Dear Small Farmer and Landowner;

Welcome to the September/October issue of the Mid-Columbia Small Farms & Acreage Newsletter. Of particular note in this issue is that Bruce Nisley, Sherman and Wasco County Livestock Extension Agent has taken a new position in Wyoming as farm economics instructor with the University of Wyoming. Over the last two years Bruce has developed an excellent livestock program in the Mid-Columbia and has been a great member of the Mid-Columbia Extension team and will truly be missed. Note, in this issue Bruce has authored an article on fall management of pastures which provides some excellent hints on good pasture management techniques so your pastures go into the winter healthy and with the nutrient reserves that will help them get a good start next spring.

I also want to stress that as we are going into the fall and the rains begin that the effects of the drought are going to be felt through this winter in higher costs for hay and a shortage of good quality hay on the market. In this issue, Susan Kerr, Klickitat County Extension Agent has written an excellent article on winter feeding of livestock. It is critical that folks really keep in mind that animals need good quality feed to stay healthy. It is anticipated that this will be a more normal winter this year so good feed is a must.

Note, in this newsletter is also an excellent article on the identification of puncturevine by Merle Keys, Wasco County Weed District Supervisor. I am sure as you look around the Mid-Columbia you will see a number of puncturevine plants along the roadsides and other heavily trafficked areas. It is a good hitchhiker on car, truck and bicycle tires and is a real nuisance for folks. Should you have any questions about identification and control please contact your local Weed Supervisor or County Extension Agent.

As you review this issue should you have any questions concerning any of the information found in this newsletter, please contact your local OSU or WSU Extension Office.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Mid-Columbia Extension Agents
Calendar of Events

September
15-16  **Annual Pleasure Driving Trials** in Turner, OR
Mill Creek Farm, sponsored by The Harness and Pleasure Driving Association; includes harness dressage and other events. Overnight accommodations for entrants. Kay Harding, (541)753-8081.

19-22  **Pacific Logging Congress' "In the Woods" Active Equipment Show**, Timber Juncton, OR, on Longview Fibre timberland. Held every four years, "In the Woods" is the largest active logging equipment show in the United States. Registration required. Education days for students Sept. 19-20; all exhibits open to the public and free of charge Sept. 22. Information: Pacific Logging Congress, Rikki Wellman, (425) 413-2808 or Pat Walsh, (541)434-7021; or on the Internet, www.pacificloggingcongress.com.

20-21  **Oregon Wetlands Seminar**, Embassy Suites, Portland. Updates on wetland issues, including changes in national policy and wetland permitting. Registration: (800) 574-4852


23-30  **National Sheepdog Finals**, Running Y Ranch Resort, Highway 140, west of Klamath Falls. Info: Michele Howard, 530-233-2728, or email: wildrose@hdo.net.

October
13-14  **All About Fruit Show**, sponsored by the Home Orchard Society 9AM-5PM, Tigard National Guard Building, 6700 S.W. Oak, Tigard, OR (Turn North off of 99W at Bannings Restaurant & Pie House). For more information call 503-234-3559 or http://www.wvi.com/~dough/HOS/HOS2.html.

November
2-3   **Washington State Sheep Producers' State Convention**, DoubleTree Inn, Spokane. Info: Harvey Wallace, hmwallace@iae.com or (509) 299-3723.

9-11  "**Tools for Effective Farming,**" Organic Farm Conference, The Evergreen State College. For conference brochure write to: Tilth Producers 2001 Conference, P.O. Box 85056, Seattle, Wash., 98145 or call (206) 442-7620.

8-10  **Oregon and Washington State Beekeepers Northwest Corner Fall Conference**, Best Western Inn, Hood River. Registration: Dave Graber, dgraber@teleport.com or (503) 762-2539.

17-18  **PNW 4-H Horse Leaders and Judges Training** for leaders in Oregon, Washington and Idaho; Linn County Fair and Expo Center, Albany. Features hunt seat equitation over fences, and pony and horse driving. Registration: $75 for both days or $59 for one day (driving seminars on Saturday or hunt seat equitation over fences on Sunday). Registration and prepayment by Oct. 14. Info: 541-737-1325.

28-30  **Hermiston Farm Fair and Trade Show**, Hermiston Community Center, 540 S. Highway 395. Potato seminar Wednesday morning; agricultural issues forum Thursday morning, update on new technologies and cropping information Thursday afternoon; pest and disease control workshop Friday morning (pesticide credits available). Trade show will include more than 50 exhibitors of agriculture-related products and services. Annual Farm Fair Banquet sponsored by Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, to be held at Cottage Flowers, 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Full agenda available in early November. Info: (541) 567-8321.

29-30  **Washington State Grape Society Trade Show**, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1201 Missouri Ave., Grandview. Information: WSGS, P.O. Box 267, Grandview, Wash. 98930; (509) 786-7888.

December
3 – 5   **NW Hort Expo**, Wenatchee, WA., Information - (509) 884-6712

January
Area Workshops and Seminars

Microfarm Sustainable Research and Education Fall Farm and Garden Conference

Conference to be held, October 6, 2001 - 8:00 AM To 3:00 PM, Dayton High School, 801 Ferry St., Dayton, Oregon. Cost is $25.00 per person or $45.00 per couple. For registration information please call or e-mail: 1-503-868-7679, or 1-503-868-7309, or Info@MicrofarmSustainable.org

Program Agenda
8 AM to 8:30 AM REGISTRATION

Track 1. Greenhouse Propagation and Management – 8:30 AM to 12 Noon
This class will cover start-up, propagation, integrated pest control, and plant care. It is designed to help the grower or potential grower to better understand proper management for successful greenhouse growing.

12 Noon To 1:00 PM LUNCH - Bring a sack

1:00 PM to 2:50 PM Continuation of Greenhouse Classes

Track 2. Organic Production and Marketing 8:30 - 9:00 AM
Section 1: State and Federal Regulations. A discussion of what state and federal regulations affect organic production and sales.

9:00 - 10:00 AM
Section 2: Organic Standards and Inspections. Current organic standards, how inspections are carried out, what the inspector is looking for.

10:15 - 11:30 AM
Section 3: Finding Your Market, Developing Your Market. How a grower can find the right market(s) for their particular operation, then developing that market or markets. Marketing from the grower's viewpoint.

11:30 - 12 Noon
Section 4: Question and Answer Period

12 Noon - 1:00 PM LUNCH - Bring a sack lunch

1:00 - 1:50 PM
Section 5: Marketing Organic Products. What should a producer know about selling to a wholesaler: policies, procedures, delivery and payment.

2:00 - 2:50 PM
Section 6: Composting on a Farm Scale. Learn how to turn plant and animal waste from a potential liability to a benefit while improving your soil. Also, what equipment is available to help you achieve this.

Initiating The Paradigm Shift for Animals – IAATH Conference 2001
The international Alliance for Animal Therapy and Healing (IAATH) will hold its annual international conference, Initiating The Paradigm Shift, In Portland, Oregon, November 1-4. Attendee’s will shuttle between Portland Community College’s Rock Creek Campus and Beaverton’s Hilton Hotel over the four day period.

Conference topics to include: new legislation, current research on alternative animal care and educational standards and guidelines. In addition, booths are available for vendors to showcase their latest products.

For registration information, please see the conference web site at www.IAATH.com or mail IAATH Conference or call WSU Cooperative Extension at (360) 397-6060 ext. 7720.

Organic Food Production in the New Millennium
November 12, 2001
LaSells Stewart Center
OSU Campus Corvallis, Oregon
For map & directions visit: http://osu.orst.edu/dept/la sells/directions.htm

Course Objective
This workshop consists of a series of presentations given by experts from industry, government and academia. It is intended for individuals and businesses who are involved in or have an interest in producing, processing or marketing organic foods. At the end of the program we will convene a
speaker panel to hear different viewpoints on issues of interest from the audience. There will be ample time for questions at the end of each presentation.

Join Us...
This is an exciting time for organic foods in the United States and the rest of the world. We have seen a nearly 10 fold increase in sales in the last decade. Clearly organic foods are here to stay and are entering the mainstream of food retailing. More importantly, organics provide a choice to informed consumers about the foods they decide to consume. The National Organic Program regulations will be fully implemented by October 21, 2002. In the meantime we are in a time of transition where we are learning about changes which need to be implemented and how best to accomplish them. It is our intent to provide during this workshop the practical information needed to make this transition as smooth as possible. We hope you have an opportunity to attend what we believe will be a lively and informative event!

Program Agenda
Monday, November 12
7:00 - 8:00 a.m.  Registration
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  Workshop sessions

Program Content
National Organic Program - What It Is and How It Came To Be
National Organic List and Petition Process
Production Practices
Processing and Handling Practices
Third Party Certification
State Responsibilities
Labeling
Marketing Issues
Questions Regarding Program Content
Contact: Mark Daeschel, ph: 541.737.6519,
or Yanyun Zhao, ph: 541.737.9151

Registration
Workshop Fee: (includes refreshments, lunch, and speaker handouts)
$65 per person
Registration Deadline: October 26, 2001
To register contact t: Debby Yacas, ph: 541.737.6483, or toll free: 800.823.2357

Environmental Quality Incentives Program-Hood River County
The following information was provided by Anne Saxby, Manager of the Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District. The cost-share program outlined below could be a critical source of financial assistance in farm improvements that result in conservation of natural resources such as irrigation system upgrades.

The USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) is currently accepting applications for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost-share funds. In the past few years, few landowners in the Hood River valley qualified for these funds because their applications were pooled with others from north-central Oregon, and they didn’t rank well due to high cost per acre. However, the Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District (HRSWCD) successfully applied to have the Hood River valley designated a Geographic Priority Area (GPA). That designation results in a separate allocation of funds, and a separate ranking process. It now appears that starting in Oct. 2001, there will be approximately $250,000 available yearly, for three years, for approving contracts for implementing cost-share practices.

In anticipation of receiving funding for the GPA, the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and HRSWCD assembled a Local Action Group (LAG) of agricultural landowners to review the EQIP Practice Cost List and develop ranking criteria for Hood River. That process is nearing completion. Practices include irrigation system improvements, fencing and Integrated Fruit Production practices such as using codling moth disrupters, bug scouting and soil moisture censoring. EQIP pays up to 75% of the cost of structures, such as irrigation systems, and up to 100% of the cost of management practices, although those are capped at three years. Although the GPA will be funded only three years, successful applicants will have 5-10 year funded contracts. There is a $10,000 per person per year maximum, and a $50,000 per person per contract maximum.

The application period is open, with November 30th marking the deadline for the first year’s applications. Applications received after Nov. 30th will be ranked the next year. After the application period ends, applications will be ranked by NRCS staff. Ranking criteria include improving water quality and/or quantity, improving fish habitat, and reducing flooding impacts. Applicants can improve their ranking by picking up more of the cost of the conservation improvements, and by positively impacting natural resources, such as reducing irrigation withdrawals or improving aquatic habitat. The LAG will meet late next winter to allocate funds to successful applicants. Funds in the first year won’t be released until Oct. 2002, although practices can be implemented after the LAG allocates the funds. At least one practice must be implemented in the first year.

Potential participants can get more information on the program by calling the Natural Resources Conservation Service or Farm Services Agency in The Dalles at (541) 298-8559 or apply by stopping in at their offices at 2325 River Rd., The Dalles, Oregon. Staff from the Hood River SWCD will be assisting NRCS in conservation planning; they can be reached at (541) 386-4588 or 386-6719; the SWCD office is in the OSU Extension building, 2990 Experiment Station Rd., Hood River.
Resources

Web Pages
Small Farm Program, www.reeusda.gov/agsyst/smallfa
This web site provides information on the upcoming national Small Farm Conference to be next September. In addition to the conference, it also provides information about the USDA toll-free phone number for small farmers to call in requests for information about small farms issues, how to access the Small Farms Mailing Group, how to obtain the free Small Farm Digest Newsletter and access to a number of small farm publications and other small farm links. It is a good resource site for small farmers.

List of Alternative Crops & Enterprises for Small Farm Diversification www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC_pubs/altlist
This is a truly amazing USDA site that lists a huge number of alternative crops (both traditional and non-traditional) with information about production practices and marketing information as well as links to other resources that will help small farmers in choosing an enterprise. If you are thinking about an alternative enterprise, this is the place to begin.

Forage Information System http://forages.orst.edu/ This is OSU’s forage web site that has a lot of good research based information concerning forage production in Oregon.

Publications
Watershed Weeks Activity Guide. This publication lists all the activities that will be happening statewide in Oregon as part of Oregon Watershed Weeks which will be from September 15 to October 21. To obtain a free copy of the guide, please contact your local OSU Extension Office.

Oregon Agricultural Resource Directory. This handbook includes contact information for the Oregon Dept. Agriculture, other selected government agencies, Oregon Commodity Commissions, Oregon Farm Bureaus, Oregon Farmers’ Markets, Soil & Water Conservation Districts and a wide variety of agricultural associations. Copies of the 2001 directory are available for $5.00 from the Dept. Agriculture by calling (503) 986-4550.

Feature Articles

Pasture Management for the Fall

By Bruce Nisley – Livestock Agent for Sherman & Wasco Counties

With the current moisture and range conditions it will be important to exercise additional caution in management of your pastures this fall. Although many grasses begin to go dormant in drought or in the fall, care must be taken not to overuse pastures. The over use of pastures decreases the number of desirable grass plants and gives space and available moisture up to be used by non-desirable weeds or annual grasses such as knapweed or cheat grass.

Research and practical experience have shown that removing more than 50-percent of the grass in one grazing period has a very detrimental affect on pasture health. To determine actual use it is beneficial to have an area excluded from grazing to use as an indicator. It is important to remember you are looking for 50-percent utilization by volume not by height. Studies have shown that when over 50-percent of the grass is removed 50-percent or more of the root growth is stopped (see Table 1.)

Table 1. Grass Removal Impact on Root Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Grass Plant Removed</th>
<th>Percent of Root Growth Stopped</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>40%</td>
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<td>50%</td>
<td>2-4%</td>
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<td>60%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<td>70%</td>
<td>78%</td>
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<td>80%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
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Understanding that overgrazing can have long-term impacts on the health of grass stands is only part of the challenge. Finding ways to minimize grazing and its impacts in tough situations is essential to maintain pasture quality. Here are some considerations to minimize the impact of grazing in the fall or in droughts.
Remember in dry years like this there is less forage available than during normal years and considerations will need to be made to minimize impacts.

Be willing to purchase additional hay, lease extra pasture or sell a portion of livestock to reduce grazing pressure.

Section off a portion of your pasture as a sacrifice area. Understand that this area will be over utilized in efforts to preserve the remaining pasture.

Horses and other animals may not need 24-hour access to grazing. Consider limit grazing and supplementing with hay as required.

Divide pastures to allow unused areas to grow when water is adequate.

It may be helpful to understand approximately how much forage (dry matter) each animal will require per mouth. Table 2 gives some estimates to aid in predicting forage requirements. It is important to note that these are forage use estimates and give no indication as to a balanced or healthy diet.

Table 2. Forage requirement for livestock.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forage (Dry Matter) in tons/month*</th>
<th>Animal Unit Months</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Cow (1000 lbs.)</td>
<td>.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Horse</td>
<td>.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sheep</td>
<td>.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Llama</td>
<td>.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Goat</td>
<td>.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These weights are for actual consumption, when feeding hay, include 10% more to account for waste.

When utilizing pastures in the fall and in drought situations remember that over utilizing desirable grasses can have very long term and sometimes-irreparable impacts. If the 50-percent mark is difficult for you to gauge use a minimum stubble height of 3-inches as an indicator for maximum use. When any of your desired grasses are being grazed down to a 3-inch height it is time to move livestock.

For help in determining use, overuse, or possible improvements for your pastures contact your local extension faculty.

Ensuring Livestock Health During Forage Shortfalls

By Susan Kerr, WSU Extension Educator, Klickitat County

This impact of this summer’s drought and subsequent forage shortfalls may last well into the coming winter and spring. The purpose of this article is to alert livestock producers about the potential health and nutrition concerns that may face their animals in the months ahead.

Good quality forage is essential for livestock health. Forage can take the form of pasture, hay, cubes or pellets. With increased processing comes increased costs, so pasture is less expensive than hay and much less expensive than cubed or pelleted products. Due to the drought, non-irrigated pastures have been unproductive for months. If we do receive significant fall and winter moisture and pastures respond, pastures should continue to be left ungrazed so they have a chance to recover from the drought. If stressed pastures are grazed too soon, irreversible, long-term damage can be done.

Without adequate pasture as an option in the coming months, most livestock producers will rely heavily on hay. Regional agriculture newspapers, feed supply stores, co-ops and bulletin boards still advertise plenty of hay at reasonable prices. Wise livestock owners will sit down now and pencil out their animals’ forage requirements until pasture comes into production. Refer to the pasture article in this issue or contact your Extension agent for help with these calculations. Basically, you should plan to feed 2 to 3% of each animal’s body weight in dry matter per day; remember that hay contains about 10% water so if you wanted to feed 100 pounds of dry matter, you would have to feed 111 pounds of hay.

What does good hay look like? Rely on your eyes, nose and hands to help you decide:

• Good hay is usually very green. Green hay has plenty of Vitamin A and the protein is usually of good quality and availability. Brown or bleached-out hay will be deficient in Vitamin A and the protein may have become denatured and unavailable to the animal.

• Good hay smells fresh and grassy. It does not smell moldy, musty, damp or dusty. Be sure to open several bales of the hay you may purchase to make sure the centers of the bales are not moldy.

• Good hay is tender to touch. It is not so full of coarse stems that it would hurt to touch or eat it. Coarse hay is usually less palatable and less accepted by livestock. Look for plenty of protein-rich leaves and relatively few stems. The leaves should not have shattered and fallen off.

• Good hay does not contain debris such as weeds, manure, foreign materials, etc.
Feature Articles continued

- Good hay is not overly mature, meaning that grass hays should not be fully headed-out; optimally, good grass hay contains about 10% heads. Alfalfa hay should be harvested about 10-30% bloom, so seeing alfalfa hay that is full of blooms means that it has past its optimal nutritional content phase.

The type and quality of hay you choose should depend on the type of livestock you have and their function. Proportionally, an idle, mature horse will have requirements well below those of a young, pregnant, lactating goat; on a percent-of-body-weight basis, a three-month old Boer kid will have requirements exceeding those of a mature bull at rest. There is no need to buy high-protein alfalfa hay for most horses—horse’s protein requirements can usually be met by good quality grass hay that contains 11-12% protein. Your Extension agent has resources that list the nutritional requirements of most livestock species as well as the nutritional content of most feeds. It is best to have a nutritional analysis of feed and forage conducted by a commercial laboratory to quantify the actual amounts of nutrients contained in a specific lot of feed.

Straw is an inexpensive and available forage option in cases of hay or pasture shortfalls. Because it is low in protein and energy, these nutrients will need to be supplemented; nevertheless, straw is an excellent way to meet livestocks’ forage (fiber) requirements. It should not be fed to high-producing animals, though—it is best for dry cows, post-weaning calves in good body condition, idle horses, whethers and other low-production classes of animals. For ruminants, straw can be ammoniated to increase its nitrogen content, but a natural protein source should also be fed to maximize consumption and digestibility of straw. Make sure seed grass straw comes from an endophyte-free source.

Poor quality feed can cause significant weight loss, decreased production and even death in livestock due to energy deficiency. We are fortunate to have a huge local supply of livestock barley, wheat, oats and corn. Check with your local grain growers’ cooperative to discuss availability, prices, nutritional analysis and delivery. These grains can be substituted for up to 60% of the ration’s dry matter, but wheat should not comprise more than 50% of a ration’s grain component. Work with your Extension agent or nutritionist to balance diets using these alternative feeds.

We are also fortunate to have access to cull fruits and vegetables in this area and many make excellent livestock feeds. Local livestock producers feed waste potatoes, carrots, onions, beets, apples, peas, lentils, corn and so on to animals. Some of these feeds are not without concerns, however—animals can choke on apples or potatoes and can get acidosis and founder from eating too much fruit. All these feeds must be added to livestock rations gradually and animals monitored for signs of problems. A feed analysis should be run so that you know the nutritional content of each batch and all feeds should be closely examined for problems such as mold. When assessing livestock health and performance during periods of forage shortfalls, pay close attention to body condition scores (BCSs) and young stock performance. For example, if you have a small herd of beef cattle, assess BCSs at the start of your new feeding plan. Decide what is the lowest body condition score you are willing to tolerate, bearing in mind that a BCS of at least 4 is correlated with optimal reproductive performance in cattle and it is slow and costly to increase BCSs once they have dropped too low. Assess herd BCSs weekly so that a wreck doesn’t have time to develop. Generally speaking, if young stock is still gaining adequately, your revised nutritional program is acceptable. Contact your local Extension agent to learn how to body condition score animals.

Stockpiling feed or forage for the coming year will ensure that you have sufficient feed for your animals, but not everyone has the space to store huge quantities of feed for long periods of time, nor the cash to have tied up in pre-paid feed. Also, the longer feed is stored, the more waste and decline in feed quality there is. Stored feed can become moldy and become infested with or damaged by pests. Be sure to store feed in a well-ventilated area that is protected from wind, weather, pests and vermin and check it often for damage.

The dangers of high-nitrate feeds were discussed in a previous article. Remember to have drought-grown forages and feeds checked for nitrate content. Crops grown under drought conditions also tend to have lower levels of phosphorus, protein, energy and Vitamin A. Energy and/or protein-deficient animals -- especially youngstock-- will not gain well nor be able to withstand diseases or stress well. Vitamin A deficiency can cause poor reproductive performance, excessive lacrimation, increased susceptibility to diseases and more mastitis. Lack of adequate phosphorous can cause animals to eat odd things such as wood, bones, etc.

Resources to help you feed animals during and after drought include:
- Alternative Management Strategies to Meet Forage Shortfalls, OSU publication EM8527 and workbook.
- Feeding Beef Cattle During Periods of Feed Shortages, OSU publication EC934
- Livestock and Range: Feeding Management When Pasture is Scarce, Texas A&M University
- Management of Improved Pastures: Pasture Management During a Drought, Texas A&M University
- Supplementing Cattle on Drought Affected Pastures & Ranges, WSU Pub.#EM4857
- Drought Strategies for Beef Producers: Part II – Supplementing Cattle on Drought-affected Pastures and Ranges, Montana State University
- Utilization of Barley in Diets, WSU publication EB1740
- Peas in Swine Rations, WSU publication EB1738
- Feeding Alternatives for Horses, WSU publication EB1416
WEED SPOTLIGHT

PUNCTUREVINE - Zygophyllaceae
By Merle Keys, Wasco County Weed Superintendent

Puncturevine was introduced from southern Europe and is now widely scattered over much of the U.S. It grows in pastures, cultivated fields, waste areas, and along highways and roads. The seed can remain dormant in the soil for 4 to 5 years, which makes eradication difficult.

A program should be implemented by landowners to treat the young plants with 2,4-D Amine or Roundup before the plant has a chance to grow into a large mat full of these spiny seeds. If a landowner finds large patches in bloom late in the season, it is recommended that the plant be dug up and burned. As the plant matures, the seeds have a tendency to drop off when the plant is disturbed. Be careful to try and pick up the seeds and dispose of them.

The flower and seed production usually occurs from June to October. Late summer showers help to germinate the seeds so watch areas where this plant has grown before and dig up each new crop and dispose of them.

Puncturevine, the dreaded killer of bicycles tires, the bane of many a dog paw, and a force to be reckoned with when found in the carpet. This weed is not so lovingly known by many other names, goathead, puncture weed, tackweed, and Mexican sandbur.

Puncturevine is a summer annual plant that grows prostrate above the ground forming a dense mat with trailing stems, each 1/2 to 5 feet long. The plant can be quite pleasing to the eye, with pretty little yellow flowers and can seem like a nice ground cover. The problem is the fruits or seed pods that this plant produces. The fruits consist of 5 sections which at maturity break into spiny pods that cause problems for dogs, cats, and the kids in the neighborhood. These spines have an uncanny way of showing up in houses to be stepped on later, or end up embedded in bicycle tires.

Mid-Columbia Small Farms and Acreage’s Newsletter Subscription Form

To receive a paper copy of the newsletter please fill out this form and enclose a check for $6.00 for six issues (one-year subscription). Make checks payable to Sherman County Extension and mail your check along with this form to:

OSU Sherman County Extension
P.O. Box 385
Moro, OR 97039

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