creek

For details, contact WCSWA, www.wcswa.org or (503) 284-6455.

Game of Logging: Introduction to Precision Tree Felling and Chainsaw Safety

Mon. – Tues., September 26th – 27th

Ridgefield, WA

Hands-on course for those who work in the woods with chainsaws. Sponsored by Northwest Natural Resources Group. Cost is \$325/\$250 for NNRG members. For details, contact kirk@nnrg.org.

New Publications and Resources

These publications are now available from OSU Extension & Experiment Station Communications. Download online at the links below, or order print copies by calling 800-561-6719.



Weed and Vegetation Management in Christmas Trees (PNW 625)

By Ed Peachey, Chal Landgren, and Tim Miller.

Covers identification of common weeds and integrated management strategies for Christmas tree plantations. 19 pages, \$10.50 or download free of charge at: <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/20490/pnw625.pdf>.

Best Management Practices for Maintaining Soil Productivity in the Douglas-fir Region (EM 9023)

Edited by Sam Angima and Thomas Terry.

Multiple chapters covering soil nutrients, erosion, soil surveys, and managing soil disturbance. A great resource to help decode soil survey interpretations and manage sites accordingly. 44 pages, available online only at <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/handle/1957/20678>.

Trees to Know in Oregon (revised) (EC 1450)

By Ed Jensen.

The classic field guide in an updated edition with over 70 new color photos. 156 pages, \$18.00. Order online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog> or by calling 800-561-6719.



Our blog is live!

As mentioned last issue, I have been experimenting the last few months with using a blog to communicate information in a timely and user-friendly format. I'm pleased to announce that our blog is now live. I received a number of interesting suggestions for names, but eventually settled on *TreeTopics* to keep it similar to the title of this newsletter. Visit TreeTopics at:

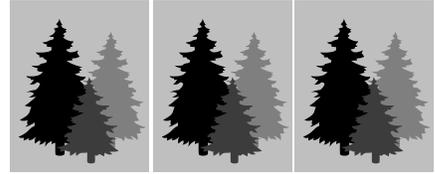
<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>

You don't have to visit the blog to see when something new is posted. Instead, you can subscribe by email. Simply visit the *TreeTopics* home page and find the "Subscribe by email" link on the right hand side. I'll be posting articles and events from this printed newsletter on the blog, so by subscribing you won't have to wait until *Tall Timber Topics* arrives in your mailbox to read them.

I hope you'll find this improved communication format useful and look forward to your comments.

Weed and Vegetation Control in Christmas Trees

By Chal Landgren, OSU Christmas Tree Specialist



Each year presents Christmas tree growers with new challenges. This year it is rain, then more rain followed by rain and cold.

Our current rainy weather pattern complicates vegetation control in at least four ways.

- First, tree planting is delayed since equipment can't get out on the field. Many pre- and post-emergent herbicides require that the trees be planted and the soil settled a bit prior to herbicide application. So, the window of application (before budbreak) is narrowed.
- Second, many herbicides are effective because they control germinating weed seeds in a narrow band of soil. With too much rain, some of the more water-soluble herbicides become diluted. Velpar is one herbicide that can suffer this fate.
- Third, some weeds emerge prior to your being able to get your equipment on the field. Different weeds have different emergence cues and timing. And once emerged, the herbicides that control only emerging weed seed will not work.
- The cool temperatures and rain are not likely to alter bud break timing all that much (my best guess). This narrows the window for "over the top" applications of herbicides requiring dormant trees and active weeds.

Given these complications, what are possible solutions? Below are a few options.

- One option is to use more directed spays after bud break. For example, last year provided a similar challenge. A trial using a directed (keep off the foliage) Velpar application in late May (plus a Round-up application in mid April) provided a 25% better weed control than a Round-up + Velpar application in mid April. Of course, this required two trips through the same field, and some rain after the Velpar was applied.
- If using a preemergent herbicide under rainy conditions, use the product that is the least soluble. For example SureGuard has lower water solubility than Velpar or Simazine.
- Plan on mowing more later, or living with a few more weeds this year.

Two new weed control publications should also help you in making your weed control decisions.

The first is the PNW Weed Management Handbook for 2010, new and revised each year.

<http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/horticultural/christmas-trees>

The second is a new publication, PNW 625 - Weed and Vegetation Management in Christmas Trees, hot off the press in March 2011.

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/20490/pnw625.pdf>

And as always, read the product label for the official word on product use and cautions.

New trend maps about Oregon forests available on the Web

Source: Oregon Department of Forestry

New map data presentations released this month by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) tell the story of how the state's forest economics, conservation laws, insect or disease damage and wildfire impacts on forests have shaped Oregon during the past few decades.

Seven presentations have been added to the on-line Oregon Forest Atlas [2010 Edition] on the Oregon Department of Forestry web site. The new presentations include:

- Declines in the Number of Oregon Forest Product Mills, 1980-2010
- Forest History: Oregon's North Pacific Coast, 1850-1940
- Major Insect and Disease Outbreaks on Oregon Forestland, 1986-2009
- Oregon Coast Range Forestlands: Swiss Needlecast Detection, 1996-2010
- Oregon Congressionally Withdrawn Forestlands, 1960-2010
- Oregon Forestland: Severity of Large Wildfires, 1984-2008
- Sudden Oak Death Impacts on Oregon's South Coast Forests, 2001-2009

The Oregon Forest Atlas [2010 Edition] project was released last year by ODF as a way to visualize current conditions in Oregon's forests statewide. With this new release, the atlas now shows how some key forest trends have shaped the past and future of a state where one-half of the land is forest: 30.5 million acres, making Oregon the second-most forested state by acreage in the country (behind Alaska).

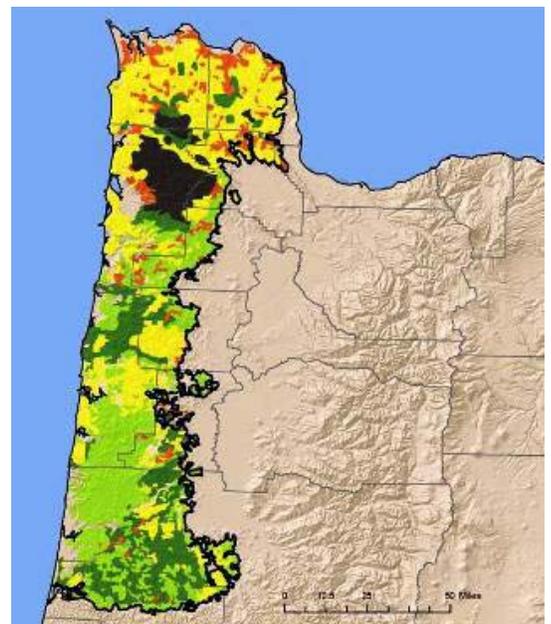
The map presentations form an ideal education tool, either for personal interest and awareness about Oregon forests or for more in depth studies such as school science projects, community presentations, supporting information for conservation projects in local communities or technical data for public discussions about managing forest ecosystems and habitats.

The Oregon Forest Atlas [2010 Edition] can be found at:

www.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE_PLANNING/forestatlas.shtml

Maps developed for the Oregon Forest Atlas [2010 Edition] use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data obtained from several sources, including the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station, Oregon State University and the Oregon Department of Forestry. The Forest Atlas was created by ODF as a public education product of the Statewide Forest Assessment and Resource Strategy, which was commissioned to identify Oregon's current forest resources, develop a strategy for managing forests that are identified as priority areas in the state, and report on the effectiveness of how federal resources were used.

Data contained within the Oregon Forest Atlas maps do come with limitations, including some data models relying on site information at least one year old and even in instances where satellite imagery is used, maps do not necessarily reflect conditions at a fine-detail level. Forest Atlas maps are not intended for legal, engineering or surveying purposes.



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://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE FORESTS/TIMBER SALES/logpage.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/TIMBER_SALES/logpage.shtml)

Species	Grade	2010 1 st Q	2010 2 nd Q	2010 3 rd Q	2010 4 th Q	2011 1 st Q
Douglas-fir	2S	455	490	415	490	545
	3S	440	465	380	445	510
Hemlock	2S	375	435	350	410	455
	3S	365	375	330	380	430
Cedar	2S	820	900	850	960	950
	3S	820	900	850	960	950
Red Alder	CR	520	530	510	540	545



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