A Few Words from Your Extension Forester

Welcome Treeman!

Lane County’s misfortune is our good fortune! Due to funding limitations, Lane County’s Extension Forestry program has taken a hiatus and during this time Steve Bowers, aka the Treeman, will be joining our team in Douglas County. You may note his unique and entertaining style creeping into our newsletter. He and Raini are hard at work organizing educational programs for this fall and spring. And, the whole gang of us forestry types will be in the DTO tent at fair again this year – so come say “Hi” and bring your forestry questions to the Tree Doctor booth.

Welcome to Douglas County Treeman, we’re happy to have you on board!

Extension’s here to help you. Give us a call!

John Punches

Firewood—What are Your Choices?

Firewood, you say? That’s in the affirmative if you want to ensure your wood is seasoned AND dry for the 2009/10 cold/wet season. Another reason for buying your wood this spring/summer involves economics: it will be cheaper during the dry/warm months than when many realize they need wood and they’re already into the “burn season.” So get your wood ASAP to ensure a nice fire this coming winter.

And remember, a full cord of wood measures 4’ x 4’ x 8’ equaling 128 cubic feet of stacked wood. If the wood is unstacked, you’ll need to add approximately 50% volume to the 128 figure, or about 200 cubic feet for a full cord. If buying your wood, most is cut in 16” lengths, the length required to measure the full cord using the standard 4x4x8 measurement. Accordingly, any wood shorter or longer requires one to adjust the length x width x height measurement to achieve the 128 cubic foot volume.

The most often asked question we come across relates to species selection. In the simplest terms: if you can cut it and split it, you can burn it. We’re not talking desirability here, we’re just saying you can burn any tree found under the sun. But not many of us will try burning cottonwood (very fast), or elm (the worst of the worst in my humble opinion), or maybe even cedar (fast and hot, but super clean) … We’ve tried them all … so let’s take a look at the species commonly found for sale in the local papers and in the grocery store parking lot.

The following chart displays many of our native species in addition to some of the common
horticultural species located in the area. The rating category is quite subjective and highly variable: is redcedar really “good” or larch “fair?” We will concur on oak, madrone and locust being the best-of-the-best. And personally, we feel elm is the worst-of-the-worst. But it’s your wood and your money, so best of luck and may the btu’s be with you.

| Type of Wood       | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Sparks | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Sparks | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Sparks | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Sparks | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Sparks | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Sparks | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Sparks | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Sparks | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Sparks | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Sparks | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Sparks | Heavy Smoke | Sparks | Heat Output | Easy to Burn | Easy to Split | Sparks |HeavySmoke |Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoBurn|EasytoSplit|Sparks|HeavySmoke|Sparks|HeatOutput|EasytoB
Finding and Selecting A Logger

You cannot overemphasize the importance of the careful and systematic selection of a logging operator. Woodland owners may have properly matched their timber stand to the requirements of the log buyer, but if the logger does not properly implement the logging and bucking functions and deliver the logs in a timely manner, one may render useless all of the previous research. *Extension Circular 1356: Timber Harvesting Options for Woodland Owners* provides valuable information on selection of a logger and logging systems.

It is highly recommended to determine market strength, then determine whether to proceed with the operation. However, if an operation is imminent, you can effectively manage the simultaneous selection of a logger and log buyer. There may even be some advantages to this process. If the buyer has the opportunity to see how the logs are being processed, prices will be adjusted accordingly.

Invite at least three prospective loggers to individually tour your property. Explain to the operator details of what you want to accomplish and be sure to convey the information uniformly so that each logger is operating under the same assumptions. After the site visit, request each person to submit a bid. If they desire, the bid can be obtained at that time or the landowner can request a big by phone or mail, depending on time constraints. It is important to remember good loggers are like any other occupation: the good ones are nearly always busy, so plan ahead.

During the site visit, designated skid trails and landing sites should be discussed with the logging operators. Woodland owners may have a pre-conceived idea of where to locate these areas, but keep in mind loggers do this for a living, understanding their own equipment and operators. It is entirely possible that existing roads may not be suitable for log trucks and require improvements. Experienced logging operators understand the requirements of moving heavy equipment and the landowner should give strong consideration to these recommendations. A valuable source of information on road access, maintenance and repair is *Managing Woodland Roads: A Field Handbook* and is available at local Extension offices.

When evaluating bids, remember the vast majority of loggers are paid on a percentage or $/MBF basis. A $/MBF basis should be considered because this gives the landowner a concrete number to calculate expenses and is not correlated to market conditions. The logger may state they work only on a percentage basis. If you feel strongly about hiring this operator, they may be able to reach an agreement on the method and amount of the bid, but do not be intimidated into accepting an offer on terms that make you uncomfortable. Owners can likely avoid this issue by a strong pool of candidates for the job.

Some questions to ask potential operators might include:

- Is the operator certified
- What are the preferred terms of payment (percentage, per unit basis, hourly)
- What parts of the logging process will be conducted by the operator under contract
- What parts of the operation, if any, will be conducted by sub-contractors
- What types of control are used to manage subcontractors (are they under contract)
- Does the operator use a standard written contract
- Does the operator have proof of insurance (liability and property)
- Is the equipment well matched to the conditions and requirements of the site
Selecting a logger. . . continued from page 3

**Extension Circular 1192: Contracts for Woodland Owners and Christmas Tree Growers** contains additional information on written agreements, complete with samples of timber sale contracts. However, there are some extremely important points of information that need to be emphasized and included in all timber sale contracts. These important topics include:

- Starting and ending dates (**this cannot be overemphasized**)!
- Liability and property damage insurance
- Strictly defined timber boundaries
- Amount and method of payment
- All easements and fees (if applicable)
- Termination conditions (is there anything that absolutely will not be tolerated)

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**More Local Seedling Sources**

In the last issue of the Woodlander, you were introduced to IFA Nurseries, Inc. Read on to learn more about several other area nurseries.

**Sylvan Options by Jim Carlson**

Sylvan Options has been providing growing stock to private and public woodland owners, ranchers, farmers and homeowners since 1994. Owner Jim Carlson has 30 years experience as a propagator and grower. All production is grown as container stock, primarily in 10 cubic inch Leach supercell trays.

Sylvan Options is located near Dillard, approximately ten miles south of Roseburg. Even with fuel well above $4 per gallon, cost of getting here from the Roseburg area is still quite reasonable. Facilities include two 30 by 96 foot greenhouses and 34 outdoor growing benches. Maximum production capacity is approximately 200,000 seedlings annually. Our modest size allows us to easily accommodate smaller orders – we have no minimums. Custom grow jobs are always welcome if they’re within our means and matched to the facilities.

At present, the primary production focus of Sylvan Options is conifer seedlings from Southwest Oregon seed zones, adapted to and cultured for most growing conditions within Douglas County proper. Native species grown typically include Douglas-fir, grand fir, ponderosa pine, Jeffrey pine, incense cedar, and western redcedar. Limited quantities of native hardwoods may also be available, depending on seed availability and demand.

In addition to local zone natives, Sylvan Options also produces seedlings of several exotic species. Included at present are fast growing Eucalyptus and three species of redwood. Eucalyptus is native to Australia and Tasmania. Coast redwood and Giant Sequoia are California natives, while Dawn redwood is native to China. All exotics show generally good adaptability to Douglas County climate, and can grow very rapidly if planted in proper site conditions.

Sylvan Options also specializes in production of Leyland cypress, a hybrid cross between Alaska yellow cedar and Monterey cypress. Leyland cypress is known for fast growth and has shown strong adaptability to a wide range of site conditions from hot to cool, wet to dry. To date, primary uses of Leyland cypress have included visual screens, windbreaks, and roadside noise and dust barriers. There is also potential for timber production if proper cultural practices are followed. Leyland cypress is sterile and must be produced from rooted cuttings, using our in-house heated propagating beds.

Visitors are always welcome, though it’s best to call ahead to make sure Jim can be there to meet you. Nursery phone is 541-679-3161, email address is sylvan@rosenet.net.

**Kintigh's Mountain Home Ranch by Dan Kintigh**

Kintigh's Mountain Home Ranch has operated a seedling nursery since 1957.

We are family owned and operated. We have the experience and the technology to produce the highest quality seedlings. Our staff is eager to serve you even if you are a small operator. We grow premium plug+1 transplants and easy to plant container seed-
Kintigh’s . . . Continued from page 4

Kintigh's has made an investment by buying into the BLM seed orchard so that we can have a supply of genetically improved seed to grow seedlings for Douglas county.

Good genetics and our quality seedlings will help our customers to be successful in the long and short term.

Our stock types are fall planted plug+1 transplants which offer the most root development and better caliper than any other bare root product. Our unique transplant method gives us a very uniform tree with large caliper and straight stems.

We also offer plug seedlings in two sizes for outplanting; super cells and styro-10s. The advantage of planting plugs over bare root is that their roots are not trimmed when packaged. They begin growing in the soil as soon as they are planted, increasing the survival rate and first year's growth. They are also very easy to plant and can be kept out of refrigeration for a short period of time while planting if necessary. Plugs are an advantage on harsh sites.

Kintigh's offer incense cedar and ponderosa pine in addition to genetically improved Douglas-fir for Douglas county.

Our container nursery is located near Springfield, and our transplant nursery is located near Cottage Grove.

Do you have bugs in your trees? How do you know? We will focus on specific groups of insects in upcoming issues of the Woodlander. Stay tuned!

First, you need to be sure the damage is actually caused by insects. Fungi, fire, physiological injuries, and insects all look similar and it can be a chore to determine the primary cause of the damage. Groups of dead or dying trees of similar size and species can be indicative of bark beetles. Trees infested with bark beetles usually die within a relatively short amount of time. Defoliating insects will slow or halt tree growth and can cause topkill, tree mortality, in addition to predisposing trees to bark beetles or root diseases.

Insects and fire are interrelated. Trees killed by insects or diseases increase fire hazard. Similarly, fire damaged trees are breeding grounds for some insects. Drought, disease, fire, windthrow, and slash can all be associated with insect activity.

The good news is that not all insects affect all trees. Some insects are pretty particular about the species, age, and part of the tree that they infest.
To help identify insects, there is some information that you should collect.

- What species of tree?
- What’s the relative age of the tree (seedling, sapling, mature, etc.)?
- What part of the tree is affected (foliage, twigs, stem, etc.)?

Once you have this information, you are ready to hit the books and try to identify the insect damage. If you don’t want to do this yourself, bring the information you collected as well as samples and/or photos of the damage to your Extension agent, or other professional, and they’ll give you a hand. You can also reach your Extension agents by phone or email if you’d rather do that.

### 58 Isn’t Old if You are a Tree. . .

“Trees to Know in Oregon” is now 58 years old. This book has become the most requested publication from OSU Extension Service. The latest edition is in full color and includes pictures of native Oregon tree species, their foliage, fruits and other identifying features. Species descriptions include information on where they grow, what role they play in the environment, and how we use them. Unlike a number of other identification manuals, this book’s identification keys are concise and easy to follow. All major native conifer and hardwood species are represented, as well as several common introduced species. This guide is a great resource for any woodland owner/manager, school teacher, 4-H leader, or anyone new to this area. Available at your Extension Office for $12.00.

While we’re on the subject of tree identification – do you know what kind of trees you have on your property? Are they native or ornamental?

The first step in identifying your trees is to determine if they are conifers or hardwoods. If the tree has leaves, not needles or scales, and looses its leaves in the fall, then it is probably a hardwood tree. There are some hardwood trees, like madrone, that are evergreen. Not native to Douglas County, western larch, dawn redwood, and bald cypress are examples of conifers that drop their needles in the fall. Conifer trees have needles and most of you know what pine needles are. Pine trees are coniferous, but not all conifer needles are pine needles, nor are all cones pine cones. Though in many craft stores, all cones are lumped into the “pine cone” category. Cedars, junipers and giant sequoia are conifers with scales, not needles.

A dichotomous key navigates you through a series of steps toward identification. The key will give choices about leaf or needle shape, branching patterns, bark, and fruits or cones. Through a process of elimination you should be able to properly identify what you’re looking at.

Once you start knowing tree species, you’ll start recognizing patterns in which trees grow together. Each species has its own environmental requirements. Plant associations, or habitat types, are determined by a number of factors, including temperature, elevation, moisture, soils, and aspect. Douglas-fir grows best on north-facing slopes, but it will not grow well where it is either too dry or too wet. Ponderosa pine tends to occupy the sites that Douglas-fir does not. It can grow both where it is dry and where it is wet; however, it needs full sun and does well on south slopes. You will also find incense cedar, madrone, and sometimes sugar pine growing with ponderosa pine on drier sites. Grand fir grows well in the shade where it is cool and moist.

Why don’t you grab a book and take a walk around the forest to see how many different tree species you can identify. If that’s too easy, then move on
Upcoming Extension Forestry Classes in Douglas County

Place: See class descriptions for location information
Cost: FREE! (Thanks to a Title III forestry education grant)
Registration: Advance registration required. Call the Douglas County OSU Extension Office at 541-672-4461 or e-mail mary.hoffman@oregonstate.edu at least 2 days in advance of each class you would like to attend.

If you are a person with a disability and require special accommodations, please contact us at least two weeks in advance.

Connecting the Stream to the Land
September 27  9:00AM to 3:00PM
Place: North Bank Habitat Management Area, Approximately 7 miles east of Wilbur
What is that stream doing on your land & what can you do with it? Join us at North Bank Habitat Management Area for a full day of discussions about stream management by local natural resource specialist. If you own trees, livestock, or both, you don't want to miss this opportunity. This class will be outdoors, so please dress accordingly.

Basic Forestry Short Course Series:
(UCC, Room TC120)

Introduction to Woodland Management
August 13 (Wed), 6:00 – 9:00pm
A discussion of small woodland management concerns, where to go for assistance, and how to organize your management activities to be successful.

Designing a Forest Management Plan
August 20 (Wed), 6:00 – 9:00pm
What are your objectives for your woodland? Put them on paper! Learn the principles behind writing a management plan for your land and let us equip you with templates and references.

Forest Watersheds & Wildlife
September 10 (Wed), 6:00 – 9:00pm
Have you thought about fish & wildlife on your woodland? Learn about forests from a landscape perspective & the fish & wildlife that utilize them.

Forest Measurements & Mapping
September 24 (Wed), 6:00 – 9:00pm
An introduction to the measuring systems, maps, and land survey concepts used in forestry.

Forest Inventory (Field class)
October 4 (Sat), 12:00 – 4:00pm
Head to the woods to install plots, measure trees, and gather inventory data so you can make well-informed management decisions.

Tree Biology and Ecology
Umpqua Community College, Indian Room
October 15 (Wed)
9:00am to 4:00pm
Learn about native trees and what makes one forest different from another.

Silviculture
October 29, (Wed), 6:00 – 9:00pm
Forest management principles, including thinning, pruning, and regeneration.

Ecology and Silviculture Tour
(Field class)
November 1 (Sat)
9:00am to 4:00pm
Go to the field to examine forest ecology and look at silvicultural practices.

Forest Health
November 12 (Wed), 6:00 – 9:00pm
An introduction to conditions and organisms that cause disease in trees and the natural role of disease organisms in forest ecosystems.

Timber Harvesting & Marketing Options
November 26 (Wed), 6:00 – 9:00pm
Learn about timber harvesting techniques, including uses and limitations of equipment, and how to successfully market your timber products.

Reforestation & Vegetation Management
January 7 (Wed), 6:00 – 9:00pm
Methods of establishing young trees and how to help them compete against other vegetation.
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