



Extension Service
Washington County

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OSU to You

March/April 2010

OSU Extension Service engages the people of Oregon with research-based knowledge and education that focus on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals.

The Complexity of Fertilization

The problem with experiments on tree fertilization is that trees grow in soil. Soils contain lots of different nutrients. But I'm getting ahead of myself. Christmas tree growers, like growers of most crops are looking for answers about tree nutrition. Of interest in the past two years, is the impact of using foliar fertilization to improve color and general tree appearance. Foliar fertilization can be easy to do, especially if growers are spraying anyway and the nutrients can be added to a tank mix.

So, a year ago I set up a series of experiments ranging from a closely controlled greenhouse trial with trees grown in bark to field trials using helicopter applications on older Christmas trees.

The results? Well, depending on the site, you could reach any of a number of conclusions. For example, on a few locations, fertilization of any type did not seem to help the trees. On a few other sites the standard soil applied fertilization seemed to help. On one site, the soil applied fertilization helped boost N levels and the foliar materials improved Boron levels. In the



greenhouse with Nordmann fir trees grown in bark, you could clearly see the benefits of traditional fertilization, (the green tree on the left) compared to foliar nutrition only (on the right). On blue spruce, the same treatment made no difference- they all looked blue. (Chal Landgren, OSU Extension Christmas Tree Specialist)

Washington County 4-H Youth Receives National Award

Matthew Ferguson, a seven year member of 4-H in Washington County and a sophomore at Liberty High School, was awarded The Prudential Spirit of Community Award and the President's Volunteer Gold Service Award, a nationwide program honoring young people for their outstanding volunteerism.

Matthew created "Matt's Chemo Comfort Bags" to make newly diagnosed breast cancer patients more comfortable on their first day of chemotherapy. Matt and his 4-H club solicit donations from local businesses for the comfort bags such pillows, Kleenex, lotion, warm socks, silk scarves and antibacterial lotion. "When my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer it rocked our world, my sister and I had never thought about losing our mom," said Matthew.

"When my mom's chemotherapy was over and we knew she was going to get better, my 4-H club and I wanted to do something to help other breast cancer patients who were beginning their scary chemotherapy journey."

Susan G. Komen of Oregon and SW Washington recently recognized Matt's Chemo Comfort Bags and awarded his 4-H club a \$2,000 grant. Other businesses such as Visiting Angels Home Care, Jim's Thriftway and The Thriftway Corporation, NW Reikii, and several local families and other 4-H clubs have donated their time and supplies for the bags.

"People as caring and committed as these young people are critical to the future of our neighborhoods, our cities, and our nation," said John R. Strangeheld, chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial. "By recognizing these honorees, we hope to encourage other young people – our future leaders – and all Americans to think more about the value and importance of volunteering in their communities."

4-H Tech Wizards Equipo GIS and Project 2010 Youth Leadership Summit

4-H Equipo GIS is an after-school program at Hillsboro, Sunset and Forest Grove high schools. The aim is to help under-represented youth acquire the knowledge and skills to become professionals in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. It accomplishes this by teaching about 60 students to use geographic information system (GIS) technologies to map the locations of various health and resource centers and traditional 4-H clubs in Washington County. Students are learning to use Web 2.0 tools, GIS software ArcMap, Google Earth Pro, video and voice recording technology. 4-H Equipo GIS will be planning "Project 2010 Youth Leadership Summit" in conjunction with other young leaders. Project 2010 is a youth leadership for sustainability summit for students in grades 7-12. 4-H Project 2010 utilizes exciting, hands-on learning experience that emphasizes teamwork and group participation to help youth develop the knowledge and skills needed to engage and make a difference in their communities. 4-H Tech Wizards teens are involved in the planning process and organizing and facilitating of the Conference. There is adult oversight and accountability, but the peer-to-peer discussions, leadership training and workshops provide an opportunity for young people to serve as peer role models. 4-H staff selects 4-H Tech Wizards Equipo GIS participants in conjunction with school counselors, teachers and parents. Partners of 4-H Equipo GIS includes Intel, ESRI, IBM, the City of Hillsboro's GIS department, Clearwire and various community organizations.



Project 2010 Youth Leadership Summit "Leadership for Sustainability"

9 AM – 3:00, April 23 World Forestry Center
Youth in Grades 7-12

Citizen Participation Organization (CPO) Program helps Leaders Get Acquainted

Experienced CPO leaders partnered with CPO Program team (Sally Yackley, Margot Barnett and Linda Gray) to share basic background information about the roles of government, CPO responsibilities, Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI) functions, and the tools available to CPOs. This February event engaged 23 participants and served as an orientation for new and potential new leaders, and as a refresher for those familiar with the program. Small breakout groups led by CPO leaders, discussed CPO activities and ideas for citizen involvement that go beyond the basics to inspire new actions. Participants learned from each other, shared tools for improving their organizations and provided newer leaders with connection and support.

Making it Safer to Inhale

We're still fighting back against mold, which can cause damage to health and property, especially here in moist, beautiful country like Oregon. Mold can endanger the breathing of small children and those with asthma. The key to mold control is moisture control, especially in the home.



Added dimension: If you are a refugee from a sunny country, mold is a foreign concept. In fact, there is no simple word for mold in Somalia, because mold is not an everyday concept in that sunny, dry county. Local residents have mold control information in print in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Russian, and presentations for Somalis were given in person with an interpreter. More was needed, but not in print because many of our current Somali refugees were not at school in the years before they arrived here, due to the war. To bridge the gap, Extension colleagues Jeanne Brandt and Maureen Quinn used funds from the Healthy Homes Partnership, a cooperative effort of HUD and USDA, to record advice about mold prevention and treatment in English, Somali and Maay-Maay, the languages of many immigrants from Somalia who now live here in Washington County. Narrated slide shows give basic health information and mold control directions. Brandt and Quinn prepared a series of concise key messages and tips which were translated by local residents Kaltun Caynan and Anisa Nur, and then recorded and edited as a community service by Tualatin Valley Cable Television (TVCTV) staff. For mold control information in several languages see:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/fch/healthy-homes/mold-indoor-air-quality>

Photo: Kaltun Caynan demonstrates proper scrubbing and product use when cleaning mold.

Upcoming Extension Events

March 13. 4-H Sewing Learning Day. Fairgrounds. **March 22-25.** 4-H Performing Arts Camp, 4-H Center.

March 26-28. 4-H Family Camp. 4-H Center.

March 26-28. Better Living Show. Expo Center. OSU Extension Seminar series and 10 minute University.

April 28. Food Preservation update. SHARC.

May 1. Family Living and Learning Day. Extension activities for all family members. Reedville Elementary School and Presbyterian Church.

May 1. Managing wells and septic systems.

Washington County OSU TO YOU is a bi-monthly publication of the OSU Extension Service in Washington County highlighting the activities and accomplishments of local programs. More information on all program areas and events can be seen on our website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington> or our location at 18640 NW Walker Road, Suite 1400, Beaverton, OR 97006 (CAPITAL Center Entrance D1).