

WSU Extension Island County

Food Systems Newsletter

September 2018

WSU Agriculture News

[Revealing how bacteria, grasses fix nitrogen target of WSU Tri-Cities researcher](#)

Reducing synthetic fertilizer use, pollution, farming costs, while freeing up nitrogen, mark possible benefits of a research project by Sarah Roley, assistant professor with the School of the Environment, Washington State University Tri-Cities.

[Environmentally friendly farming practices used by nearly 1/3 of world's farms](#)

Nearly one-third of the world's farms have adopted more environmentally friendly practices while continuing to be productive, according to a global assessment by 17 scientists in five countries.

[WSU scientists clone virus to help stop overwhelming grape disease](#)

A new discovery by Washington State University scientists could help grape growers roll back a devastating virus that withers vines and shrivels harvests.

[Sustainably beating fruit orchard pests aim of new WSU entomologist](#)

Developing sustainable strategies to defeat devastating pests that threaten apple, pear, cherry and other fruit crops is Tobin Northfield's goal as Washington State University's newest entomologist.

More news from [WSU Insider](#)

Upcoming WSU Workshops, Classes and Events

Whidbey Island Growers Association

Freeland, Shore Meadows Rd. at Deep Harvest Farm, Monday, September 10, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

The September monthly meeting and potluck dinner will be at Deep Harvest Farm in Freeland where Nathaniel Talbot and Annie Jespersen will show us and discuss their experience with hedgerow plantings to encourage native pollinators and other beneficial insects. Then Eric Mader, Pollinator Program Co-Director of the Xerces Society, will talk about the work they do to with native pollinators and habitat.

Open to all farmers, growers and those interested in local agriculture. Bring a potluck dish to share and eating utensils. A no waste event. The Growers Association is a partnership between WSU Extension Island County and the Whidbey Island Conservation District. Contact Loren Imes at loren.imes@wsu.edu or 360-639-6059 for more information.

Biodegradable Plastic Mulch Till-Down Field Day

Ferndale, WA., Boxx Berry Farm, 6211 Northwest Dr., Tuesday, September 11th 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Participate in till-down of biodegradable plastic mulch into the soil. Interact with biodegradable plastic, polyethylene, and paper mulches as they are tilled down or removed from the field. Learn the latest about biodegradable mulch films. Free

More information at <https://extension.wsu.edu/wam/biodegradable-plastic-mulch-till-down-field-day/>

Invasive Weed Field Practicum

Concrete, WA, Saturday, September 15 at 9 AM - 4 PM

At this field practicum, you will learn to identify and control some of the most common invasive weeds that cause economic and environmental damage in forests, such as holly, ivy, blackberries, knotweed, reed canary grass, butterfly bush, Scotch broom, and more. The practicum will cover both chemical and non-chemical control options.

Details and registration information at http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/weeds_skagit/

CULTIVATING SUCCESS PROGRAM

Sustainable Small Farming and Ranching Series

Coupeville – Thursdays, September 27 – December 6, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

This 11-week course will give you a broad overview of production and marketing options for today's small farm. Whether you are exploring how to use your land or already have an existing operation, you'll learn what it takes to create, sustain and grow a viable small farm enterprise. Includes in-class presentations, shared video-conferencing with WSU Extension Skagit County and 2 Saturday field trips. [View some photos from last year's class.](#)

Details and registration information at <https://cultivatinguccessfall2018.brownpapertickets.com/>

Red Alder Management Workshop

Kent, WA – Saturday, September 29 at 9 AM – 3:30 PM

This workshop will take a comprehensive look at the challenges and opportunities that alder presents to landowners. We will explore management options for different alder stand types, including young, dense thickets and older stands that are falling apart. We will talk about market opportunities for alder and how to recognize and grow high-quality trees. We will also talk about managing natural succession for property owners who don't want to clear-cut the alder but also don't want it to become a brush patch.

Details and registration information at <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/alder/>

SAVE THE DATE

7th Annual Women in Agriculture Conference

Coupeville – Saturday, October 27 at 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

"PUMP UP YOUR FINANCIAL FITNESS" is the theme for the seventh annual Women in Agriculture Conference. It will be an engaging, interactive day full of inspiration, learning and networking with other women farmers. The 2018 conference is a one-day event held simultaneously at locations throughout Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Oregon.

The day starts with learning how to use your "financial numbers" to establish a cash flow that includes your farm and personal living expenses to strengthen your farm operation. The day continues with a local panel of women farmers who will talk about the different ways they balance their lives - with their top tips for handling finances and their personal lives. The final take-away message with the capnote speaker will be all about making it possible to do what you love the most!

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and interact. It will be a full day of learning and networking! www.womeninag.wsu.edu

Contact Loren Imes at loren.imes@wsu.edu or 360-639-6059 for more information

Job Opportunity

WSU Extension Island County SNAP-Ed Coordinator

The WSU Extension SNAP-Ed Coordinator is responsible for coordinating, implementing, and cultivating a school and community gardening education program for low income audiences. The work includes training; recruitment; program coordination; and continual monitoring, updating, and evaluation of the program. The Extension Coordinator collaborates with the SNAP-Ed Program Manager, the Island County Extension Director, other Extension staff and community partners to implement the program, and ensures that activities meet the requirements of the FNS Guidance for SNAP-Ed. With this funding source, WSU SNAP-Ed teaches youth and adults with limited incomes to develop skills and behaviors to eat healthfully. The position works independently to develop and support community partnership collaborations, and assists the Region 3 SNAP-Ed Program Manager with developing and monitoring budgets, and overseeing school and community garden staff personnel. This is a .75 FTE with benefits.

To see the full job description and to apply, visit <https://www.wsujobs.com/postings/40077>

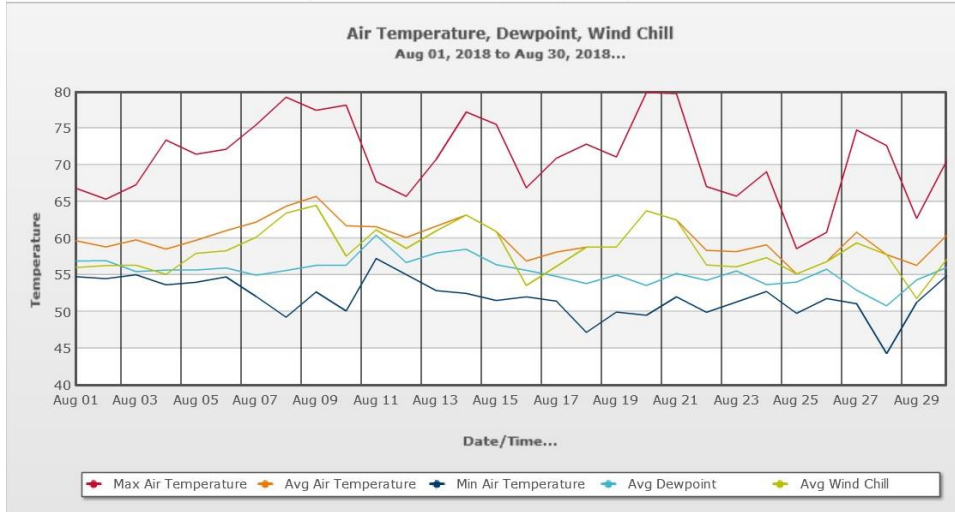
APPLICATIONS DUE 09/09/2018

To learn more about the WSU Extension SNAP-Ed Program see <https://extension.wsu.edu/curriculum-fidelity/success-stories/> or contact Dr. Tim Lawrence at 360-639-6061 or Jen Hey at 206-948-0505

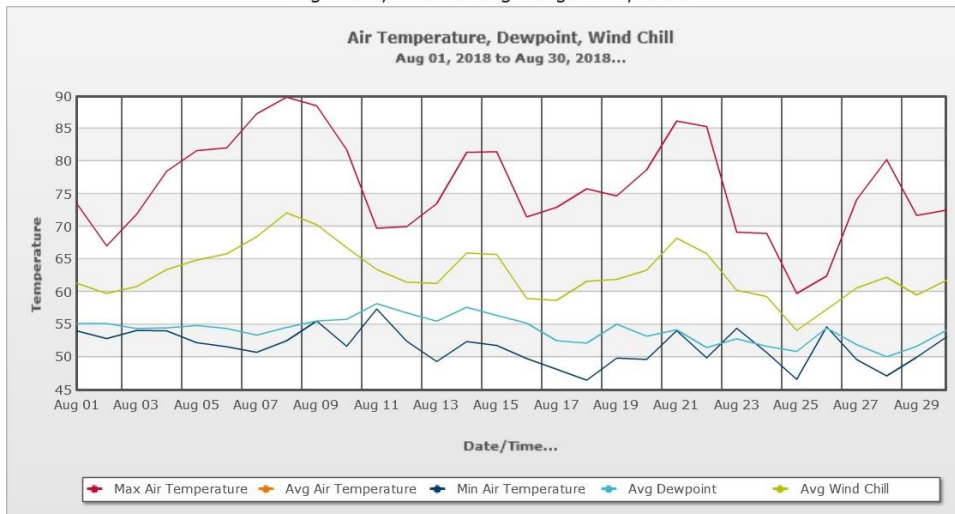
Whidbey Island Weather Data

August Daily Temperatures

Coupeville (Whidbey Island), Coupeville, Island County, Washington
August 01, 2018 through August 30, 2018



Langley, Langley, Island County, Washington
August 01, 2018 through August 30, 2018



Visit WSU's [AgWeatherNet](#) website for more weather data from our two island locations.

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If you do not wish to receive these communications, please contact loren.imes@wsu.edu to be removed from the list.

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Island County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
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