Bugs & Blights

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Graft incompatibility occurs when the scion and rootstock, or branch, grow at different rates. The result is usually swelling at the point above or below the graft union. Some suggested causes include growing at different times, different growth rates, injury during grafting, or a slowing of nutrients that give cells extra nutrition for extra growth. This is commonly seen on apple and cherry trees and may contribute to their declining vigor. The link below is to an interesting powerpoint tutorial on grafting and cause of problems.
http://www.uvm.edu/~mstarret/plantprop/chapter12.pps

The WSU Growing Groceries program trains volunteer mentors to teach gardening methods to those wanting to start community, food bank or family gardens. The amount of fresh-picked donations to food banks is impressive. But what has been more amazing is the sense of community that has developed around these projects and the dedication of the volunteers, committed to helping neighbors in need. Many nurseries have donated seeds and some supplies to help that effort. Some nurseries have food growing programs for their customers, especially kids. The program began at WSU Snohomish County Extension but other WSU County Extension programs quickly adopted the idea and have started their own food growing programs. Many thanks to those nurseries who have supported this effort to reduce hunger in Washington. http://snohomish.wsu.edu/extension/extensioncords/hortextcord.pdf

Columbine sawfly, *Pristophora aquilegiae*
This is a fairly new pest to Washington. It was first introduced to the U.S. in New York in 1985 and was found in Maine in 1988. This European import can defoliate and weaken columbines. Look for tattered leaf edges, or dangling bits of leaf. The tiny green caterpillars lie along the eaten edge of the leaf or with the tail end curled around the edge of the leaf. The sawfly larvae quickly eat all leafy tissue, leaving only the 3 petioles of the leaflets. This year the first generation appeared in May in Seattle, and the young larvae of the second generation were munching again by June 8th. Handpicking, or just squishing, is tedious and it is unlikely to be successful unless you only have one or two plants and are vigilant through the summer. These caterpillars are not moth larvae but rather the larvae of a sawfly which looks like a little shiny black fly. Because they are not lepidopterous, *Baccillus thuringiensis (Bt)*, is not effective. There are reported to be one to as many as five generations in a season. So far, I count three generations in my garden by the end of July. Most general pesticides with columbine on the label should control them if they are numerous. Plants seem to continue to put out new leaves and grow. Ignoring them only works if their numbers are low.
http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/pestsurvey/pestinfo/cs.pdf

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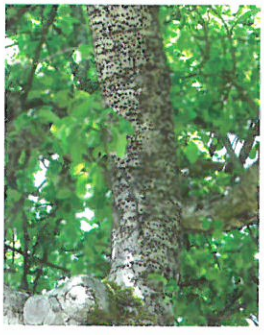

Sapsucker damage (*Sphyrapicus spp.*) consists of fairly straight rows of small holes in the bark of many kinds of trees. These are caused by a medium, and quite beautiful, bird with black and white markings on the head and wings.and a bright red head. The damage causes sap to leak out where the sapsucker can feast on the sap or the small insects attracted to sap. Trees seem to thrive despite the holes. A new publication on sapsucker damage with photos is at http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS057E/FS057E.pdf