



# Mid-Columbia Small Farms & Acreage Newsletter

## Washington State University

## Oregon State University

Klickitat Co. Ext.  
228 W. Main St.  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
(509) 773-5817  
Ce6620@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu

Skamania Co. Ext.  
P.O. Box 790  
Stevenson, WA 98648  
(509) 427-9427

<http://skamania.wsu.edu/>

Hood River Co. Ext.  
2990 Experiment Sta. Dr.  
Hood River, OR 97031  
(541) 386-3343

Sherman Co. Ext  
409 Hood Street  
PO Box 385  
(541) 565-3230

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

Wasco Co. Ext.  
400 E. Scenic Dr.  
Suite 2.278  
(541) 296-5494

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco>  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sherman>

Volume 4, Issue 3

May-June 2004

Inside this issue:

<i>Calendar</i>	2
<i>Workshops &amp;</i>	3
<i>Resources</i>	4
<i>Publications</i>	
<i>Web Pages</i>	5
<i>Newsletters</i>	5
<i>Grants</i>	6
<i>Agency Notes</i>	6
<i>Weeds, Weeds Weeds</i>	7
<i>Reducing Wildfire Risk</i>	9



### Extension Service

Oregon State University and Washington State University Extension Services offer educational programs, activities, and materials—without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, and disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status—as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. OSU and WSU Extension Services are Equal Opportunity Employer.

Dear Small Farmer and Landowner,

Welcome to the May/June Issue of the Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter. In this issue I have included two articles that are timely as we enter spring. One article is on weeds and weed control. Now is the time to get a good handle on your weed problems and strike while they are small and vulnerable. As you review this article, if you should need any help in developing your weed control strategies, please contact your local OSU or WSU Extension Offices or Weed District.

A second article is one concerning small farm and landowner wildfire safety that I wrote last year. As you all remember, we have had some very bad wildfire seasons the last several years and this year could be a tough one as well. It is critical that small farmers and landowners take proactive measures now to protect their farmsteads and families before things start to dry out. Should you have any questions concerning fire season, please contract your local fire department.

And finally, I asked Jim Bishop, Director for the Wasco County Farm Services Agency to write an article concerning USDA Farm Service Programs that are available to small farmers in the region. I strongly urge you to take time and look at the

resources section (Keeping In Touch) of this newsletter for Jim's article. There are a number of programs that are available to help small farmers.

As you review this issue, if you should have any questions about any of the information found in the newsletter or questions about small farming, please give us a call. You can contact your local county extension office at the numbers found on the top of this page. Again, please let us know how we can be of help to you.

Also as a reminder, if you receive this newsletter electronically, please make sure you let us know whenever you change your e-mail address so we can make sure you remain on the mailing list.

Sincerely,

Brian V. Tuck  
Mid-Columbia Extension Agent  
Oregon State University  
Wasco County



Canada Thistle  
*Cirsium arvense*

# Calendar of Events

## 2004

### May



#### 1 - Oregon Blueberry Growers

**Association Annual Meeting**, Roth's, West Salem.  
Information: Judy Ebert (503) 663-6451 or e-mail  
obga@oregonblues.com.

#### 1-2 - Clackamas County Master Gardeners Spring

**Garden Fair**, Clackamas County Fairgrounds,  
Canby. \$2 fairground entrance fee; under 16 free.  
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. May 2.  
Free parking and free pH soil testing. Refreshments.  
Information: Rodger Sanman, (503) 659-3212 or  
Stacy Paxton, (503) 829-7378.

#### 14 Changing Markets and Opportunities for Oregon

**Forest Products and Services workshop**, Location  
TBA, Baker City, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$25 fee includes  
lunch. Information and registration OSU Forestry  
Extension, (541) 737-4966.

#### 14-15 - Honey Bee Pests and Diseases Update

Workshop for hobbyist and commercial beekeepers,  
in the Eugene area; 7-9 p.m. on May 14 and  
9 a.m.-3 p.m. May 15. Cost per participant \$15.  
Information: [www.orsba.org](http://www.orsba.org). For questions or to  
register, e-mail [honeybeeworkshop@comcast.net](mailto:honeybeeworkshop@comcast.net)  
OR write: Honey Bee Workshops, P.O. Box 42363,  
Portland, OR 97242.

#### 21 SAIF Corp. Agricultural Safety Seminar (Spanish)

Discovery Center, Wasco County Historical  
Museum, 5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles;  
(541) 296-8600; 8 a.m.-noon. Early registration  
required; seating is limited. Participants will receive  
a registration confirmation letter with the address  
and facility location approximately one week prior  
to the seminar. Information: SAIF Groups Division,  
(800) 285-8525 or visit [www.saif.com](http://www.saif.com).

#### 24 Wine Grape Viticulture and Enology Workshop,

sponsored by Washington State University/Mount  
Vernon and Coastal Cascadia Winegrowers, at  
Mount Vernon research station, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Attendance \$70 for paid registrations on or before  
May 18 or \$80 after that date; includes catered  
lunch. Complete scheduled at  
[http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/firt\\_hort/grapesched.htm](http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/firt_hort/grapesched.htm).

#### 25 Mid-Columbia Sprayer Technology Field

**Demonstrations**, John Fulton Ranch, 8:30 to  
12:30 p.m. For more information, please see the Area  
Workshops and Seminars Section of the Newsletter

#### 27 Food Business 101 – Starting A Food Business,

Portland. For more info contact 503-872-6680 or  
[teri.haque@oregonstate.edu](mailto:teri.haque@oregonstate.edu)

## June

**3-6 Mid-Columbia Junior Livestock Show** in Tygh  
Valley, OR. Open to FFA members in Washington  
and Oregon. Information at county extension offices.

#### 15 28th Annual Union County Crops and Conservation Tour

7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tour includes: OSU Winter  
Elite Yield Trials, Conservation Farm of the Year,  
new irrigation technology, field research/  
demonstration projects. Contact Darrin L. Walenta,  
at 541-963-1010 or  
[email darrin.walenta@oregonstate.edu/](mailto:darrin.walenta@oregonstate.edu)

**17-19 2004 Austin Family Business Conference, The  
Resort at the Mountain in Welches, OR.** For more  
information, please see the Area Workshops and  
Seminars Section of the Newsletter



*Photo by Josh Thompson, Wasco Co. SWCD*

## Area Workshops and Seminars

### Mid-Columbia Sprayer Technology Workshop

A Sprayer Technology Field Demonstration for small grain producers will be held Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at the John Fulton Farm in Wasco County, from 8:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This field demonstration, sponsored by OSU Extension Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District, will provide small grains producers the opportunity to see the latest in field sprayer technology in action, learn how to reduce spray drift and increase sprayer efficiencies with existing field sprayers. This program is the follow-up to the January 2004 Sprayer Technology Workshop held in Wasco.



Participants will see field demonstrations of equipment by Spray Air Technologies: Air Blast Sprayer Nozzles, Weed Seeker Chlorophyll Sensor Nozzles and Air Assist Sprayer Systems Dr. Paul Jepson, OSU Spray Technology Specialist, and Dr. Jed Colquhoun, OSU Weed Scientist, will be sharing practical ways to increase sprayer efficiency and reduce spray drift with current sprayer technologies that growers use in the Mid-Columbia.

Oregon and Washington Pesticide and Certified Consultant Credit Hours have been requested. For additional information concerning this program, please contact either the Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494, or Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District at 541-298-8559, Ext. 3. Please note, for those needing directions, meet at The Dalles Auction Yard at 8:00 a.m. to caravan out to the Fulton Farm.

### Austin Family Business Conference

The **2004 Austin Family Business Conference** takes place this **June 17 - 19** at **The Resort at the Mountain in Welches, OR** Professionals in the family business field will lead this Conference with intensive learning sessions. Speakers include distinguished scholars and successful family business professionals including

**Al Gini, Loyola University Chicago; Ken Moores, Australian Centre for Family Business and Joe Paul, Aspen Family Business Group.** No matter what generation your family business is in, the workshops and presentations will help you develop "best practices" for topics such as managing boundaries between home and business, succession, governance, estate planning, growing the business and investments. Avail of networking opportunities with other family business conference delegates and industry professionals in the field. Maximum benefit will occur when the entire family attends.

For further information on the Conference, including Program Schedule, Speaker Biographies and registration please visit:

[www.familybusinessonline.org/programs/fbc.aspx](http://www.familybusinessonline.org/programs/fbc.aspx)

We hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity to be part of this event and encourage you to inform other employees and clients who may benefit from attending. **Remember to book early for the 'early-bird' booking fees.**



### PNW Direct Seed Association Tours

The PNW Direct Seed Association is providing three area tours with Dr. Jill Clapperton. Dr. Clapperton is a Rhizosphere Ecologist at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Center. She is an internationally respected researcher and lecturer, in specializing in soil biology interactions with cropping and soil management systems.

Tours dates include:

May 18 at 1:00 p.m. – Genesee, Idaho. Gather at Genesee City Park.

May 19 at 11:00 a.m. – WSU Palouse Conservation Research Farm at Pullman, WA. Gather at the research farm on Albion Road.

May 20 at 11 a.m. – Harrington, Washington Farms. Gather at the Golf Club-South side of Harrington.

Cost is \$15.00 per person and covers meals and refreshments. Pre-registration is required by calling 208-883-3645 or by e-mailing [infor@directseed.org](mailto:infor@directseed.org) by May 10, 2004.

# Resources

## Publications



### OSU Extension Publications

The following are new publications from Oregon State University. Please see the OSU Web Site at for more information on these and other publications at: <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu>

EM 8203, Pest Management Guide for Tree Fruits in the Mid-Columbia Area, revised February 2004, 81 pages, \$1.25 (available only online)-<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/em8203.pdf>

EM 8836-E, Hazelnut Pollinizer Cultivars: Gamma (OSU589.028), Delta (OSU510.041), Epsilon (OSU669.073), Zeta (OSU670.095), new July 2003, 2 pages, no charge (available only online)  
<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/html/EM/EM8836-E/EM8836-E.html>

EM 8841-E, Get to Know the Pesticide Label, new November 2003, 2 pages, no charge (available only online)  
<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/html/EM/EM8841-E/EM8841-E.html>

FS 333, Feeder Pigs, reprinted October 2003, 2 pages, \$1.00  
<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/html/FS/FS333/FS333.html>

EM 8665, A Brief Introduction to Agricultural Cooperatives, revised March 2004, 40 pages, \$4.50 (<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/em8665.pdf>)

EM 8859, Root Rot of Sweet Corn in Western Oregon, new March 2004, 4 pages, \$3.00 (<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/em8859.pdf>)

EM 8860, Preventing Herbicide Drift and Injury to Grapes, New March 2004, 8 pages, \$4.00 (<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/em8860.pdf>)

EM 8862, Irrigation System Maintenance, Groundwater Quality, and Improved Production, April 2004. Cost is \$1.00 and available through any OSU Extension Office.

### WSU Small Farms Extension Publications

The following is a listing of WSU Small Farms Publications. They are available by calling 1-800-723-1763 at the cost noted or free by clicking on the pdf or html where noted if you get this newsletter electronically.

#### Tree and Small Fruits

- EB1044 Apple Scab - \$1.00
- EC 1005 Pruning to restore an old, neglected apple tree -free
- VT0001 Pruning Apple Trees: Basic Concepts (video) - \$15.00
- EC 1181 Selecting Peach and Nectarine Varieties for the Willamette Valley - Free
- EC1334 Scab-Immune Apple Varieties for New Orchards (pdf) - \$1.00
- EC1424 Irrigating Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees in Oregon (html) - \$1.00
- EC986 Pollination and Commercial Varieties of Pears in Oregon (html) - \$.75
- EB0419 2004 Crop Protection Guide for Tree Fruits in Washington - \$5.00
- EB1640 Growing Small Fruits in the Home Garden - \$4.00
- PNW0507 Growing Kiwi Fruit- \$2.50
- EB0838 Why Fruit Trees Fail to Bear - \$1.00

#### Composting

- EB1784 Backyard Composting - \$1.00
- CIS 1066 Composting at Home - \$3.00

#### Soils and Fertilizing

- EB0489 Green Manure and Cover Crops for Irrigated Land - \$1.00
- EB1123 How Much Fertilizer: Conversion Guide for Gardeners - \$1.00
- PNW0533 Fertilizing with Manure - \$1.50
- EB1895 Soil Management for Small Farms/Farming West of the Cascades Series - \$2.00

#### Organic Farming

- [EB0648](#) Organic Gardening - \$1.00
- EB1888 Organic Food Production and Certification in Washington State/Farming West of the Cascades Series - \$1.50

## Resources....continued

### Vegetable Production

- EB0422 Home Gardens - \$2.50  
 PNW0525 Edamame Production - \$1.00  
 PNW0532 Baby Corn - Farming West of the Cascades Series - \$1.00  
 EB0997 Washington Asparagus Production Guide -1.00  
 EB1884 Gardening on Lead- and Arsenic-Contaminated Soils - \$2.50  
 PNW0170 Propagating Plants from Seed - \$2.50

### Plant Diseases

- EB0751 Diagnosis of Plant Diseases - \$1.00  
 EB0900 Plant Diseases: An Introduction - \$1.00

### Field and Cover Crops

- EM8803-E Cover Crop Nitrogen for Vegetable Crops (pdf) - \$1.50

### Pest and Insect Management

- EC 1117 Controlling Pocket Gopher Damage to Agricultural Crops (html) - \$1.00  
 EC 987 Controlling Moles (html) - \$1.00  
 EB0968 Slug Control (html) - \$1.00  
 EB0825 Pest Control in Home Vegetable Gardens -1.00  
 PNW0550 Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden - \$1.00  
 EB1414 Caterpillar Pests of the Cabbage Family -\$1.50  
 EB1491 2004 Pest Management Guide for Commercial Small Fruits - \$4.50

### Farm Management and Marketing

- EB1889 Building Trust with Consumers/Farming West of the Cascades - \$1.00  
 PNW0201 Farmer-to-Consumer Marketing, Part 1: An Overview - \$.50  
 PNW0202 Farmer-to-Consumer Marketing, Part 2: Production and Marketing - \$.50  
 PNW0205 Farmer-to-Consumer Marketing, Part 5: Personnel Management - \$.50  
 PNW0206 Farmer-to-Consumer Marketing, Part 6: Financial Management - \$.50  
 PNW0241 Developing a Marketing Plan for Fresh Produce - \$3.00

### Urban Forestry Publications

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry webpages include a variety of downloadable urban forestry publications. These can be obtained at [www.odf.state.or.us/UF](http://www.odf.state.or.us/UF)

**Farming With the Wind II**, by Dr. Bob Papendick, has been published by the Columbia Plateau PM-10 Project (CP3). This major publication provides a comprehensive overview of the research and outreach achievements of the CP3 during the past six years for wind erosion and air quality control on dryland and irrigated cropland in the Columbia Plateau and Columbia Basin. You may obtain a free copy of the book from the WSU Bulletin Office by calling 1-800-723-1763.

### Web Pages

#### OSU Extension Viticulture

**Website.** This is a good resource website for those currently producing or interested in grape production. The site can be found at <http://wine.oregonstate.edu>



Washington DNR has just launched its new

#### **FOREST HEALTH WEBSITE:**

Go to [www.dnr.wa.gov/](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/) then drop down to "featured sites" in the middle of the page and click on "Forest Health" Note:

### Newsletters

The **WSDA Organic Food Program** has just launched a quarterly newsletter. It is available on line at: <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic/docs/march%20quarterly%20report.pdf>

#### **Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (SEED)**

is building partnerships to mobilize consumers and maximize local benefits from harvesting "home grown" energy resources - wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, low-impact hydro, conservation, and bio-based products - while maintaining reliable electric service and creating new revenue streams and high quality jobs throughout the Pacific Northwest. Modeled on High Plains SEED, Northwest SEED supports and develops creative programs, policies, and financing approaches to build rural economies and meet the region's power needs through affordable, distributed "green" generation. Their electronic newsletter is available at: <http://www.nwseed.org/newsletter/default.asp>

## Resources..... continued

Announcing the March issue of **Sustaining the Pacific Northwest - Food, Farm, & Natural Resource Systems** quarterly electronic newsletter, jointly sponsored by the WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, the WSU Small Farms program, and the WSU Water Quality Management Team. Sustaining the Pacific Northwest provides a discussion forum for people working towards community-based sustainable food, farm, and natural resource systems using interdisciplinary oriented research and practitioner knowledge. This issue can be viewed or downloaded from <http://csanr.wsu.edu/whatsnew/PNW-v2-n2.pdf>.

### Grants

#### Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District Grants

Small Grants Available for Conservation Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District has funds available for grants of up to \$10,000 for conservation projects that save soil or water or improve wildlife habitat. Cost-share rates vary from 50% to 75%, depending on the amount requested. Grants are competitive and are considered by a local panel every month. Interested parties should contact Jennifer Clark at Wasco County SWCD, (541) 296-6178 x119.



#### WSARE Farmer/Rancher Grants

USDA Sustainable Agriculture Education program is offering Farmer/Rancher competitive grants for this coming year. The grant program provides up to \$7500 for operators and \$15,000 for groups of producers. Grant applications are due October 1, 2004. For further information and grant applications please go to the WSARE website at <http://wsare.usu.edu/>

### Keeping in Touch

#### Farm Services Agency

The following is a listing of Farm Services Agency programs that are available for small farmers both in Oregon and Washington. I want to thank Jim Bishop, Wasco County FSA Director, for supplying this information



#### • Ewe Lamb Retention Program

Sheep producers may qualify for \$18 per head for each ewe lamb saved as replacement ewes for the flock or for ewe lambs purchased for breeding stock.

Eligible lambs must have been purchased or born between 8/1/03 and 7/31/04. The ewe lambs must not have produced an offspring. For more information, contact the FSA Office.

#### • 2004 Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

Wool LDP's are available for pelts and wool shorn in 2004. Eligibility requires the sheep must have been owned for at least 30 days before the wool was shorn or the pelt was processed.

Wool producers may certify to the amount of wool shorn, for which the LDP is currently \$.22 per pound in Wasco and Hood River. When the wool is sold the wool producer must submit sales documents to verify the quantity sold or must have the wool measured by FSA staff if the wool has not been sold within 9 months of the date the payments are issued.

#### • Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The NAP program provides assistance to eligible producers who are affected by natural disasters. Eligible crops include commercial crops and other agricultural commodities produced for food (including livestock food) for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. To apply for coverage you must pay a service fee of \$100 per crop per county up to \$300 per county and \$900 per producer. You must sign up in each county that you produce crops in, prior to the closing date for that crop.

If a disaster occurs, you must inform the Farm Service Agency of the loss within 15 days of the disaster event or when the loss becomes readily apparent. If you decide not to harvest your crop or destroy it you MUST contact the Farm Service Agency or a loss adjuster prior to destruction of the crop. Failure to do so may result in loss of eligibility.

Applications for the 2005 crop year will be available after 5/1/04. If you purchased NAP coverage for a crop in 2004, you may send in the annual fee and continue the coverage for 2005 without coming into the FSA Office. If you have additional crops to cover for 2005 or if you will not be producing the crop in 2005 please come into the FSA office to complete the NAP applications.

## Resources..... continued

Closing Dates to pay 2004 NAP Coverage Fees are:

August 31, 2004	Fall Planted Vegetable Seed
September 30, 2004	Triticale (grain)
October 1, 2004	Alfalfa and Grass Hay
	Chestnuts
	Garlic
	Herbs (Peppermint or Spearmint)
	Mixed Forage Hay
	Grazing (Native & improved pasture)
November 20, 2004	Non-insurable fruit trees
	Blueberries
	Non-insurable grapes
January 31, 2005	Spring onions
March 15, 2005	Mustard
	Triticale (forage)
	Spring dry peas
	Spring chick peas

### **\*\* Sign-up for the email FSA News Flash \*\***

If you haven't signed up for the "FSA News Flash," all you have to do is email jim.bishop@or.usda.gov. Your name will be placed on the email list for short email flashes for program changes or upcoming deadlines.

Check out the USDA Internet web site for e-commerce services. The address is; <http://www/sc/egov/usda.gov>. The site allows you to search for forms by number, or other related program information. Forms may be downloaded or completed online and instructions are included.

### **Youth Loans For 4-H or FFAProjects**

Low interest loans are available to assist farm youth. To be eligible the project must be part of a supervised program through the County Extension 4-H program or the Future Farmers of America. Eligible loans of up to \$5000 are available if approved.

\*\*\*\*\*

*For additional information about any of these programs, contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office located at 2325 River Road, The Dalles, OR 97058 or call 541-298-8559.*

## Feature Articles

### **Weeds, Weeds Weeds: How Do I Get Rid of Them?**

*By Brian Tuck  
Wasco County  
Extension Agent*

If you are like me, I am feeling a bit overwhelmed already with weeds in my yard even this early in the spring. With the early spring, weeds are also taking advantage of this warmer weather and getting a jump on rest of the competition. Often, invasive weeds are better adapted to our environment than the cultivated crops that we produce, so good weed management is a must.



Field Bindweed  
(*Convolvulus arvensis*)

### **Weed Identification**

To help folks get a handle of weed control, it is important first to know what weeds you have. There a number of very good resources to help you identify what weeds you have. Several good resource publications include:

**\*Weeds of the West** This is an excellent resource book that provides very good photos of weeds in our area and information on how they grow. It can be ordered through any OSU Extension Office.

**\*Northwest Weeds** by Ronald Taylor. This is a smaller version of Weeds of the West. Again a very good resource for small farmers.

**\*Wetland Plants of Oregon and Washington**, by B. Jennifer Guard. A good plant identification resource for small farmers with wetlands or riparian areas.

## Feature Articles... continued

\*For those with livestock, **The Field Guide to Plants Poisonous to Livestock: Western US** by Shirley A. Weathers is a good resource in identifying poisonous plants in your irrigated or dryland pasture.

\*OSU has a large number of individual Weed Publications including Russian Thistle, puncturevine and knapweed to name a few. Again, they can be ordered through any OSU Extension Office or on their web site at <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu>. The publications have excellent photos and information on control.

\*There is also a good web site at [tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html](http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html). This is an excellent site for additional information on invasive weeds. It provides good photos and control methods.

\*King County in Washington has a very good web site with a number of weed photos and information about weed control. Their site is [dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/weeds/weedpics.htm](http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/weeds/weedpics.htm)

Also, in most Oregon and Washington Counties, Master Gardeners are available for the homeowner to help identify home garden weeds. Contact your local office for more information. County Extension Agents in Oregon and Washington and where available Weed Control District personnel can also help with weed identification questions. In Wasco County, Master Gardeners provide a plant clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4p.m. and on Saturdays at the Fred Meyer Garden Center from 9am-2pm. The Wasco County Weedmaster is available at 541-506-2650.

### Seed Survival

Another important point that small farmers need to consider is how long seeds can last in the soil. The following is a list of common weeds and how long their seeds have been found to survive in the soil.

Common Weeds	Seed Survival
Brome Grass	2-3 years
Annual Ryegrass	Up to 9 years
Perennial Ryegrass	Up to 3 years
Annual Bluegrass	Up to 5 years
Wild Oats	3-6 years or longer in deep soil
Jointed Goatgrass	3-5 years

### Common Weeds cont. Seed Survival

Barnyard Grass	Up to 13 years
Quackgrass	Up to 4 years
Mustards	Decades
Russian Thistle	1-2 years
Curly Dock	More than a decade
Canada Thistle	More than 2 decades
Field Bindweed	More than 50 years
Puncture Vine/ Goat Head	5 years
Leafy Spurge	3-4 years

### Weed Control Game Plan

Once you know what kind of weed you have and how long it might last in the soil, the next thing to think about is a weed control strategy. A few key points to consider in developing your strategy include:

- The best time to control weeds is when they are small and more vulnerable to control measures. The longer you wait to control your weed problems the harder you will have to work at control and the less likely you will be successful.
- Decide how you are going to control the weed problem. Are you going to control it by removing it by hand, herbicides, biological controls, using livestock or other means? Each type of control has its pluses and minuses. For additional information about control options, contact your Extension Office or Weed District.
- Remember that you may not fully control a weed in just one application or use of a control measure. If you have a lot of weed seeds in the soil it can take several years to germinate all the seeds or if the weed spreads by roots you may not get all the pieces the first time you dig up the weed. So patience and persistence is critical if you are going to be successful.
- If you do decide to use a herbicide to control your weeds and you do not know which to use, contact our local Extension Office or Weed District for specific recommendations. Remember each weed control product has its own unique way to kill a

## Feature Articles... continued

particular weed. It is very important that you use the right product for your conditions to get the most effective control and not cause damage to non-target plants or animals or allow it to move off the place of application into surface or groundwater.

- If you are thinking of using a biological control know that they do not control 100% of a weed problem. To get 100% control you will need to combine biological control with other control measures.

### Next Steps

The need to have good weed management strategy in your fields is of critical importance. Good weed control takes time and a willingness to follow it through. If you have any weed control questions regardless of whether you have pasture or a specialty crop, please contact your OSU or WSU Extension Office or your local weed control district.

## Reducing Wildfire Risk for the Small Farmer and Landowner

By **Brian Tuck**

*Wasco County Extension Agent*

(Note: Information for this article was provided by Stu Nagel, Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue Fire Marshal and from *Fire Free: Reduce Your Risk of Wildfire*, SAFECO Corporation, 1998.)

Stu Nagel, Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue Fire Marshall and I wrote this article last year in response to the severity of the drought and the resultant fire season that we had. As we enter the 2004 fire season the potential for serious wildfires is again upon us. The need for small farmers and landowners to practice proactive fire protection around their homes and farmsteads is crucial for the safety of their homesteads and families. The following are some key points that will help small farmers and landowners reduce the potential risks for serious loss due to wildfires.

### 1. Define your Defensible Space.

Defensible space is a buffer zone, a minimum 30-foot non-combustible area around your home and outbuildings that reduces the intensity and risk of a wildfire from starting or spreading to structures. Although a 30-foot distance is standard, additional clearance of as great as 100 feet or more may be needed depending on slope and height, type and size of plant material near the structures, and other conditions such as

weather.

Defensible space not only helps protect your home in the critical minutes it takes a fire to pass, it also gives firefighters an area to work in and could well make the difference between whether a house can or cannot be saved.

### 2. Reduce Flammable Vegetation, Trees and Brush Around Structures.

When needed, replace flammable landscaping with fire-resistant plants. Choose plants with loose branching habits, low growing, non-resinous woody material, high moisture content in leaves, and little seasonal accumulation of dead vegetation. An excellent web site that lists fire-resistant plants for Oregon home landscapes can be found at:

<http://extension.orst.edu/deschutes/FireResPlants.pdf>

You can also visit your local home or garden center to find fire-resistant plant materials.

### 3. Remove or Prune Trees.

If you live in a wooded area, reduce the density of surrounding forest by removing or thinning overcrowded or weakened trees. Check with local agencies for guidelines on tree removal before clearing or thinning your property.

Be sure to prune low-hanging branches to keep a ground fire from climbing into the upper branches. Limbing up these "ladder fuels" will cut the chances of ground fires climbing into tree canopies.

### 4. Cut Grass and Weeds Regularly.

Fire spreads rapidly in dry grass and many of our local weeds, particularly cheatgrass, ryegrass, knapweed and other annual and perennial grasses and broadleaf weeds. Mow grasses and other low vegetation and keep them well watered especially during periods of high fire danger.

### 5. Relocate Wood Piles, Leftover Building Materials and Other Burnable Items.

Stack all wood, building debris and other burnable materials at least 30 feet away from your home and other buildings. Clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of wood/debris piles or other burnable materials as an additional safeguard.

### 6. Keep It Clean.

Especially your roof. Clear pine needles, leaves and debris from your roof, gutters and yard to eliminate

within 10 feet of your chimney and deck. Keeping areas around structures free of burnable materials will reduce fire hazards.

### 7. Signs, Addresses and Access.

Easy-to-read road signs and address numbers that are visible from the road are critical in aiding firefighters to find your home quickly during a fire or other emergency. Make sure there is safe, easy access to your property that can accommodate emergency vehicles and space for them to turn around. Bridges should be able to support the weight of emergency vehicles. Driveways should be trimmed of peripheral vegetation to allow emergency vehicles to see driveways and access structures.

### 8. Rate Your Roof.

Your roof is the most vulnerable part of a structure. If you have a wood shake roof, consider treatment or replacement to make it more fire-resistive.

### 9. Additional Resources

There a number of very good free resources available for small Farmers and landowners including publications from SAFECO Corp including "Fire Tips" and "Wildfire" which can be found on their web site at <http://www.safeco.com/safeco/catastrophe/wildfire/>. Stu Nagel, Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue Fire Marshal has available "Living with Fire: A Guide for the Homeowner" which is a very good overview on fire safety, particularly for folks living in rural areas. His phone number is 541-298-8830.

Your local fire department is also very willing to come out to your home or small farm at no-charge and evaluate your wildfire risk. They can provide you with good ideas and suggestions about how to make your land more defensible and reduce your risk of wildfire damage.

10. For those who have experienced wildfires this year, there is a real need to consider the potential for increased stream runoff and erosion this fall and winter. The Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District Service Center has available at no-charge the Natural Resource Conservation Service Publication "Wildfire Risk Reduction and Recovery Tips" on hand. It details the use of sandbags, straw mulch, straw bales and other tools to reduce erosion and land movement until vegetation can be re-established. It also covers methods of reseeding. The conservation district also recommends that culverts and ditches be cleaned out to handle increased sediment and water loads to avoid flood damage. They can be reached at 541-296-6178 ext. 3.

Again, this article is meant to provide rural homeowners and small farmers with some ideas on how to improve fire safety and reduce risks to life and property. As noted, there are a number of good resources available to help homeowners and small farmers in reducing wildfire risks. Your local Fire Departments, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Washington Department of Natural Resources are all ready and willing to come out and evaluate your property for wildfire risk and make suggestions about how to make your home and small farm more fire safe.

## 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**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to receive the newsletter electronically, which is available free of charge, you only need to send an e-mail message to [join-mcsf@lists.oregonstate.edu](mailto:join-mcsf@lists.oregonstate.edu) You do not need to put anything in the subject line or in the body of the message. The listserve will take your e-mail address and put it on the list to receive notification of when the most current newsletter is available on the Wasco County Extension Web Page with a hotlink directly to the web page. For additional information concerning subscribing to the newsletter please contact your local Oregon or Washington State University Cooperative Extension Office.