

Oregon State University Extension Service

The Prompter/Rancher Review

A Baker, Wallowa and Union County Farm and Ranch Newsletter

MARCH 2005



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Extension Service

- March 30 Crops and Conservation Tour Committee Meeting.
3 PM– 5 PM, Ag Service Center Conf. Room.
- April 4 Union Co. Cherry Fruit Fly Committee Meeting.
4 PM-6 PM, Ag Service Center Conf. Room.
- April 8 Union Co Crops Sign-Up Session. 8 AM—5 PM
Union Co. Extension Office. See Anita.
- April 11 –15 Union Co Crops Sign-Up Session. 8 AM—5 PM
Union Co. Extension Office. See Anita.
- April 15 Deadline for Union Co. Crops Sign-Ups for grass, fall
grain, mint greenhouse inspections, legumes &
sugar beets.
- April 22 Small Business & Ag Hazardous Waste Collection.
La Grande. DEQ Solid Waste Program 541-278-4612
- April 23 Household Hazardous Waste Collection.
DEQ Solid Waste Program 541-278-4612, or
Website: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/hw/hw.htm>.
- May 2 & 3 IPM Workshop (Grasshoppers, Cereal Pests, etc.)
Blue Mt Community College-Pendleton.
(See article inside.)
- May 16-20 Columbia Basin Soil Quality Tours
with Dr. Jill Clapperton. (Details inside.)

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WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Invitation to IPM Workshop



The US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon State University Extension Service cordially invite you to an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshop to be held on May 2 and 3 at the Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, OR.

IPM Workshop: with particular reference to grasshoppers

Place: OSU Extension Service Conference Center at Blue Mounting Community College in Pendleton, OR

Date: May 2 & 3, 2005

Time: May 2, 10 AM – 6 PM
May 3, 8 AM – 5 PM

Who can participate:

The workshop is open to growers, Extension Agents, public and private land managers and students.

Some of the topics of the workshop are:

- IPM of Grasshoppers
- Grazing Management
- IPM of Grass and Cereal Pests
- Invasive Species and Their Impact

Speakers:

- ▶ Alexandre Latchininsky (University of Wyoming)
- ▶ Scott Schell (University of Wyoming)
- ▶ Paul Jepson (OSU, Corvallis)
- ▶ Glenn Fisher (OSU, Corvallis)
- ▶ Gary Brown (USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Portland)
- ▶ Kathleen Johnson (ODA, Salem)

The workshop is free of charge but limited in numbers of participants. To assure sufficient material is available, please confirm your participation by April 15th to Helmuth Rogg, ODA, Tel. 541-963-4608 or email hrogg@oda.state.or.us

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS, Con't.

Two Hazardous Waste Collection Events in April

OR-DEQ announces two separate hazardous waste collection events to be held in La Grande on April 22 and April 23. The first event will be held only on April 22 for Small Business and Agricultural hazardous waste only. The second event will be held only on April 23 for Household hazardous waste only.



Event #1 – Small Business and Agriculture Hazardous Waste Collection on April 22.

This event is only for businesses and other organizations that generate small amounts of hazardous waste (CEGs producing less than 220 lbs/month) and agricultural operations that have waste pesticides. CEG participants will be charged between 85 cents to \$3.10 per pound of solid materials and \$2.50 to \$6 per gallon for liquid materials. Agriculture operations and other organizations can dispose of waste pesticides including banned, outdated, and unusable pesticides. Disposal of most types of waste pesticides is \$1.45 per pound, however, some materials such as pentachlorophenol, 2,4-D, mercury-based, and other materials will cost more. **Pre-registration with MSE Environmental**, contractor for this event, is required. Call MSE Environmental Services at 1-206-767-7990 for applications.

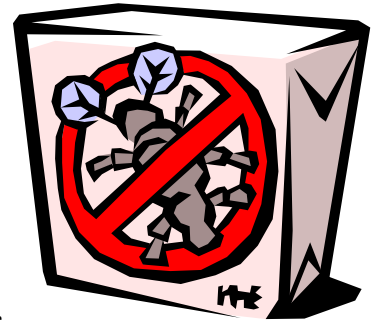
Event #2 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection on April 23.

This event is **only** for household hazardous waste. Any business or agricultural hazardous waste will **not be** accepted at the household hazardous waste collection event.

For more detailed information about either Event #1 or Event #2, please contact one of the following:

Scott Fairley, DEQ Solid Waste Program – Pendleton, at 541-278-4612
Liz Hill, La Grande Environmental Regulatory Superintendent, at 962-1325

For more information about DEQ's Hazardous Waste Program and Management, please visit DEQ's web site at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/hw/hw.htm>.



NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION



Isolation Required for Canola and Other Open Pollinated Crops Grown for Seed!

Several types of open-pollinated crops, e.g. canola, are grown for seed in Union, Baker, and Wallowa Co. from year-to-year. Such specialty seed crops require adequate isolation distances from similar crops. Growers of such crops are encouraged to visit your local extension office and pin the location of your specialty seed production fields on the county isolation map. It is recommended that growers pin field locations prior to planting to help maintain isolation requirements and prevent cross-pollination.

The Gentleman's Agreement-based system is designed to help growers avoid conflicts with isolation requirement needs when selecting field locations. A new map and new forms are available at the Union Co. Extension office. Please note that field locations must be pinned by the grower or fieldman.

Union Co. Oregon Seed Certification Service Seed Crop Sign-Up Session

Grass, fall grain, mint (greenhouse inspection), legumes, and sugar beet seed crops need to be signed up on or before April 15 for the OSU Seed Certification Program. To avoid delays, it is recommended to sign up seed crops as early as possible. For Union Co. growers, Anita Metlen will conduct additional sign-up sessions in her office on the following days:

April 8	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
April 11-15	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This schedule will be interrupted by sampling/tagging requests, so please call ahead to make sure Anita is available.

Clapperton to Review Soils

One of the most sought after rhizosphere specialists anywhere, Dr. Jill Clapperton of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, is coming to the Mid-Columbia May 16 –17. Clapperton studies the rhizosphere, (the part of the soil where a plant grows) and reports on how changes in farming systems impact the soil biology and ecology and the long term productivity.

May 16 will feature Clapperton and others at the Discovery Center in The Dalles, explaining the relationships and inter-relationships of soil quality and how it is impacted by tillage systems. On May 17, there will be a couple stops in the morning at open soils pits in Wasco Co. followed by the same in the afternoon in Sherman Co. Viewing these pits with Dr. Clapperton will give the opportunity to see how the rhizosphere changes under various systems.

The soil pit experience will be repeated in Gilliam, Morrow and Umatilla Co. sites the next 2 days. Dr. Clapperton is an exciting speaker who communicates the enthusiasm she has in her work. Plan to make two days available to attend.

NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION, Con't.....



Irrigation Season - Shad Hattan, Watermaster District 6

The first of March starts the irrigation season in most parts of Union County in the Grande Ronde Valley. The general seasons in Wallowa County are April 1 for the Innaha Basin, and May 1 for the Wallowa Basin. It probably is no surprise to most that the water availability outlook for this season looks dismal in Union and Wallowa Counties as well as most of the Northwest. The National Weather Service reports that the precipitation stations in this area show that we are among the top five poorest precipitation winter months in the history of the stations. No dramatic changes toward a wet weather pattern are currently predicted. It now appears highly unlikely that there will be significant spring runoff.

If we are fortunate, we will get lots of timely rain during the irrigation season. If we don't, the natural consequence of poor water years is early water use regulation. In preparation for a tough water year I recommend the following:

- ▶ Make sure that you are familiar with your water rights. Get copies of the water right Certificates and maps for your property if you don't already have them. If the conditions of the Certificate are unclear to you, ask the Watermaster to explain them. You can get copies of Certificates on the Water Resources Department web page at www.oregon.gov/owrd or from the local Watermaster.
- ▶ The temporary transfer process allows the temporary change of the location of an irrigation water right. There is still time to file a temporary transfer application, but don't wait. For a more detailed explanation of temporary transfers, call your local Watermaster.
- ▶ Plan for difficulties in providing stock water. Exceptionally dry seasons are likely to mean that some ditches that normally have stock water are dry. Development of alternative stock water sources or improving facilities to conserve stock water could pay big this year. Use of ground water for stock watering does not require a water right.

The Watermaster office for the Grande Ronde Basin is located in the Agricultural Services Center in Island City. For questions or to make an appointment, call 541-963-1031. I look forward to seeing everyone working in their green fields this summer.

NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION, Con't.....

Wolves

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife approved its draft plans for wolf management in Oregon on February 11, 2005. The state agency appointed a 14-member committee to aid it in drafting the plan. That committee was disbanded in December after it gave its final input on the plan. The public comment period on the draft plan ended Feb. 10 with a public hearing. Without delaying the commission then approved the plan the next day.



This action was taken despite a Feb. 1 ruling by U.S. District Judge Robert E. Jones in Portland, who upheld a petition by 19 environmental groups to block the down listing of wolves in the West from “endangered” to “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act. Under the endangered listing, only government agents can kill wolves that are preying on livestock. The listing also prevents many elements of Oregon’s Wolf Conservation and Management Plan from going into effect.

There are several elements of the plan that are raising significant issues, particularly in the rural part of the state. The federal judges ruling further complicates the issue throwing into questions which parts of the Oregon plan that will be allowed to take place. Among those are:

Compensation for depredation of livestock – At issue is that funding be from reliable state funds and that it cover more than just confirmed kills since many of the lost livestock are completely consumed.

Suitable habitat – There is concern that Oregon does not have the large blocks of relatively uninhabited lands like Idaho has; many are concerned that this will cause wolf/human conflict from the beginning.

Transplantation of wolves – Managers of wolves in the other states have learned that once a wolf begins to eat livestock it is not successful to move these individuals to other areas.

Number of wolves — minimum numbers is used to fulfill the requirements for delisting (a “conserved” number) many believe there also should be an accompanying maximum number where management limits the growth.

The classification of wolves — The plan proposes to reclassify wolves as “special mammal” – This would allow ODFW to use tag money to manage them, it would also allow for hunting eventually, however it would preclude them being controlled as predators.

NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION, Con't.....

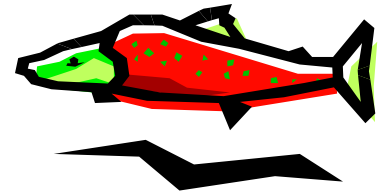
Private property rights -- Plan limits where livestock operators can control wolves if damage occurs. The options are phased in as the numbers of wolves go up. It is also different on public lands than on private lands. Livestock operators believe they should be able to protect their private property (livestock) anywhere and any-time.

Protection of wild ungulates (such as deer and elk) – some believe that there are not near enough tools available under the plan to protect these game animals.

Procedures- Since implementation of the plan will require legislative action many believe the passage of the plan should be delayed until after the legislature has acted.

Coho

For the second time Federal Judge Hogan has ruled a run of Coho fish have been illegally listed under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species. Hogan ruled that the federal government violated the ESA when it failed to consider hatchery fish in its assessment of Coho in southern Oregon and northern California rivers.



The case, *Grange v. National Marine Fisheries Service*, had been stayed by Judge Hogan pending an appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals of the previous decision in *Alsea Valley Alliance v. Evans* (2001). In that case, Judge Hogan held that the government had illegally listed Coho along the Oregon coast as threatened when it excluded hatchery Coho from fish counts. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the appeal in February, 2004.

In the January ruling, Judge Hogan did not set aside the illegal listing, but left it in place while the agency completes the review of 26 west coast salmon listings, which it agreed to undertake as a result of its loss in *Alsea*. In June, 2004, NOAA proposed a new hatchery policy, but simultaneously announced that it would result in the relisting of west coast salmon and steelhead populations. However, Judge Hogan also indicated that if a federal agency took a specific enforcement action on behalf of the illegal listing, which caused harm, those harmed could go to court and ask to have the federal action stopped.

Obviously this case is just a small part of the overall debate about the ESA and the debate of how to manage hatchery fish. Unfortunately, natural resource policy continues to be forged in the court systems where it is most inefficient.

NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION, Con't.....

Measure 37



At the general election last November Measure 37 passed with more than a 60% yes vote. It was widely supported throughout the state as it passed in 35 of 36 counties. That outcome has raised more questions than it answered. The measure states, *“If a public entity enacts or enforces a new land use regulation or enforces a land use regulation enacted prior to the effective date of this amendment that restricts the use of private real property or any interest therein and has the effect of reducing the fair market value of the property, or any interest therein, the owner of the property shall be paid just compensation.”*

Some issues need resolved, and you may not find the same answers among different governmental entities, include:

What will the procedures for applying and what will it cost to apply? I have heard that filing fees vary between \$0 and \$2500.

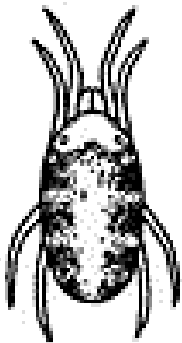
Will the government pay the compensation or waive the regulation? Governor Kulongoski stated his preference for paying claimants but put no money in his proposed budget. Most entities don't have the large sums of money to pay many claims.

How is compensation calculated if it is owned? Compensation shall be based on the reduction of fair market value. OSU has published a paper on the complexity of calculating this. It can be picked up from the Extension offices. Please ask for “Measuring Compensation Under Measure 37: An Economist's Perspective”.

Who is eligible for compensation? This is based on how long you have owned the property and whether the appropriate regulation was in place at the time your ownership began. One question that has come up is if I owned the property but reorganized as an LLC or new partnership does this constitute new ownership. If the regulation is waived, does this waiver last forever or does it end with the end of your ownership?

There are probably many more issues - these are just a few of the questions being asked. As with any major change in regulation it will take a while to sort out the specifics. If you believe you have a claim you should contact the government entity enforcing the regulation and find out what their procedures are. For all claims against the state of Oregon you need to contact the Department of Administrative Services.

NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION, Con't.....



Banks Grass Mite (*Oligonychus pratensis*)

Recent warm temperatures have increased Banks grass mite (BGM) activity in grass seed fields in the Grande Ronde Valley. Observations made in a local KBG field on March 11 revealed that BGM populations were increasing and causing visible crop damage. Adults, nymphs and high #'s of eggs were present in the BGM colonies. BGM populations have a tendency to grow rapidly under warm, dry conditions. Yield losses of up to 50% have been reported under heavy BGM infestations.

BGM is a pest of many grass species (e.g. bluegrass, wheat, sorghum, corn, etc.) and can seriously damage turf grass or other host species during outbreaks. BGM appears early in the season and feeds mostly on the lower leaves of the host. This tiny species of spider mite is distinguished from the two-spotted spider mite by the accumulation of pigment along all sides of the body.

Prior to the onset of visible crop damage symptoms, scouting for BGM is difficult and requires the use of a 10x hand lens in order to observe both mites and eggs. Mites damage crops by piercing plant cells with their mouthparts and extracting plant fluids. Early injury stages appear as stippling (white flecking) of the leaves. Over time, foliage may turn purple before turning a brownish-yellow which resembles drought stress. Serious injury caused by BGM is often related to drought stress.

The BGM over-winters as an adult female near the base of the host plant. In early spring, the mites resume feeding and lay eggs. Under favorable conditions, the life cycle can be completed in 8 – 25 days. Continuous, overlapping generations are produced throughout the growing season unless cool, wet conditions slow population building. Since the BGM favors feeding near the base of the plant, detection of the pest and effective control are difficult to achieve. Once populations begin to increase, large amounts of webbing can be seen near the base of the host plant. Late fall activity can also damage host crops.

Management of BGM is difficult since there are no products available to control BGM in grass seed production fields. Grass seed insecticides such as Dimethoate and Lorsban, although effective for winter grain mite control, do not control BGM adult mites very well. Additionally, neither insecticide is effective on BGM eggs, thus, providing for future generations. In some turf grass situations, BGM populations can be managed by providing adequate water to "hot spots" in the landscape. It is not known if water management at the field level could reduce BGM outbreaks. Research is currently underway in the GRV to study BGM control.

NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION, Con't.....

Conservation Security Program (CSP) **(from Natural Resource Conservation Service)**

Private land managers in selected watersheds throughout Oregon will have the opportunity to participate in USDA's new Conservation Security Program in 2005, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. CSP is a voluntary program that financially rewards private land managers who are actively conserving natural resources on their land.

"Private landowners and managers in Oregon have been protecting our soil and water resources for years," says NRCS State Conservationist Bob Graham. "Now they will be rewarded for that stewardship, and will become the models for future CSP participants. It's a bright new day for conservation and I'm delighted we're a part of this sign-up."

CSP isn't limited by land use or size. It is based on rewarding outstanding conservation stewards, whether you are a beef producer, grain grower, horse operator, rancher, grass seed grower or any of a number of other producers. The common thread is your commitment to conservation.

The Lower Grande Ronde watershed was selected, which includes cropland, pastureland, rangeland, and forestland. Ten Oregon watersheds have been selected to participate in this new program for 2005.

All private land managers in Oregon will have the opportunity to apply for CSP.

Over the next several years, all private land managers in Oregon will have the opportunity to apply for CSP as their watershed is selected for a signup.

If the majority of your land is inside one of the selected watershed boundaries, you have met the first eligibility criteria CSP. Signup dates for the program have not yet been announced, but you can begin preparing by checking out <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>. On the site, you can find additional information about the selected watersheds, maps, eligibility requirements and the signup process.

Once you've determined you're in a watershed, you can begin preparing by taking the following steps:

- Complete the CSP Self-Assessment Workbook (available at <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov> or at your local NRCS field office)
- Gather records to document your past conservation work. These records may include:
 - A map of your farm including soils information
 - Records that show how you manage your crop. This may include:

NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION, Con't.....

- * pesticide applications
 - * irrigation or other water use,
 - * planting/harvesting dates,
 - * weed management,
 - * pest management,
 - * fertilizers applied, etc.
- Records of work you've completed to benefit wildlife. This may include planting field border areas to permanent vegetation, managing water use to match with wildlife needs, or building areas that encourage bird nesting.
 - Visit your local USDA Service Center to receive a USDA Identification Number
 - Watch for CSP program updates. In early 2005, NRCS will announce:
 - CSP signup dates
 - CSP informational meeting and workshop dates
 - Any additional eligibility requirements for CSP

Contact: Tom Smith, 541-426-4521 ext. 101 or Patty Shumway, 541-523-4437 ext. 101

Weeds

The United States Forest Service is working on a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to update how they control weeds on their lands. Included in the draft proposal is a new list of chemicals that would be allowed to be used as options and expanded application methods that includes aerial spraying.



As a result of the EIS the USFS will have a wider variety of chemicals that they could use to control weeds and other unwanted vegetation. Some of the chemicals that may be newly available to the USFS include: Escort, Telar, Plateau, Transline, and Garlon. The USFS will still be able to use Tordon and Glyphosate products.

After the original draft came out for public review in September 2004, a modified alternative is being developed that will evaluate and include the use of 2,4-D. The modified alternative is scheduled to be released in March 2005 with a final Decision expected from the Regional Forester by May.

After this document is completed each national Forest will have to write a site specific assessment on how and where weed control will occur before the new tools will become available. If you are interested in following this process contact the local forest service personnel or contact your local weed board.

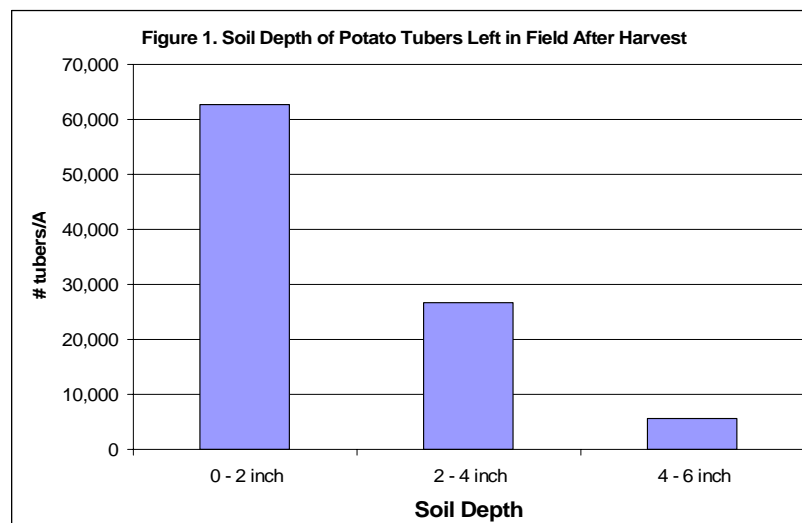
NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION, Con't.....

Volunteer Potato Control – A Difficult Task

Seed potato production has increased during the last few years in the Grande Ronde Valley and, at the same time, so has the potential for volunteer potato infestations in rotational crops. Environmental conditions, cultural practices, and rotational crop selection influence viability and survivability of potato tubers. Mild winter temperatures allow tubers to survive and become problematic in the subsequent rotational crop. Like all weeds, volunteer potatoes can reduce rotational crop yields through competition for light, water, and nutrients. More seriously, however, volunteer potatoes serve as hosts for insects, disease, and nematodes that infest potato crops (Boydston and Martin, 2005). For example, the green peach aphid is a major pest of potatoes which transmits the devastating potato leaf roll virus (PLRV). PLRV is tuber-borne and carries over from season-to-season via infected tubers in the soil.

The challenge associated with volunteer potato control is due to vast carbohydrate reserves stored in the tuber which allow re-sprouting after various control efforts. The problem can persist for multiple years after the initial potato crop if new daughter tubers develop on the volunteer plants. It is important to note that Oregon seed certification standards require up to 3 years out of potatoes (depending on generation) for the production of certified potato seed.

The number of potato tubers remaining in a field after harvest can be extremely high. For example, studies conducted in Washington have shown that approximately 95,000 potato tubers per acre remained in the field following a potato harvest (Eberlein et al., 1997). The number and distribution of tubers in the top 6 inches of the soil profile are shown in Figure 1. Over-wintering survival of tubers is dependent upon exposure to freezing temperatures at the depth of burial in the soil. A few common axioms to remember are: 1) winter temperatures should freeze the ground to at least 6 inches to kill tubers left behind after harvest; 2) tubers in moist soil die when temperatures reach 28°F; and 3) tubers in dry soil will super-cool to 25°F before freezing (Eberlein et al., 1998).



NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION, Con't.....

Dr. Rick Boydston, USDA-ARS Agronomist in Prosser, WA, indicates that volunteer potato control is necessary to minimize competition with rotational crops and to reduce formation of new daughter tubers that can carryover into subsequent crops. Volunteer potato control strategies include:

- Using a combination of control methods will be more successful than a single method. For example, it is not possible to achieve 100% volunteer potato control with herbicides alone.
- Use post-harvest tillage to keep tubers near the soil surface. Fall plowing will bury tubers at depths which will protect the tubers from freezing temps.
- Select competitive rotational crops with effective herbicide (e.g. small grains) and cultivation options (e.g. field corn).
- Planting small grains (especially winter wheat) after potato is recommended since rotational crops such as sugar beet, dry beans, and onion do not compete well with volunteer potatoes following a warm winter.
- Use herbicides that are active in reducing volunteer potatoes in rotation crops. Herbicide active ingredients that are effective in suppressing volunteer potato plant growth and reducing daughter tuber weight include glyphosate, mesotrione, fluroxypyr, dicamba, and oxyfluorfen. Read labels to determine labeled crops, rates, application timing, and rotation restrictions.
- When possible, apply postemergence herbicides such as fluroxypyr, glyphosate, and dicamba when volunteer potatoes are just beginning to form tubers. If applications are made earlier, mother tubers often re-sprout and these plants will require additional control measures. If applications are made later, many new (daughter) tubers will be formed which will infest next year's crop.
- When possible, apply herbicides followed by cultivation/tillage 1 to 2 weeks following application. See labels for further instruction.

Grazing fields with hogs, sheep, or cattle can reduce the number of tubers available to sprout. However, cattle are more prone to choking on tubers.



Publications:

SR 790- 4, 2004 Oregon County and State Agricultural Estimates. (Revised March 2005.) Available only on-line.
<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcommwebfile/EddMat/SR790-04.pdf>

EC 1278 Fertilizing Lawns. (Revised January 2005)
Or on-line at <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcommwebfile/edmat/EC1278.pdf>

EM 8777E-04, Results of Vegetable Variety Trials—2004. (Revised March 2005) Available only on-line at <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcommwebfile/EddMat/EM8777E-04.pdf>

PNW 577 Weed Management in Potatoes with Spartan Herbicide.

PNW 578 Nitrogen Management for Hard Wheat Protein Enhancement.
<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/PDF/PNW/PNW0578.pdf>

RESOURCES

MARCH 2005

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A BAKER, WALLOWA, AND UNION COUNTY FARM AND RANCH NEWSLETTER

PAGE 14

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PAGE 12

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