



# UMPQUA VALLEY Hort News

Horticultural Newsletter for The Umpqua Valley

July & August 2009

**Oregon State**  
UNIVERSITY

Extension  
Service  
Douglas County

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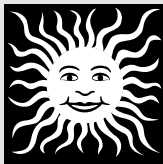
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Layout, Design,  
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Mary Hoffmann

Agriculture, 4-H Youth,  
Family & Community  
Development, Forestry, and  
Extension Sea Grant  
Programs. Oregon State  
University, United States  
Department of Agriculture,  
and Douglas county  
cooperating. The Extension  
Service offers its programs  
and materials equally to all  
people.

Please note: The contents of this newsletter are provided for educational purposes, and are not intended to be taken as strict recommendations for treatment of any orchard pest or condition. ALWAYS READ THE MATERIAL LABEL PRIOR TO APPLICATION.

2009

Calendar of Coming Events

2009

July 15

**Blueberry field day at the North Willamette Experiment Station.** Join Dr. Strik and Dr. Finn for their annual field day review of research discoveries going on in Oregon. Topics covered this year will include weed control and fertility programs in organic blueberry production, nutrient and root development relationship, soil components under blueberry cultivation, and making compost for blueberries. Other topics will be grafting blueberries for mechanical harvest, irrigation plot results, and a trip through the varietal plots. Activities go from 12:30pm-4:30pm.

July 18

**Open house and field day at Lewis-Brown Farm near Corvallis.** Get a tour of the farm and the research projects underway. Current work includes a review of the 600 blueberry cultivars, growing cherries under plastic tunnels, exciting new vegetable variety releases, irrigation research on water use reduction in fruit crops. 10am-1pm. No charge for this visit. ( [http://hort.oregonstate.edu/about\\_us/facilities/lewis-brown\\_farm](http://hort.oregonstate.edu/about_us/facilities/lewis-brown_farm) )

August 20-22

**FarWest Show.** Come to Portland for the best nursery show in the country. The nursery gathering always includes a great industry show and outstanding seminars. The seminars will include up to 7 ODA recertification credits. Contact info [www.farwestshow.com](http://www.farwestshow.com) or call the OAN at 503-682-5089

## Updated Publications for Berry Growers

Dr. Bernadine Strik and Dr. Chad Finn have updated their publications on berry cultivars that are very helpful if you are trying to choose varieties to suit your planting conditions.

EC 1308-E Blueberry Cultivars for Oregon

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1308-e.pdf>

EC 1310-E Raspberry Cultivars for Oregon

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1310-e.pdf>

Free download; go to: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/>

Then on right, "Publications & Multimedia Catalog". If you have trouble and need help with the webpage, call Mary Hoffmann at 672-4461.

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## Pesticide Use Reporting System Suspended

July 8, 2009... As directed by the State Legislature, the Oregon Department of Agriculture has suspended its Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS) until January 2013 at the earliest. Those required to report their pesticide use online will no longer need to file reports until further notice. The electronic reporting system will no longer allow reports to be filed. State budget constraints forced PURS to be suspended for the current biennium and beyond.

The requirement to report annual pesticide use applied to anyone using a registered pesticide or pest control product in the course of business, or for a government entity, or in a public place. PURS began collecting reports in January 2007. Even though some users had filed reports for 2009 pesticide use, there is no longer a requirement to continue reporting at this time. Those who had yet to report 2009 use will not need to and will not face any enforcement action for failing to report. Reports previously filed into PURS are not available to the pesticide users who filed those reports.

Requirements under federal and state laws to keep records of pesticide use are independent of PURS. Those record keeping requirements are still in place even while PURS is not available.

The 2009 Oregon Legislature adopted several amendments to PURS that suspends the requirement to report pesticide use information into PURS beginning July 1, 2009 and also suspends any enforcement action that could take place for failure to report. Other amendments that will result in changes to PURS are not expected to be in place until January 2013.

Meanwhile, ODA has released the 2008 Pesticide Use Reporting System annual report, summarizing the data collected last year. That report is available online at [oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/purs\\_index.shtml](http://oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/purs_index.shtml)

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## Scotch Broom is Beautiful, .....but Noxious

Although admired for its yellow blooms, the Scotch broom shrub has become an invasive species throughout the Pacific Northwest, where it competes with native plants and forms dense stands that are difficult to manage and remove.

Scotch broom was introduced from Europe as a garden ornamental by early settlers of the Pacific Coast. Later it was used to prevent erosion and stabilize banks and sand dunes. The woody shrub establishes quickly in disturbed areas, according to Andy Hulting, a weed specialist for the Oregon State University Extension Service.

"Its invasive habit and economic costs have landed Scotch broom on the State Weed Board's

list of noxious weeds, along with its relatives French, Portuguese and Spanish brooms and gorse," Hulting said. Scotch broom costs Oregonians an estimated \$40 million per year in lost timber revenue and control efforts.

What can you do to control this noxious weed? Prevention is the best method, especially in areas where the ground and other plants have been disturbed by overgrazing or development, Hulting said. Care should be taken not to transport soil that is contaminated with Scotch broom seeds.

"Quickly re-vegetate disturbed sites with fast-growing, competitive native plants to limit Scotch broom spread," he said. "Native trees (such as Douglas-fir or red alder), shrubs (such as woods rose, currants and snowberry) and native grass mixes can help prevent and slow Scotch broom infestations."

Scotch Broom... Continued on page 3

Scotch Broom... Continued from page 2

OSU Extension recommends that you learn to identify Scotch broom and the other non-native broom species in the Pacific Northwest that have the potential to become weedy. The publication, [Scotch Broom \(PNW 103\)](#), which has color photos, identification information and control measures, is available online.

If you find Scotch broom on your property, Hulting recommends:

- Dig it up, including the crown.
- Cut it back to the ground each year before it sets seed.
- Keep an eye out for seedlings each spring and pull them up, roots and all, while they are small.

Since Scotch broom seed lasts for years in the soil, vigilance is necessary to prevent reinvasion by new seedlings.

Several broad-spectrum herbicides, including glyphosate and imazapyr, can be effective in controlling Scotch broom infestations. Avoid spraying when plants are blooming; the flowers can prevent thorough coverage to plant tissues.

"Be careful when using herbicides to minimize drift and injury to non-targeted plants," Hulting warned. If you are unsure about the use of herbicides, contact your county Extension educator.

Remember to wear protective clothing, read the label and follow instructions, and be cautious. You can be liable for injury or damage from herbicide use.

Scientists continue to investigate biological control possibilities for Scotch broom and other noxious weeds. The Oregon Department of Agriculture has released a species of seed weevil whose larvae feed on the developing Scotch broom seedpods. They can destroy up to about 80 percent of the broom seed inside the pods.

You can pop open a mature, brown Scotch broom seedpod to see if seed weevils are working. Look for tiny white larvae. Do not spray plants with seed weevils.

By: [Judy Scott](#)  
Source: Andy Hulting

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## Using Compost or Mulch in Your Orchard

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If you have a local supply of compost or mulch that is economical to buy, haul, and spread you may decide to use it for a fertilization program in your orchard. However, before you make that investment in time, and possibly equipment to haul and spread it, make sure you understand a few things about the fertilizer value and how the product will break down in your soils.

Most compost does not have a significant nitrogen component. You will need another source of N in your orchard because most trees require some nitrogen to make new growth. That source of N can come from legume cover crops, manures, or commercial fertilizer.

If what you are after is a product that will supply carbon to your soil to maintain the organic matter content and humus, compost and mulches will fit your needs. Compost and mulches also provide a food source for the microbial life in your soil which can be very beneficial to maintaining good plant health.

When deciding what types of mulch or compost to use, ask yourself a few questions. What is the purpose of my mulch application? If you are trying to control weeds, use a product that won't break down quickly. Put a pretty substantial layer over the soil, two to three inches to be effective. If you want to supply carbon to the soil and are thinking about the

health of your crop, use any organic material that will not interfere with your operation. If you want the product to break down quickly then use a good composted material. If you are producing a nut crop you may be able to make a light application of mulch like material but it needs to be out of the way for your nut harvest. So compost will probably be a better choice for your orchard.

If you are producing tree fruit like apples, pears, asian pears, plums, or prunes you can use just about any type of mulch with good results. I have been experimenting with the recycled mulch material at the Douglas County landfill. This material is from recycled yard waste with some lumber products mixed in. The material is partially composted so it breaks down a little faster than wood chips. My work shows that this material when applied as a 3 inch layer in a strip 3 feet wide on each side of the tree row lasts 3-4 months on the soil surface. The material added about 1% to the soil organic matter content during the year used. The material did not bring in weed seeds and inhibited weed growth for about two months. Tree growth was enhanced in the mulched areas versus the no mulch areas. Soil organic matter content in the no mulch areas fell each year versus the mulched areas.

Since this mulch material has a high wood content it is much better for use on trees. Other research done at OSU has shown that grass based or herbaceous plant based composts are best used on vegetable crop soils because they are more bacteria driven, while wood based composts or mulches are best used on trees because they are more fungus driven.

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<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/>

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