WSU EXTENSION
Walla Walla County

March 2022
Volume 2022, Issue 2

NEWSLETTER

Farming

Alfalfa Variety Trials Quality Results

The Hay Growers Association and WSU Extension
Find it here: http://www.wa-hay.org/uploads/5/5/0/6/55065965/2021_variety_trial_report_-_final.pdf

A wheat field, Adams County, 11/23/21. No stripe rust detected

First Stripe Rust Forecast for 2022

Adapted from Xianming Chen USDA-ARS Research Plant Pathologist

Based on the weather data in November and December 2021, stripe rust in the 2022 wheat growing season is forecasted to be in the middle range of the moderate epidemic level (20-40% yield loss on susceptible varieties). Using the forecast models based on the 2021 November and December weather data, yield loss of highly susceptible winter wheat varieties in the 2022 crop season is predicted to be between 25 to 40% with an average of 34% and 5% standard error.
This percentage is lower than the forecast (39%) made last January for the 2021 crop season due to the relatively cold weather of the late December in 2021 compared to that of 2020. Currently grown varieties in the Pacific Northwest are forecasted to have yield losses ranging from 0 to 17% depending upon the level of resistance or susceptibility of individual varieties. Based on the forecast, fields planted with resistant or moderately resistant varieties (stripe rust ratings 1 to 5 in the Seed-Buying Guide) will not need fungicide application while fields planted with moderate susceptible or susceptible winter wheat varieties (stripe rust ratings 6 to 9) may need the early fungicide application at the time of herbicide application. This early prediction is often close to the real situation but may not be as good as the prediction in March based on the weatherdata of the entire winter from November to February. Therefore, we will make another prediction in early March. However, stripe rust resistant or moderately resistant spring wheat varieties (stripe rust ratings 1 to 5) are recommended for planting.

Learning Opportunities

March 2, 12pm: NW Regional Webinar on Proposed Ag Water Rule. FDA officials will provide an overview and answer questions. https://wastatedeptag.blogspot.com/2022/01/changes-proposed-for-ag-water.html

March 9, 8:30-4:00: Organic Management of Postharvest Decays. Best management practices to fight pre and postharvest pathogens in pome fruits which continue to be a major concern in organic and conventional systems. Webinar. Free. **2 pesticide recertification credits.** http://treefruit.wsu.edu/event/postharvest-workshop-2/

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Precision Irrigation Scheduling Tool Now Available for Free Online.

Adapted from Troy Peters, Fruit Matters

The tool uses 30-year historical average reference evapotranspiration data for 233 different weather stations throughout the state, and historical mean crop coefficients for 74 different crops to make estimates of the mean historical crop water use for that crop in a typical growing season. This is used to estimate when your irrigation system might typically need to be started and when it typically might be shut down for a few days to save labor, pumping costs, and water. Find the tool here: http://irrigation.wsu.edu/Content/Calculators/Historic/SimpleSched.php

POSTMASTER send address changes to:
WSU EXTENSION
328 WEST POPLAR
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

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Walla Walla County Conservation District Rolls Out New Commodity Buffer Program

By Grant Traynor, Walla Walla County Conservation Scientist, WWCCD

The Commodity Buffer Program is a cost-share program designed to protect waterways and water quality in the county, while supporting local agriculture. It offers producers land rental payments to take land out of production and plant conservation buffers. Many producers in Walla Walla County may qualify for this program, including those who grow crops next to a river, as well as those that have field drainage or road erosion issues that impact waterways downhill. This program offers 3-year contracts with competitive compensation based on the price and yield of adjacent crops, with payment minimums to protect growers against a drop in crop prices or yield. The Commodity Buffer Program will minimize field and road erosion issues, avoid regulatory action, and protect salmon habitat, all while receiving a consistent payment. For more information on program specifics visit https://www.wwccd.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Commodity-Buffer-Program.pdf, or contact Grant Traynor (Walla Walla County Conservation Scientist) at grant.traynor@wwccd.net / 509-956-3767

Reminders for Spring Postemergence Herbicide Applications in Wheat for Grass Weed Control

Adapted from Andrew Hulting, Oregon State University

A competitive wheat crop with an adequate stand is the key cultural weed management strategy to limit impacts of grass weeds. But there are some additional considerations to maximize postemergence control of grass weeds with herbicides as we transition into the spring.

In general, it is important not to apply most postemergence herbicides when cold, wet weather is expected within one week following application (or several days before the application for that matter). Reduced weed control efficacy and crop injury may occur when maximum daytime temperatures are less than 40°F after herbicide application, and severe crop injury may occur in freezing environmental conditions. If possible, growers need to time late winter and spring applications of herbicides including Outrider®, Osprey® or Osprey Xtra®, PowerFlex HL®, Axial XL® or Axial Bold®, Everest® and Beyond® to avoid these types of environmental conditions to maximize grass weed control efficacy. In addition, each of these products has its own unique adjuvant system (additions of NIS, AMS, COC, and MSO, for example) that must be utilized to achieve grass weed control and limit potential for wheat injury. Always refer to the product label and our current recommendations for your growing region for each product and for product updates in the PNW Weed Management Handbook: https://pnwhandbooks.org/weed

Food Safety for Organic Food Producers Webinar Series

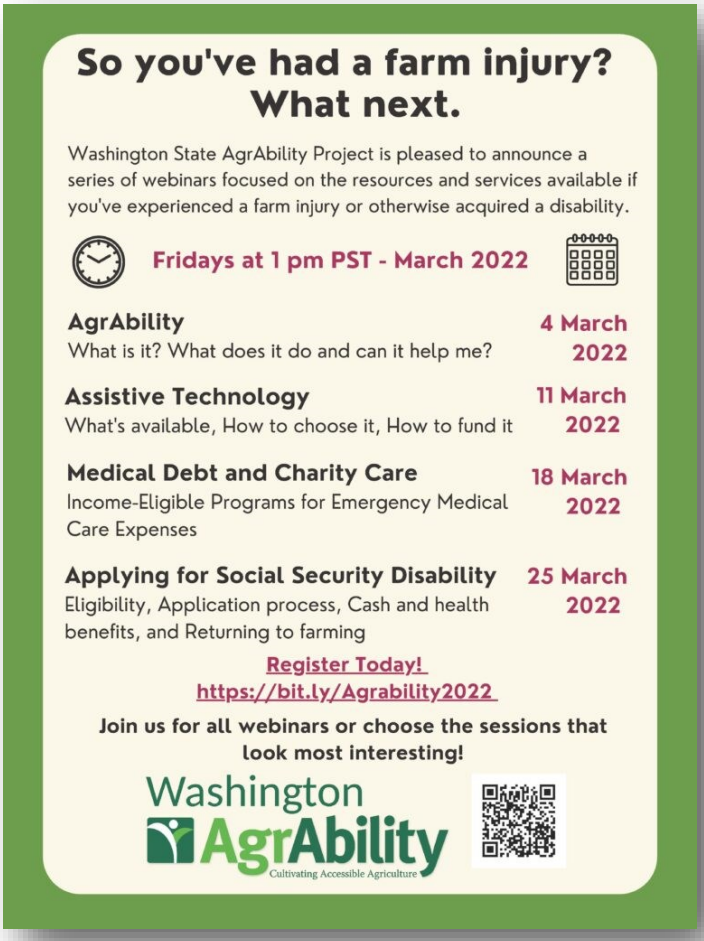
Adapted from Meaghan Donovan , CCOF

Recently passed federal regulations require food processors to meet certain food safety standards. Join the California Certified Organic Foods, and partners, including WSU and the USDA for this webinar series to learn what your business needs to do to comply. Through the nine-part series, they will walk through the different compliance categories of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) for food processors, as well as review what each category of businesses need to do to comply. Then they will dive deeper into food safety topics such as hazard analysis and validation. Get your food safety questions answered in this introductory series for organic processors!

Upcoming Webinars:

- **March 8,** Hazard Analysis for Organic Food Producers
- **March 8 & 15,** A Produce Safety 101 for Small Organic Farms
- **March 22,** Validation for Organic Processers
- **April 27,** Cottage Food Laws in California and Washington State

For more information or to view recordings of past webinars in the series, go to https://www.ccof.org/blog/food-safety-organic-food-processors-webinar-series



Washington State AgrAbility Project Announces Webinar Series. To register: **https://bit.ly/Agrability2022**

Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities

The new Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities opportunity provides up to $1 billion for pilot projects that create market opportunities for commodities produced using climate-smart practices. USDA is now accepting project applications for fiscal year 2022.

First Funding Pool – **April 8, 2022**, *by 11:59 p.m. ET*

Proposals from $5 million to $100 million

Should include large-scale pilot projects that emphasize the greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart commodity production and include direct, meaningful benefits to a representative cross-section of production agriculture, including small and/or historically underserved producers.

Second Funding Pool – **May 27, 2022**, *by 11:59 p.m. ET*

Proposals from $250,000 to $4,999,999

limited to particularly innovative pilot projects. These projects should place an emphasis on:

- Enrollment of small and/or underserved producers, and/or
- Monitoring, reporting and verification activities developed at minority-serving institutions.

More information can be found on the website https://www.usda.gov/climate-solutions/climate-smart-commodities

P

Home and garden

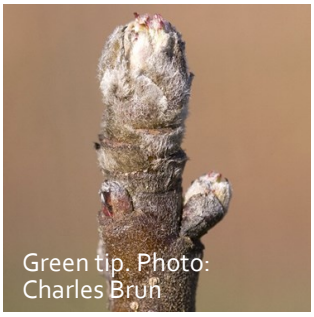
Early Spring Pest Management for Backyard Fruit Trees

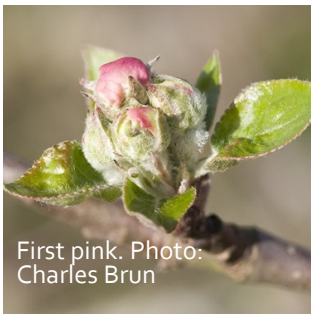
Apples

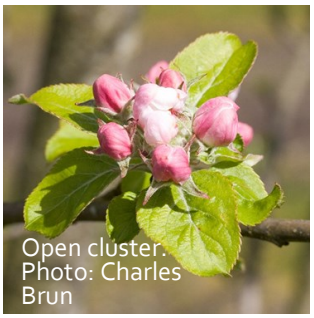
Adapted from Paula Dinius "Suggested Spray Schedule for Home Garden Apples" and Charles Brun et.al, WSU Pub EM101

Late winter, early spring: just as buds begin to show

Apply Superior type horticultural oils for control of overwintering mites, scale and aphids. Spray when daytime temperatures are between 45-55 F with no frost forecast overnight. Finish spraying by noon to insure good dry time.


Green tip. Photo: Charles Brun


First pink. Photo: Charles Brun


Open cluster. Photo: Charles Brun

Now is a good time to remove any blighted branches or cankered wood, and prune to maintain sun penetration and air circulation to the center of the tree's canopy.

Just as flower clusters open but before bloom:

Spray all season horticultural oil OR sulfur for powdery mildew. DO NOT apply horticultural oil if using sulfur at any time of year. It can be toxic. DO NOT apply sulfur to Delicious varieties.

Spray for hatching insect pests such as mealybug, lygus bug, stinkbug, aphid, and mites.

Spray for feeding caterpillars such as leaf rollers, army or cut worms. Make sure your spray covers top and bottom of leaves!

Cherries

Adapted from Paula Dinius, "Suggested Spray Schedule for Home Garden Cherries"


Photo: UMass Extension Fruit Program

Late winter before buds show any sign of activity (top)

Spray for Coryneum blight (Shothole), bacterial gummosis. When daytime temps are 40-45 F.

Late winter just as buds begin to show first green tissue (bottom):

Spray horticultural oil for overwintering scales, aphids, and mites when temps reach 45-55 F, with no frost overnight. Completely wet the tree.

Help Fruit Growers: Protect Your Backyard Fruit Trees From Pests

Adapted from Mike Bush, WSU Extension Fact Sheet FS124E

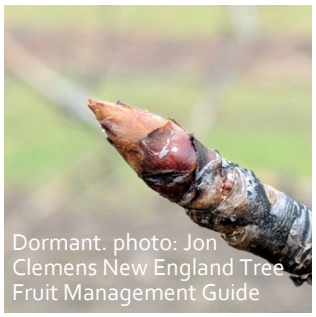
Washington State is home to the largest volume of deciduous tree fruit in the nation. With over 230,000 acres of fruit orchards in Washington's fruit basket, the incidence of fruit-tree insects is quite high.

In order to help protect Washington State fruit growers from economic losses, Washington homeowners who plant apple, pear, or cherry trees are legally responsible for controlling the insect pests in host trees on their property (see Revised Code of Washington 15.09 at http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=15.09.060).

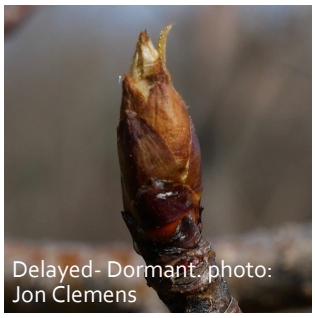
Avoid pesticide application during bloom to protect honeybees

Pears

Adapted from Paula Dinius "Suggested Spray Schedule for Home Garden Pears


Dormant. photo: Jon Clemens New England Tree Fruit Management Guide

Late winter, before buds show any activity / just as buds begin to show first green tissue: For overwintering pear psylla, scales, aphids and mites, superior type horticultural dormant oil can be used before buds show any activity and when daytime temperature is between 40-45 F and when buds are in the Delayed-Dormant stage, just as they begin to show first green tissues, when daytime temperatures are 45-55 F with no frost forecast. Spray to completely wet the tree.


Delayed- Dormant. photo: Jon Clemens

Early spring, Pre-pink just before bud clusters show any color through petal fall
Control for powdery mildew, aphids, scale, stink, lygus boxelder bugs. Do not apply lime sulfur spray to Anjou pear varieties at this time as severe fruit drop can occur. Make sure spray covers top and bottom of leaves!

For a complete schedule for tree fruit pest control see the WSU Tree Fruit website: http://treefruit.wsu.edu/backyard-fruit-tree-spray-schedules/


Bud burst


Late green cluster

Hot off the Presses

New publications from WSU Extension

Available for free on the WSU Publications website or by request at the Extension office.

Assessing Freeze Damage to Winter & Spring Wheat Using a Crown Viability Test

Author Dale Whaley

Follow the nine simple steps outlined in this pub to conduct a successful crown viability test on your winter and spring wheat. https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/assessing-freeze-damage-to-winter-and-spring-wheat-using-a-crown-viability-test

Harvesting Blueberries: A Guide to Machine Pick Blueberries for Fresh Market

Authors Jinru Chen, Wei Q Yang, Fumiomi Takeda, Lisa DeVetter

You can maximize blueberry fruit quality and the harvesting efficiency of your machine pickers by following the best practices outlined in this pub. https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/harvesting-blueberries-a-guide-to-machine-pick-blueberries-for-fresh-market

Learning Opportunities

(Continued from page 1)

March 12, 8:00-3:00: 4-H and FFA Youth Swine Field Day. This interactive youth field day provides the latest information on raising swine projects for youth, parents and leaders. Lunch is included. **Must register by March 4.** For more information and to sign up: https://extension.wsu.edu/asotin/4h-youth-development/4-h-camps/

March 24, 12:30-2:00pm WAVEX- Mycorrhizal Inoculants for Vineyard Growth. Webinar. Free. https://wine.wsu.edu/event/wavex-mycorrhizal-inoculants-for-vineyard-growth-webinar/

March 26, 8:00-3:00: 4-H and FFA Youth Beef Field Day. This interactive youth field day provides the latest information on raising beef projects for youth, parents and leaders. Lunch is included. **Must register by March 18.** For more information and to sign up: https://extension.wsu.edu/asotin/4h-youth-development/4-h-camps/

SAVE A TREE

subscribe to our electronic newsletter!
email: amy.rosenberg@wsu.edu to be added

Ask a Master Gardener!

Are you ready to get your hands dirty this spring? So are we! If you need advice on pest management, soil amendments, mystery plant ailments, what to plant in your vegetable garden, or any other gardening quandaries, the WSU Walla Walla County Master Gardeners are here to help! Clinics are a way for you to get answers to your gardening questions from an experienced, university trained garden expert. Starting **April 19,** come see us on **Tuesday and Thursday 9:00-11:00 and 2:00-4:00**. Our Master Gardener Volunteers will also be on hand at the Walla Walla Farmer's Market each Saturday starting in May.

Stay tuned for any Covid-related updates to the schedule.

Bird Flu Making it's Way Through the US

Adapted from Dr. Dana Dobbs, WSDA Avian Health Lead

The USDA has confirmed H5N1 in wild, commercial, and backyard birds across the country. If you want to protect your flock from avian influenza, now is the time to get serious about biosecurity.
The best way to prevent birds from becoming infected is to keep the virus from reaching your birds in the first place. That means learning the signs of infection and practicing good biosecurity. Signs of HPAI infection may include: Nasal discharge and sneezing, sudden death (with or without clinical signs), decreased feed or water intake, swollen and or purple wattles, combs, and legs, decreased egg production, and more. Here are some basics of biosecurity. To learn more, see the USDA's comprehensive resource page here: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/dtf-resources

1. *Limit contact with your birds*

Don't allow visitors or animals access to your birds, and don't allow people who work with other birds around yours. Periods of heightened risk, bring your birds under cover and limit contact with wild waterfowl and their droppings.

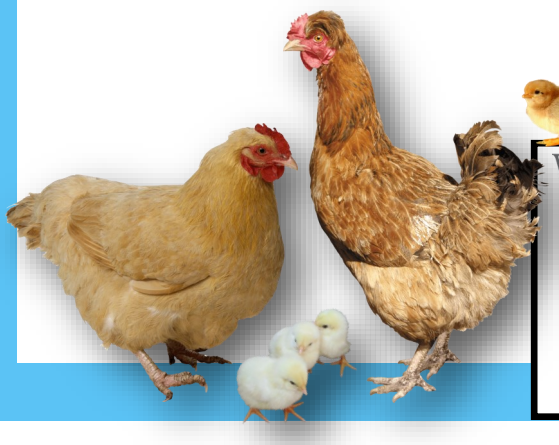
2. *Keep it clean*

Have dedicated clothing and shoes for bird handling. Scrub shoes with a brush to remove droppings, mud and debris before cleaning. Wash thoroughly with soap and water or sanitize hands before entering your bird area. Disposable gloves and boot covers can help.

3. *Don't bring disease home*

If you visit a place that has birds, or where bird owners may visit, like a feed store, clean and disinfect your vehicle and anything else that travelled with you. Shower and change clothes before visiting your flock.

Keep new birds separate for at least 30 days and only purchase birds from National Poultry Improvement Plan approved sources. Don't share equipment, feed, or other items such as cages with other bird owners. If you mush share equipment, ensure that it has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected first. Please report any unusual or high rates of illness or death in your flocks to the WSDA Sick Bird Hotline at 1-800-606-3056. Learn more at agr.wa.gov/birdflu



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WALLA WALLA COUNTY EXTENSION

Celebrating 100 Years of Extending Knowledge and Changing Lives.

Debbie M. Williams
County Extension Director