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Newsletter

September 2019

Announcements

SEPTEMBER

14 Walla Walla Community Hospice Pond & Garden Tour, 9 a.m.—4 p.m., $25 per person. A self-guided tour of ten beautiful gardens in the area that incorporate water features in their design. Tickets are limited, and must be purchased in advance at Bright's Candies & Gifts, 11 E Main Street; Walla Walla Community Hospice Office at 1067 Isaacs Avenue; or online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pond-garden-experience-2019-tickets-63498314167. For more information, call 509-525-5561.

All proceeds from the Pond and Garden Tour will be used towards providing quality hospice care in Walla Walla, Columbia, and Northeast Umatilla Counties.

17-19 Pacific Northwest Agroforestry Workshop, Enduris Training Facility, Spokane, WA. For technical assistance providers and anyone who works with farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to promote agroforestry in the PNW. For more information visit: http://pnwagro.forestry.oregonstate.edu/washington-workshop-2019-0.

18 Field Tour of Walla Walla County Conservation Projects & Interactive Dinner, 1 pm—5 pm. Departs from LaQuinta Inn & Suites, 776 Silverstone Drive, Walla Walla. Dinner 5:30—8 p.m. at WWCC. RSVP by September 9th at: http://www.formstack.com/forms/?2853946-5-w8z5hM1mS. Contact Renee Hadley for more information at 509-956-3777.

OCTOBER

5 Experience 4-H! Learn about local 4-H Clubs at the Downtown Farmer's Market from 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Information on current projects, how to join a 4-H Club, as well as fun, hands-on activities will be available.

THANK YOU

Walla Walla County CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

for providing postage for this newsletter!

Updates

EPA TAKES ACTION TO PROVIDE ACCURATE RISK INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS, STOP FALSE LABELING ON PRODUCTS
EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

WASHINGTON (Aug. 8, 2019) – EPA is issuing guidance to registrants of glyphosate to ensure clarity on labeling of the chemical on their products. EPA will no longer approve product labels claiming glyphosate is known to cause cancer – a false claim that does not meet the labeling requirements of the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act* (FIFRA). The State of California's much criticized Proposition 65 has led to misleading labeling requirements for products, like glyphosate, because it misinforms the public about the risks they are facing. This action will ensure consumers have correct information, and is based on EPA's comprehensive evaluation of glyphosate.

"It is irresponsible to require labels on products that are inaccurate when EPA knows the product does not pose a cancer risk. We will not allow California's flawed program to dictate federal policy," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "It is critical that federal regulatory agencies like EPA relay to consumers accurate, scientific based information about risks that pesticides may pose to them. EPA's notification to glyphosate registrants is an important step to ensuring the information shared with the public on a federal pesticide label is correct and not misleading."

In April, EPA took the next step in the review process for glyphosate. EPA found – as it has before – that glyphosate is not a carcinogen, and there are no risks to public health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its current label. These scientific findings are consistent with the conclusions of science reviews by many other countries and other federal agencies.

On Feb. 26, 2018, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California issued a preliminary injunction stopping California from enforcing the state warning requirements involving glyphosate's carcinogenicity, in part on the basis that the required warning statement is false or misleading. The

California's listing of glyphosate as a substance under Proposition 65 is based on the International Agency on the Research for Cancer (IARC) classifying it as "probably carcinogenic to humans." EPA's independent evaluation of available scientific data included a more extensive and relevant dataset than IARC considered during its evaluation of glyphosate, from which the agency concluded that glyphosate is "not likely to be carcinogenic to humans." EPA's cancer classification is consistent with many other international expert panels and regulatory authorities.

Registrants with glyphosate products currently bearing Proposition 65 warning language should submit draft amended labeling that removes this language within 90 days of the date of the letter.

For more information about EPA's comprehensive evaluation of glyphosate, visit https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0361-0073.

Farming & Livestock

TIMING IS EVERYTHING WITH STUBBORN PASTURE WEEDS

by Debbie Williams, Walla Walla County WSU Extension

Reducing stubborn pasture weeds requires correct timing no matter which method of control you consider. Effective methods include grazing management, mechanical and chemical control. Proper grazing management provides a good stand of forage that competes against weeds and reduces bare spots where weeds can take hold. Mechanical control can help. Timing of mowing, clipping, and hand pulling is critical to eliminate seed production, especially in annuals and biennials. Mechanical control can also help with some perennials around the time of prebud to early bud because it taxes the energy the roots need.

Chemical control is usually needed for most of our tough pasture weeds. The best control is through a specific plan for each problem weed. However, follow label directions and do not overtreat a specific area. If you delay herbicide application beyond the optimum growth stage, weeds will become increasingly competitive with grasses and harder to control. Conditions such as herbicide sensitivity, adequate spray coverage, decreased herbicide absorption due to stressed plants or not using the proper surfactant will decrease effectiveness.

For annual weeds, you get the best control when herbicide is applied to small plants growing under good environmental conditions when products are applied in enough water to adequately cover plants. Typically, you don't mow within three days before or after spraying to ensure adequate movement of the herbicide through the plant. If possible, irrigate the weeds to ensure active growth and that they are dust free before spraying. Multiple applications may be necessary to control repeated flushes of annual weeds. Some annuals will behave like biennials in the right conditions. Common troublesome summer annual pasture weeds include mustards (spray before bolt), pigweeds (spray when very small, can accumulate N to toxic levels, resistance to some herbicides has been reported), and spikeweed (spray when rosettes are less than 3" in diameter). Troublesome winter annuals include yellow starthistle (spray seedling to mid-rosette stage), puncturevine (spray when small and often), and hare barley (spray in the fall or spring prior to heading).

Mustard

Pigweed

For perennial weeds, your best control is often obtained when systemic herbicides are applied to taller plants that are in the reproductive growth stage, just prior to bloom. At this time the herbicide will be translocated or moved throughout the plant resulting in more complete control than just burning off the tops with earlier applications. Simply burning off the above ground foliage is usually not adequate to kill root and other plant parts that can re-emerge. For perennials, herbicides are least effective during rapid growth in the spring. However, spraying the regrowth of some weeds during the late fall period can provide some of the most effective control. Weeds that are particularly vulnerable to fall applications include Canada thistle (spray fall rosettes or wait until prebloom), curly dock (spray before bolt), plantains (spray before seed stalk bolt), and field bindweed (multiple applications are needed, best during flowering).

Spikeweed

For biennial weeds, you get the best control when herbicides are applied to rosettes in the fall and spring. Pasture weeds such as scotch thistle, bull thistle, and common mullein are problematic biennial weeds. Fall is the preferred time to spray biennial plants but anytime prior to bolt can be effective. Mallow (spray before 3 inches wide, tolerant to many common herbicides) is considered an annual but frequently acts like a biennial in pastures.

Make sure you have correctly identified your weed and then explore the correct timing and herbicide products for the best control plan. Carefully follow herbicide label directions. Keep up with your plan until the weed is controlled. In most cases, control must be uninterrupted for more than three years to eliminate the weed.

MEET RYAN, WSU'S ELITE NEW WHEAT FOR THE NOODLE MARKET
Adapted from CAHNRS News

Ryan, the newest spring wheat variety from Washington State University, is winning over Northwest farmers and grain buyers across the Pacific, thanks to its surprising ability to create an outstanding fresh noodle.

Shown from grain to bowl, WSU's newest spring wheat, Ryan, has developed a reputation as an outstanding main ingredient in fresh udon noodles. This is the first year that Ryan has been widely available to farmers (Photo by Shelly Hanks, WSU Photo Services).

"Ryan has hit harder and generated way more interest than anything I've done before," said Mike Pumphrey, WSU's O.A. Vogel Endowed Chair of Spring Wheat Breeding and Genetics. "What sets Ryan apart is its quite remarkable noodle quality."

This is the first year that Ryan has been widely available to farmers. Introduced in 2016 and only available in limited quantities until 2019, Ryan led all public spring wheat varieties for certified seed production in Washington last year, according to the Washington State Crop Improvement Association.

Not only is Ryan expected to dominate spring wheat acreage this year, WSU scientists say it could transform the market for wheat growers and their customers, here and abroad.

Bouncy bite

A staple of Japanese cuisine, udon are thick wheat flour noodles, served in hot, flavored broth. Udon and similar Asian noodles are made from soft wheat varieties, with most premium noodle wheat coming from Australia. With Ryan, Northwest farmers have a chance to break into the premium noodle market.

For udon, consumers prefer noodles that are soft inside, but firm on the surface. Ryan has a desirable mutation called partial waxiness, giving it high levels of a starch molecule called amylopectin, ensuring a chewy, bouncy bite.

At the same time, Ryan has outstanding qualities for traditional cakes, cookies and crackers—"the sort of thing that a soft white wheat is supposed to do," Pumphrey said.

Agronomic winner

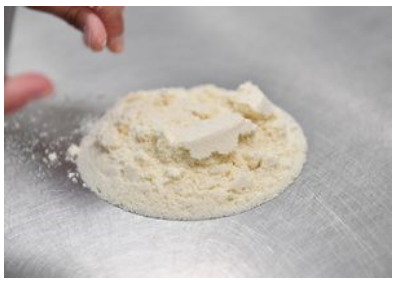
Tested at 18 locations across the state, Ryan has topped WSU's variety trials for yields in the low, medium and high-rainfall growing areas of eastern Washington.

"Whether we have an early, dry hot year or a late, wet, cool year, Ryan has been at the absolute top of the line for spring wheat yields," Pumphrey said. "It's high yielding in a lot of different conditions."

WSU scientists bred Ryan for dependable resistance to the stripe rust pathogen, which has been an annual yield-shrinking problem for Washington farmers. Ryan also has strong resistance to hessian fly, a major pest of spring wheat.

With soils becoming more acidic across the region, Ryan has high tolerance for low pH, due to resistance to aluminum toxicity caused by acidity in the soil. The variety also matures early for a spring wheat, helping farmers to begin harvest closer in timing to their winter varieties, saving time and labor costs.

"The combination of traits we need for a successful variety comes from the contributions made by many different people specializing in pests, diseases, environmental stresses, and baking and cooking qualities," said Pumphrey. "The DNA and the knowledge go back a century."



Freshly ground Ryan flour.

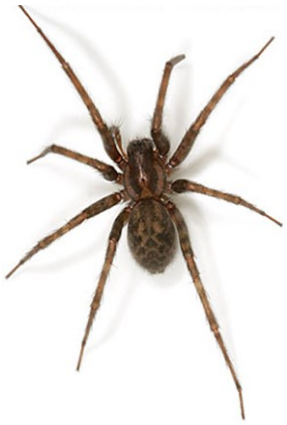
Development of Ryan wheat was funded by the Washington Grain Commission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and Washington State University.

Home & Garden

HOUSE SPIDERS

In our area, there are three species of house spiders which look very similar. They include the Hobo spider, *Tegenaria agrestis*, the giant house spider, *T. gigantean*, and the domestic house spider or barn funnel weaver, *T. domestica*. All of these spiders build funnel webs in dark, moist areas such as in woodpiles, under rocks, or in basements.

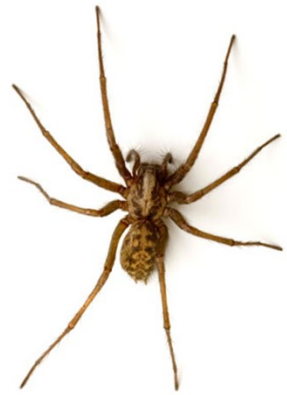
The domestic house spider is the most commonly encountered spider found in houses and is the smallest of the three species with a body less than ½



Tegenaria domestica, Domestic House Spider

inch long. The hobo spider may grow slightly larger than the domestic house spider but the giant house spider is the largest with male leg spans up to 4 inches. Although the giant house spider's body is not much larger than the hobo, the legs are proportionately much longer.

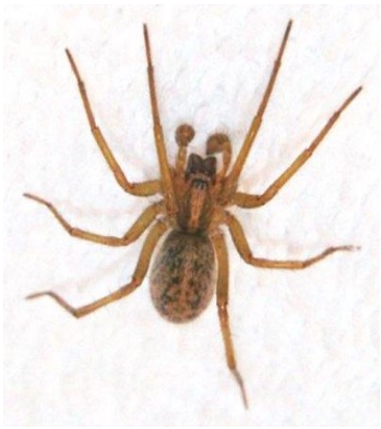
Distinguishing among the three species can be difficult because the size, coloring, and markings vary greatly between one individual and another even within the same species.



Tegenaria gigantean, Giant House Spider

Spiders seem to be more numerous in the late summer and early fall as the males are actively seeking mates. Bites are relatively rare considering the number of spiders encountered.

Contrary to myth, hobo spiders are not aggressive. Most bites occur when the spider is accidentally trapped against the skin. Although hobo spiders have been blamed for causing black, oozing, festering wounds, it is now believed that these wounds are more likely the result of a bacterial infection.



Tegenaria agrestis, Hobo Spider

Hobo spiders do not climb well and are usually found at ground level. To avoid spider bites, check gloves and shoes before putting them on. Gloves and long-sleeved shirts should be worn when working around wood or rock piles, cleaning cluttered areas or when moving stacks of papers, magazines or clothes that have been left undisturbed for some time.

To minimize the number of spiders in and around your home:

- Seal all cracks and crevices around the foundation.
- Install weather stripping around doors and windows.
- Vacuum regularly.
- Minimize clutter. If you have a lot of boxes or stuff lying around the home, especially in the basement, garage, or other storage areas, you are providing cozy spots for spiders. Outside the home, move woodpiles and rocks away from the house and keep crawl spaces free of debris.
- Replace the regular light bulbs in exterior light fixtures with yellow or sodium vapor lights which are less attractive to insects thereby providing less food for spiders.
- The standard sticky traps you purchase at the lawn and garden shop placed around the baseboards of the home can capture spiders and may help indicate where spiders are coming into the house.
- Household insecticides and total release foggers formulated for insects usually have little effect on spiders.

Most spiders are relatively harmless and are beneficial insect exterminators. While almost all spiders are venomous, very few can hurt people by biting and injecting venom. In fact, the only spider in our region that inflicts a dangerous bite is the black widow. The black widow spider has a potent neurotoxic venom and is considered the most venomous spider in North America. Black widows are very shy spiders, rarely noticed and will not bite unless they are provoked or are protecting their eggs.

The adult female black widow spider has a shiny, jet black, spherical abdomen with two connected red triangles on the underside that form a characteristic hourglass marking. The hourglass color may range from yellowish to various shades of orange or red. The marking may only be a pair of red spots or there may be no marking at all.

PESKY BROADLEAF WEEDS FLOWERING IN TURF

Adapted from Kevin Frank, Michigan State University Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences

The trifecta of common trifoliate broadleaf weeds black medic (*Medicago lupulina*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and yellow woodsorrel (*Oxalis stricta*) are all currently flowering and infesting turf.

Clover, black medic and yellow woodsorrel in one patch of infested turf. Photo by Kevin Frank, MSU.

Black medic and white clover

Black medic in turf. Photo by Kevin Frank, MSU.

Black medic and white clover are commonly found growing on low fertility, low maintenance sites such as roadsides, boulevards, neglected home lawns and, in some cases, golf course rough. Black medic and clover are very competitive in low fertility sites because they host rhizobacteria that fix atmospheric nitrogen into plant available nitrogen.

A long-term strategy to reduce their competitiveness in turf is to ensure adequate fertility levels. At a minimum, Michigan State University Extension suggests 2 pounds N/1000 ft.^{2} a year split over two applications to ensure the turf is dense and competitive. Depending on the turf use and inherent soil fertility, more than 2 pounds N/1000 ft.^{2} may be necessary on many sites to produce a turf that is competitive with weeds. Fall broadleaf herbicide applications are the most effective for controlling these weeds; however, treatment at flowering should produce results. The most effective herbicides for controlling black medic and white clover contain the active ingredients fluroxypyr, triclopyr or quinclorac.

Yellow woodsorrel or oxalis

Yellow woodsorrel. Note the heart-shaped leaves. Photo by Kevin Frank, MSU.

Yellow woodsorrel, sometimes simply referred to as oxalis, behaves as a summer annual in our climate and often infests voids left following elimination of broadleaf weeds following spring herbicide applications. In contrast to black medic and white clover, yellow woodsorrel is not a nitrogen fixer and is found in a range of conditions including fertile soils, shady, sunny and dry, so just about everywhere. Effective herbicides for post-emergence control of yellow woodsorrel include the active ingredients triclopyr and fluroxypyr.

Always read, understand and follow the label directions. Mention or exclusion of specific products does not represent an endorsement or condemnation of any product by Michigan State University.

Family Living

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR GAME

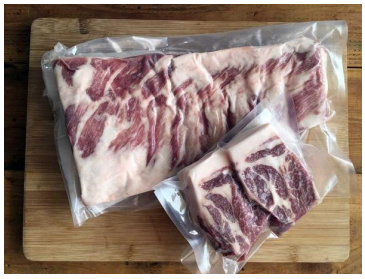
As hunting season approaches, you might be thinking of all the meals you will enjoy using your harvested game meat. Although many of you are veterans of processing wild game, it is always a good idea to review safe food handling practices. While most people freeze the meat, there are many other ways meat can be preserved for the year ahead. Below are some tips and tricks for getting the most out of your wild game.

Tips While in the Field

For smaller game animals, remove the viscera immediately to start the cooling process and make the meat easier to handle. Leave the skin on if you will be immediately transporting it back to camp, home, or a cold storage locker, as this will keep the meat clean until you can finish skinning and dressing. If you are unable to transport the animal intact, you can remove the skin and quarter it in the field. Keep the meat clean by hanging it off the ground or placing clean game bags or canvas under it. Be sure to place the meat in game bags before carrying out.

If you are unable to carry out the animal right away, and temperatures will not drop below freezing overnight, skinning will be necessary to prevent spoilage. To keep a skinned animal overnight, create air space between it and the ground by placing rocks or poles underneath, allowing for air circulation and cooling of the meat. Plan to get all meat into cold storage as soon as possible. Although game bags can help keep meat clean, they will also hold in heat and increase the rate of spoilage. Make sure meat has cooled thoroughly before enclosing in bags or wraps.

Freezing Game Meat



Be sure to use the right type of packaging materials when freezing. First, wrap the meat in plastic. This will keep air out of the package and preserve the meat better. A second wrapping in freezer paper will further protect the meat. Use freezer tape to close the package, as other tape will not adhere once the package is frozen. Meat may also be vacuum packed. Be sure to freeze vacuumed packed meat as quickly as possible to prevent the growth of *Clostridium botulinum (*the organism that produces the toxin that causes botulism). Label packages with the cut and type of meat, and freezing date, using permanent marker. For best quality, use frozen meat within 6-9 months.

Canning

Canning is another great way to preserve wild game. Since canned meat can support the growth of *Clostridium botulinum*, the meat will need to be canned using a pressure canner. Begin with good quality chilled meat that has been trimmed of excess fat and large bones. Meat will need to be cut into strips, cubes, or chunks prior to canning. Your local Extension office can provide you with recipes and processes for canning game meats safely.

Drying

Many types of game meat make terrific jerky. For safe jerky, you will need to ensure the meat reaches a temperature high enough to kill microorganisms. This can be done by drying the meat first, then finishing the meat in the oven until it reaches 170°F for bear meat, and 160°F for other game meat. Cut meat into slices no thicker than ¼ inch. Place strips in the dehydrator in single layers on the drying racks. When the meat has been dried sufficiently, finish it in the oven. The meat should crack but not break when bent, and not have any moist spots. Your local extension office has detailed recipes for making game jerky.

For more information on processing and preserving game, refer to the following Extension publications: *Big Game from Hunt to Home* (PNW517), *Making Jerky at Home Safely* (PNW632), and *Canning Meat, Poultry, and Game* (PNW361). Your local Extension office can provide you with these publications, or you can download them for free at https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/ . By following these tips, you can get the most out of your game, and enjoy it throughout the year.

Dr. Stephanie Smith is an Assistant Professor and Statewide Consumer Food Safety Specialist for Washington State University Extension. She can be reached at food.safety@wsu.edu or at (855) 335-0575. Visit our website at http://extension.wsu.edu/foodsafety/. Follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/wsuextfs/ or on Twitter at https://twitter.com/WSU_foodsafety.

4-H

Fair was a tremendous success and we want to thank the many volunteers that gave countless hours of their time to help make it all happen!

October marks the beginning of the new 4-H year. Join us October 5th to explore all that 4-H has to offer. Experience 4-H takes place at the Downtown Farmer's Market from 9 a.m.—1 p.m. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about 4-H and also join in some fun activities.

Take the opportunity to explore the possibility of becoming a 4-H leader. Leaders are the foundation of 4-H, and play a key role in helping young people grow and become active members of their communities. Consider becoming a 4-H leader!

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Celebrating 100 Years of Extending Knowledge and Changing Lives.

Debbie M. Williams
County Extension Director