



# GROUNDED

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Grant-Adams Master Gardeners

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Grant-Adams Counties Master Gardeners, 1525 E. Wheeler Road, Moses Lake, WA 98837  
<https://extension.wsu.edu/grant/gardening> | [ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu](mailto:ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu)

## New Master Gardener Training Coming Soon

The next scheduled training for anyone interested in becoming a certified Washington State University (WSU) Grant-Adams Master Gardener volunteer is coming in September 2022.

Requirements for Master Gardener candidates:

- Have a strong volunteer ethic
- Commit to become a volunteer educator for WSU Extension
- Pass federal background screening
- Complete on-line WSU education classes between Sept-December 2022
- Abide by WSU Master Gardener regulations
- Be willing to take additional required training annually and participate in volunteer activities.

If interested in signing up with the Master Gardener Program, go to:

[https://extension.wsu.edu/grant/gardening/master\\_gardeners](https://extension.wsu.edu/grant/gardening/master_gardeners)

Then, on the Master Gardener Volunteer Program page, click on “Gardening Information” and scroll down to “Become a Master Gardener Volunteer.” From there you can access the training brochure and complete the WSU MG Program application. You can mail your completed application to:

WSU Grant County Extension Office  
1525 E. Wheeler Road  
Moses Lake, WA 98837

or drop your completed application off at the Extension Office. Applications can also be emailed to [ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu](mailto:ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu). Further information will be provided this summer on class orientation and the training class schedule.

## Options for Gardening Q&A’s: Online Plant Clinics

Master Gardeners of Grant-Adams Counties are offering two ways to help the public find answers for their gardening questions:

- In-person plant clinics, start up again this spring through the fall at the Moses Lake and Quincy Farmers Markets, and will be held at the Grant County Fair in August and the Othello Fair in September.
- Online plant clinic, offered 365 days/year, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Questions may also be called in to the WSU Grant County Extension Office at (509) 754-2011, Extension 4312, or emailed to the Master Gardeners at [ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu](mailto:ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu). Samples may be brought into the Extension Office for identification and analysis Monday-Friday 8-5 pm.

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## Soil Your “Undies” Challenge

Few of us realize or even think about the fact that healthy soil has billions upon billions of microscopic organisms in it. Though it may be hard to imagine, one teaspoon of healthy soil has more microbes than there are people on earth! Soil microbes are important because they feed on organic matter like the cotton in underwear. So, the more the cotton in a pair of undies breaks down and disappears, the healthier your soil is.

Soil microbes also help soils to prevent erosion, cycle nutrients and store water. These factors are all important in helping maintain or improve soil health, and in helping to keep the soil productive, not only in our lawns, yards and gardens, but across the nation and the world at large! Other ways to improve soil health include avoiding soil disturbance as much as possible; keeping soil covered with mulch, compost, or organic residues and/or with living plants; and growing a variety of plants to improve/maintain biodiversity.

The WSU Grant-Adams Master Gardeners (MGs) are sponsoring a simple, interactive and unique challenge for anyone interested in evaluating their soil health. The challenge consists of “planting” a new clean pair of men’s cotton underwear.

Sound wacky? This technique was originally used by commercial farmers in Oregon in 2018. Since healthy soil is vital to farmers everywhere, they worked with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to build interest in soil health.

Farmers use soil tests to help check soil health. They can alert farms to a number of deficiencies, and they give farmers the knowledge they need to adjust management practices accordingly. But they can be a little complicated.

To make soil testing easier, looking for a simple confirmation of healthy or unhealthy soil, some farmers have turned to burying their underwear. Healthy soil contains abundant organic matter, with organisms that thrive within it, such as bacteria, earthworms, fungi. It turns out that while they break down organic matter, they also like cotton underwear. In just two months, cotton underwear buried in healthy soil will be completely eaten through, leaving behind little but an elastic waistband. Our plan is to expand the concept to anyone who gardens since maintaining and improving soil health are important to all of us.

So, our challenge is for any gardener, school groups or classes, 4-H and/or FFA groups to take the challenge. This experiment works best in spring or summer. In fall or winter there may be little activity in the soil, especially if the ground is frozen. Here’s how to do it.

- In the spring, find a place where you want to study the soil.
- Ensure that the chosen site(s) are on personal property with permission granted where necessary.
- Bury a pair of (preferably white) underwear 3 inches deep in a site you are curious about, taking a picture of the “before” condition of the underwear.
- Mark the spot where the underwear is planted with a marker flag or wooden stake.
- Wait at least 60 days. This gives soil microbes time to work their magic!
- Do not disturb the area in which the undies are planted. The more degraded or deteriorated the undies are, the greater the microbial activity there is in the soil, and the healthier the soil is.



<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/soils/health/?cid=nrcseprd147041>

- After the 60-day waiting period, dig them up. The less complete the underwear is, that is, full of holes or barely holding together, the better your soil health is. Alternatively, the less degraded the undies are, the healthier the soils are. So, having undies that are pretty much gone vs. those that are merely stained and intact, is the goal.

Share your results by taking photographs (before and after), though preferably the after condition is what we want to see and send it to us at [ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu](mailto:ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu).

Or you can bring it (in a sealed plastic bag) to the Grant County Extension Office for the Master Gardener program at 1525 E Wheeler Road, Moses Lake.

- Please identify your name, farm name if applicable, town and county, undie planting date and harvest date,
- Describe how you managed the ground, frequency of watering, or amount of rain received during the challenge period, and a
- Description of the results and thoughts on what you found.



Photo credit:  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/soils/health/?cid=nrcseprd1470410](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/soils/health/?cid=nrcseprd1470410)

Once we receive your information and photos, we will post them on a map so you can see the results and compare them to others. If there are questions, please let us know. For those who may not have access to underwear, let us know and we can provide you with a pair free-of-charge through the Grant County Extension Office after April 1, 2022.



## Tree Topping - What's Wrong With It? ... By George Roper

The International Society of Arboriculture, a renowned (re)source of tree professionals, states that topping is undoubtedly one of the most harmful tree-pruning practices often used. WSU experts say that topping effectively kills trees and ends up being a method that artificially creates snags. Unfortunately, even with science-based research recommendations and observations, tree topping is very common throughout the Pacific Northwest. The purpose of this article is to explain why this is damaging and to offer alternatives.

Basically, tree topping cuts off the top part of the tree. People seem to do it for many reasons: to improve views, avoid power lines, or try to keep a large growing tree contained within a small space. However, this practice is harmful to trees, often makes problems worse, and is usually not the best approach to dealing with tree conflicts.

Since plant scientists and arborists unanimously agree that tree topping is an unjustifiable tree management practice, I had assumed that the word had trickled down to practitioners and their customers. Yet, every year brings a new crop of buzz-cut trees. It also brings a new crop of excuses (culled from the internet):

- “I want to trim the top branches off a 75' tall maple because it's causing excess shade in my yard. I want the tree to live, but just be smaller.”
- “I wouldn't make the sweeping generalization that all tree topping is bad . . . Locals here whack their weeping willows every few years and those trees seem to relish the opportunity to fill out again.”
- “It is necessary for the electric company to top trees that grow into the power lines.”
- “The trees look like hell for a while but seem to get used to the treatment.”

Tree topping harms trees in many ways. It removes a key portion of what is called the tree's crown, which reduces the tree's ability to photosynthesize (process used by plants to convert sunlight into usable plant food). Tree topping deforms the tree and causes it to grow abnormally or weirdly. In deciduous trees, many sprouts can and do form where the stem or stems are cut. Initially, what might appear to be a nice looking way to prune ends up with many more sprouts that are unsightly, are weakly supported, and can quickly grow and create even worse problems with views or power lines than there was before the tree was topped. The prolific sprouts can become a safety hazard as they grow larger and heavier. In conifers, topping can result in the new top forming from the remaining branches. When this happens, the result is often a crooked top or a tree with multiple stems at the top.



Topped trees rebound with a prolific suckers  
Photo credit: Barbara Guiland

There are also plant health issues with tree topping: Sun damage, nutrient stress, insect attack, and decay result from unnecessary and incorrect pruning procedures. Fresh cuts attract insects and often collect rainwater which can create conditions in which decay fungi and bacteria can enter right into the heart of the tree, reducing the tree's natural disease resistance to stressors.

“Topped trees also are likely to become diseased. First, exposed cuts at the tops of trees are highly susceptible to rot. As the rot spreads, branches loosen, becoming a hazard. Second, trees that lose their upper canopy may experience sunburn, which leads to cankers, bark splitting, and the death of some limbs. Third, trees draw nutrients from their upper branches. If too many are removed too often, trees become stressed, and stressed trees are susceptible to insect infestations and to root rot. By topping a tree, you may be condemning it to a long, lingering death.” (Billingquist 2012)

As long as anyone with a pickup truck and a chainsaw is allowed to call himself a “landscape professional,” property owners by and large will remain blissfully unaware. Property owners need to become educated. They need to insist on certified arborists for tree care, and they need to make wise decisions before installing plant material that will outgrow their welcome.

Unless you are experienced at pruning, this work should be left to professionals who have the right training and equipment. Local arborists are certified by the International Society of Arboriculture and can be found by visiting [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com). Steer clear of tree-pruning services that insist tree topping is your only option because more than likely they may be guaranteeing themselves work in the future.

#### Tips to Think About:

- Tree topping is never a justifiable pruning practice; it increases tree health problems and is aesthetically unappealing.
- A topped tree will require constant maintenance and has an increased potential to become hazardous.
- Hazardous trees are a liability, and ultimately the property owner is responsible for any damage hazard trees cause.

- Certified arborists and other legitimate landscape professionals do not practice tree topping.
- There are acceptable pruning techniques designed to keep trees away from power lines and other structures.
- If problems caused by a tree cannot be solved through acceptable management practices, the tree should be removed and replaced with plant materials more appropriate for the site.
- Think about the mature size of a tree and where it will grow relative to power lines and other structures before you plant it.

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## What Do Trees Have to Talk About? . . . by Duane Pitts

Many of us are familiar with Ents, the talking, walking trees from The Hobbit series or movies (2012-2014). However, did you know that trees actually do “talk” and “walk”?

Ever since climate change has become a topic of discussion, scientists and forestry researchers worldwide have begun to notice that trees are physically moving to more suitable climate areas. For the United States and Canada, that has meant the forests have been moving at a glacial speed of 1,640 feet a year either poleward or westward. To match the change in climate, they need to move ten times that distance a year. This movement is not going to happen without assistance.



Photo Credit: Pixabay

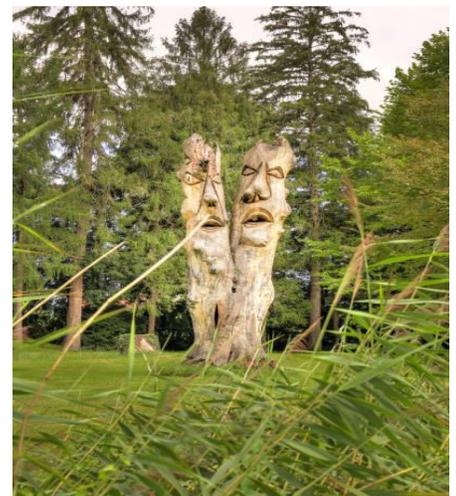


Photo Credit: Getty Images

Keep in mind, that trees are sentient beings. Grouped into forests, they take care of one another, provide shelter and sunshine to seedlings and undergrowth, fight off pests, share resources, respect each species’ space in the community, and create offspring. They are very civilized, to say the least. And, trees live longer than humans, with the yellow birch at 150 years old and the oldest being

the bristlecone pine at 5,000 years old. That’s older than Methuselah.

Now, like all other living creatures on this planet, forests are also faced with a choice: extinction or survival. Trees are taking the path of moving, slow as they are. You can bet that is what they talk about all the time, that and fighting off pine beetles that have killed off millions of trees in the United States and Canada. For them to survive we can help.

Forestry programs in Canada and the United States have been working on “assisted migration” with select trees removed as seedlings to miniature forests at higher elevations, further north of home territory, to find



Rabbitbrush Photo  
Credit:  
Dreamstime.com

out which species will tolerate the change in temperatures and location. Not every tree or plant we know now will survive 25 or even 50 years into the future.

In 2009, US Forest Service researchers planted nine stands of Douglas fir, seeds of which were gathered from 60 tree populations in Washington (including Central Washington), Oregon, and California). The seedlings were planted in mixed clusters at each of the nine sites to determine how they fared in a hotter, drier climate than where they originated. The researchers wanted to know if the trees would make it into the future. As of 2021, the Douglas firs are tolerating the temperature increases and hotter climate in all nine areas.

Temperatures since the 1900s have increased 3 degrees and will soon break the glass ceiling of 4 degrees on their way to 7+ degrees. Time will tell how Douglas firs stand this test. Meanwhile, until final results are in sometime this decade, trees are doing their best to migrate and protect their species.

Mother Nature will do her part by spreading seeds by wind, water, birds, bears, and other animals. However, Mother Nature unfortunately has worked at a slow speed from the days of glaciation. Climate change is moving faster than that, so mankind has to help out. We can help individual species survive, forests, plants and animal species revive in new locations.

While bureaucratic logjams and commitment to planting native species prevent assisted migration in the United States from taking hold on the US's vast public lands, we can help threatened trees find a happy home - for now. There is no Goldilocks solution yet. Until there is, we have to take a risk and do our own experimentation with planting seedlings out of their normal territory to see if they will survive here in the Columbia Basin at a hotter and drier



Photo Credit: Pixaby

climate. Trees cannot grow in isolation. A small "forest" of trees may be in order, like 1/3 acre for one species. They have to build their own symbiotic relationship with soil fungi. My own experimentation with chestnuts has determined they do not grow very well here unless there are other adapted varieties available.



Douglas Maple Photo  
Credit istock

Readers can start experimenting with assisted migration with one or more species known to be native to our area. Trees such as Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, Douglas hawthorn, Rocky Mountain juniper, Western red cedar, Black locust could do well in a small forest or planting. If trees aren't one's bag, readers can try native shrubs like serviceberry, green or gray rabbitbrush, purple sage, and Nootka rose among others. If wildflowers float your boat, then natives like yarrow, milkweed, threadleaf daisy, snow buckwheat, blueleaf strawberry, coyote mint, evening primrose, or various penstemons could work.



Yarrow Bottlebrush Photo  
Credit: Lianem/Shutterstock

And, for those who love native grasses, any one of these would be good to experiment with on a 1/3 acre or so: bottlebrush squirreltail, bluebunch wheatgrass, or basin wildrye. I suggest these native plants because with climate change, all native plants are at risk of going extinct. We do not know which will survive on their own, but chances are none of them will make it without human help.



Squirreltail Photo Credit  
Montana Field Guide

We would do well to listen to the trees, forests, and plants around us migrating slowly north or west, attend to the message from the fish of the sea who are moving to colder waters north or south, and observe that migrating birds are reduced in number from 50 years ago.

I am sure this is what forests are talking about now. Let's join them in that conversation.

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## Soils Have Feelings Too . . . *By Mark Amara*

Ever thought about why soils feel the way they do? Soils do have feelings, and anyone can learn how to feel them and why they are they feel the way they do. Soils are all made up of combinations of sand, silt and clay-sized particles (smaller than 2 millimeters) each with their own set of feelings. As a retired USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service soil scientist and soil conservationist, I have years of experience dealing with soils and how they feel.

Anyone can look at and use what soil scientists use to see how soils feel by comparing them with a textural triangle which shows the different soil types and combinations.



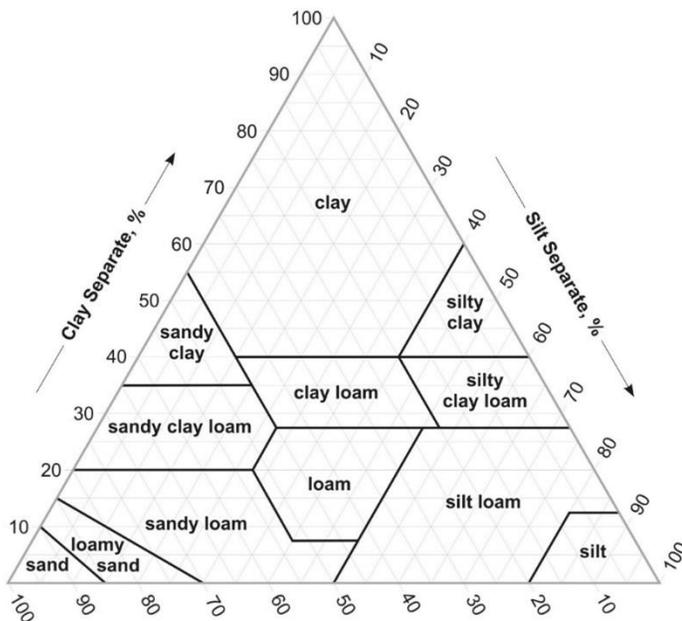
Photo credit: Mark Amara

Then, it can be really fun to see how soils feel by collecting soil samples from around your property for starters. Wetting and moistening the samples and running them between the thumb and forefinger can be done to see how sandy, silty, or clayey they are. With practice, anyone can see how soils feel and check textural triangle for more examples. If rocks are in the texture. There are lots of soil types with common names like sandy loam, silt loam, silty clay loam, loam and just plain sand. Look at the attached soil, their names are added if there are enough. So, for example, a soil is gravelly if there is 15-35% by volume

So, there could be gravelly sandy loams or stony loam or very cobbly sand, for example, based on where they might occur. All soils form in parent materials and vary by climate, topography and influenced by plants, animals and human activities, over periods of time.

Looking at how soils feel in Grant and Adams Counties actually involves checking a little more than texture. We can determine if they are feeling good (healthy) or poor (unhealthy based on a lot of properties reviewed in combination. These indicators help us to decide what they are capable of growing, and best suited for, and how they can be managed to remain productive. Some of those indicators are color, organic matter, depth, structure, porosity, salts, water-holding capacity and pH as well as susceptibility to wind or water erosion and availability of nutrients, to name a few. These properties are all important characteristics for evaluating soil quality and health.

Soil Textural Triangle



2017 Soil Survey Manual. USDA Handbook 18. Government Printing Office. Washington D.C. Ditzler, C., K. Scheffe, and H. C. Monder (eds)

soils in the Moses Lake, Ephrata, and Soap Lake areas. By knowing what soils are present and recognizing the reasons why soils are the way they are, both urban or rural gardeners AND commercial farmers can use a variety of options to treat them to prevent further damage and improve and maintain them for the future.

I was one of the soil scientists from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (as part of a cooperative effort with Washington State University and the Agricultural Research Service) who mapped the soils in Grant County, WA. This work took place during the 1970s using standardized nationally recognized principles that were correlated, using a system specifically designed for soil identification. Gardeners are encouraged to view hard copies of the Soil Survey of Grant County, Washington, published in 1984 or the Soil Survey of the Adams County, WA, 1967, available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service or the public library.

Alternatively, there is an easier way to access the resource to use to learn about soils throughout the U.S. Simply, go to Web Soil survey at: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm> or Soil Web <http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/soilweb-apps/> to find out what the soils are on site-specific locations and on individual properties. Master Gardeners can assist in determining what your soils are like, what they can best grow, and offer suggestions about what to do to improve them.

### When Iris Eyes are Smiling - Oops, Wrong Song . . . by Duane Pitts

I always thought irises were tall flowers, like the 4-foot variety we have along our driveway. I was quite surprised last year when our oldest son and his wife planted a small, variegated iris along the driveway. I had to investigate. Here's what I found.

Irises come in more colors and sizes than I expected. Pick a color, and there is an iris that comes in that hue -- black, blue, purple, orange, pink, peach, red, yellow, pale blue, tan, bronze, lavender, white, bicolor, or tricolor. And, this list is not exhaustive. The iris keeps giving!

Basically, there are 3 forms: bearded, beardless and hybrids or Arils (wild irises bred with European Bearded irises). And, the bearded irises come in six different forms, blooming from April to late May and ranging in height from under 8" to over 27-1/2". Then, the beardless irises have 4 basic forms, blooming from late May to July and ranging in height up to 4' tall. So many forms! But the one most familiar to us is the Japanese bearded iris. Those 4-ft behemoths are seen in yards and along driveways.

Determining and identifying soil types is a first step to understanding their potentials. Once these basic properties are known, it is easier to develop plans for managing them. For example, many of our Grant County and Adams County soils consist of sandy loam and silt loam textures, are relatively low in organic matter (1% or less in the native state), tend to be neutral to moderately alkaline (7-8+ pH range), and may not need to be watered as often as soils that consist entirely of sand of which there are several in Grant County. Other areas have limiting features like high water tables, shallow soil to basalt bedrock, or caliche (a calcium carbonate cemented layer), or have high percentages of sand and gravel in the soil profile.

Examples of very sandy soils are primarily in the Black Sands area (Irrigation Block 89) near Dodson Road west of Moses Lake. Peaty (organic) soils occur near Wilson Creek in the Crab Creek floodplain, and deep windblown rock-free loess soils are in the Hartline area, south of Coulee City, and in the Beezley Hills north of Ephrata. Fine-textured soils are present south of Lind Coulee, and there are gravelly and stony

The Arils are often seen either in the wild as tiny (under 6”) flowers or sold as hybrids taller than their wild relatives. The hybrids I have seen are gorgeous and breathtakingly beautiful.

For all their differences in color, though, irises can be treated the same way. When a clump of irises is about 3 to 5 years old, the rhizomes (above-ground tubers) can be separated and replanted above ground, but the roots stay in the ground. We gave our second son and his wife several big clumps in the fall for their side driveway, and we could barely tell that we had dug up any irises from our driveway! We cut the leaves (aka fans) back to 3 inches above the ground.

Irises tend to be drought tolerant and need little water. Too much watering rots the rhizomes and opens the plant to bacterial or fungal infections and iris borers. It is best to water on the light side, and they don't really need much mulch, except for a light covering of straw, pine needles or bark for winter. Irises like slightly acidic soil, pH 6.8 more or less; require good air circulation, as do most plants; and love full sun at least 6-8 hours a day.

Well, I am off to find other varieties of irises for my garden and yard. Happy planting!



Bicolor Bearded iris. Photo credit iStockphoto.com



Beardless iris. Photo credit: iStockphoto.com



Native plant, Crested Iris (*Iris cristata* - an Aril. Photo Joey Williamson, Clemson Extension

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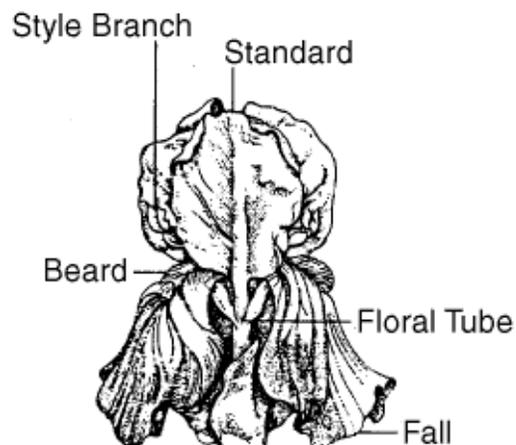
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Iris parts. Source: [hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/iris](https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/iris/)

## Invasive Species Impacts and Alternative Controls . . . by *Justin Bush, Executive Coordinator, Washington Invasive Species Council*

As part of an effort to promote the significance of invasive species, Governor Jay Inslee made a proclamation in partnership with the Washington Invasive Species Council, in which he stated in February 2022 that “We all need to be aware of invasive species and take simple actions to prevent and stop them. We have to work together to protect our state from invading plants and animals that can damage habitat, outcompete native species for food/and destroy what makes Washington such a great place to live.”

Whether on land or in water, some organisms such as fish, bugs, plants and other wildlife can damage agriculture, recreation, forests, and other resources when introduced to Washington from other areas. One study estimates that only 22 species would cost Washington more than \$100 million annually in damage and loss if they were not prevented or controlled.

“Today, one of the single largest threats to natural and cultural resources for the Kalispel Tribe are invasive species,” said Glen Nenema, chairman of the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, which is a member organization on the council. “Nonnative plants and animals that harm our native ecosystems are a growing problem throughout Kalispel lands and is only getting worse with a changing climate. These invasive species are a shared concern for tribal, federal, state and county governments.”

In Inslee’s proclamation, he noted that everyone has a role to play in stopping invasive species by doing simple actions such as looking for plants and animals not native to Washington when spending time outdoors and reporting sightings. Residents should report any potential invasive species they spot using the Washington Invasives mobile app or by visiting the website: [InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov](https://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov).

“To stop new invasive species, we need the public’s help finding the very first bug, plant or animal,” said Seth Fleetwood, mayor of Bellingham. “We are proud of our work locally and very much need members of the public to join in our efforts. If we can find them before they get settled in, we can save a lot of money, time and resources. Vigilant residents recently helped us detect Asian giant hornets and European green crab, and our watercraft inspectors helped prevent an introduction of zebra and quagga mussels. We’re grateful the public is joining us to stop invasive species on land and water. Working together is key to successfully eliminating future problems.”

Being alert and reporting suspected problems is just one action that anyone can take. Other simple actions to prevent and stop invasive species include the following:

- Clean your hiking boots, bikes, waders, boats, trailers, off-road vehicles and other gear before you venture outdoors to stop invasive species from hitching a ride to a new location. Learn about pathways that spread invasive species.
- On your next walk, look out for noxious weeds. Visit the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board’s website to learn about noxious weeds and if you spot some in your yard or while walking in your neighborhood, notify your county noxious weed control board.
- Dispose of unwanted pets, aquarium plants and water, science kits and live bait the proper way and NOT by dumping them into waterways. Released pets often suffer a slow death in winter or may become invasive and damage wildlife and crops. Visit the council’s “Don’t Let It Loose” Web page to learn the proper ways to dispose of unwanted pets and plants.
- Buy firewood where you’ll burn it or gather it on site when permitted. Remember not to move firewood from the local area where harvested. Learn more about the potential dangers of moving firewood.
- Protect salmon and steelhead by not moving any fish from one waterbody into another. This will prevent the spread of fish diseases and protect salmon and steelhead fisheries from non-native predatory fish. Visit the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s website to learn more about moving fish.
- Use weed-free, certified forage, hay or mulch. Visit the Washington Department of Agriculture website to see details of its certification program.

- Plant only noninvasive plants in your garden and remove any known invasive plants. Volunteer to survey public lands and trails as a Citizen Science Invasive Plant Monitor with the Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council. Learn more on the Plant Council's Facebook page.
- Become a Washington State University Master Gardener and help your community identify, report and properly manage exotic and invasive pests.
- Volunteer to help remove invasive species from public lands and natural areas. Contact your state, county or city parks and recreation department, land trust, conservation district, or Washington State University's Extension Office to learn more.
- Don't pack a pest. When traveling internationally, review travel guidelines on items that should not be brought back to the United States. Learn more about Don't Pack a Pest.
- We know how to prevent and stop invasive species. No action is very complicated, and each just takes a few minutes. If we all integrate these activities into our daily lives and work, we will protect what we know and love about this place we call home.
- The Legislature created the Washington Invasive Species Council in 2006 and has given it the task of providing policy-level direction, planning and coordination for combating harmful invasive species throughout the state, and preventing the introduction of others that may be potentially harmful.
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#### **Grant-Adams Counties Foundation Officers:**

Glenn Martin, President, 509-699-8466  
 Barbara Guillard, Vice President, 509-765-3912  
 Diane Escure, Treasurer, 509-289-6022  
 Mark Amara, Secretary, 509-760-7859  
 Duane Pitts, At Large, 509-988-0284

#### ***Grounded Staff***

Mark Amara  
 Diane Escure  
 Barbara Guillard  
 Kris Nesse