

WSU Extension Island County

Food Systems Newsletter

November 2018



Island County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

WSU Agriculture News

[Fungus provides powerful medicine in fighting honeybee viruses](#)

A mushroom extract fed to honeybees greatly reduces virus levels, according to a new paper from Washington State University scientists, the USDA and colleagues at Fungi Perfecti, a business based in Olympia, Washington.

[Grant supports improving cider industry — 'Apple to Glass'](#)

Hard apple cider is growing in popularity around the country, and craft ciders from small cideries are the fastest growing segment of that market. Equipped with a grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, a new group, led by Washington State University researchers, will work with orchardists and cider makers to develop the best apples to make the tasty libation.

[Evaluating trap cropping as a low-cost management option for wireworms](#)

A three-year grant from Western SARE and led by San Juan County Extension Director Brook Brouwer will look for ways vegetable growers can mitigate wireworm problems. He's testing planting a trap crop of wheat, both with and without the organic pesticide bait Spinosad.

[Reduced Tillage in Organic Vegetable Production - Video](#)

WSU soil researcher Doug Collins and his former graduate student, David Sullivan cover the concept of reduced tillage organic agriculture, cover crop and weed management, and specialized equipment. Techniques and findings from recent research are shared to assist producers in trialing reduced tillage systems. It is intended for organic vegetable producers and agricultural professionals, especially in the maritime northwest.

More news from [WSU Insider](#)

Upcoming WSU Workshops, Classes and Events

Whidbey Island Growers Association

Monday, November 12, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM, Nordic Lodge, 63 Jacobs Rd. Coupeville

The November monthly meeting and potluck dinner will feature an informative panel discussion titled “From Value-Added to Experience” on how to expand and enhance your rural farm or business with value-added products and carefully crafted customer experiences. Our presenters will be Sarah Richards of Lavender Wind Farm, Bev Heising of Whidbey Island Distillery, and Marian Myszcowski of Goosefoot.

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.

WA Small Fruit Conference & Lynden Ag Show

November 28-30, Lynden

Washington Small Fruit Conference is a 3-day conference with the latest relevant research information delivered by the scientists performing the research.

For full agenda, speaker profiles and to register, please visit [2018 WA Small Fruit Conference website](#)

Seeds Growers, Black Leg disease, and the Quarantine Area on Whidbey Island

Monday, December 10, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM, WSU Extension Island County, 406 N Main St. Coupeville

Seed production is an important business in Washington state, with approximately one-quarter of the world’s cabbage seed produced in Western Washington. And a growing number of small farms are expanding into seed saving and small-scale, open-pollinated seed production.

Join us to hear from two WSU researchers on issues important to seed producers, farmers and everyone living in a seed producing area. **WSU Plant Pathologist Dr. Lindsay du Toit** will speak about Black Leg and Black Rot, two economically significant seedborne diseases that can affect Brassica vegetables, as well as related Brassica crops and weeds. **Don McMoran, Extension Director for Skagit County** will talk about non-brassica cover crop options for growers that can lessen the risk of disease spreading to seed crops. We also hope to be joined by a representative from WSDA to talk about the Crucifer Quarantine area that includes Whidbey Island north of Greenbank and how that impacts local vegetable growers, seed producers, and others who use crucifers and brassicas as cover or forage crops.

Grow Your Farm Workshop Series

Three new workshops to help you farm smarter sponsored by WSU Snohomish County Extension and the Snohomish Conservation District. Located at WSU Snohomish County Extension's Cougar Auditorium, 600 128th St SE Everett

Marketing & Market Research for Farmers – Tues. December 4, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Who's going to buy what you are selling? Do you know who your customers are? How will you convince them to buy from you? Join us for an evening on Marketing & Market Research for Farmers. Learn how to identify potential customers and connect with them during this workshop. We'll look at some of the market research tools available to the modern farm business along with a discussion on how to capture the interest – and purchasing dollars – of potential customers. Emily Felt, from Sno-Isle Libraries Business Services, will demo some of the new resources they have available for conducting market research and identifying potential new customers. In addition, writer, photographer, and farm-to-table documentarian Audra Mulkern will share what she's learned about capturing and retaining customers through the gentle art of storytelling. Founder of The Female Farmer Project, Audra's work highlights the rise of women in agriculture as well as helping change the way we look at food and farming.

The Joy of Farming with Spreadsheets – Wed. December 12, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Regardless of what vegetable crop(s) you're growing or on what acreage, it takes vision and a plan to move from seed to start to planting, harvest, and sales. It takes record-keeping and analysis to determine if a crop is worth your time to grow, or how you might make it worthwhile. Join us for an evening with Becky Zaneski as she brings The Joy of Farming with Spreadsheets to life. From season planning and field mapping to tracking labor costs and sales data, Becky's common-sense approach helps you make sense of the data. Co-founder of City Grown Seattle, an urban market gardening business, she is a farmer with a strong software background and a passion for growing vegetables. She currently farms at Full Tilt Farm in Poulsbo, a 5-acre farm producing vegetables, berries, and eggs using organic practices...and spreadsheets!

Lease Literacy for Farmers & Landowners – Wed. December 19, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Farmland owners often wish to lease their land to someone willing to farm, while there are plenty of folks looking to start or grow a farm by leasing land. But how do you go about setting up an equitable lease? What do you need to look for and/or avoid? What makes a good lease contract? What factors lead to positive landlord-tenant relationships? Both landowners and renters have the same questions. This informal workshop is designed to help address some of the challenges landowners and tenants have related to developing and maintain good land lease arrangements. We'll have a lawyer familiar with land leases on hand to explain the legal details and answer questions. In addition, much of the evening will be devoted to a panel of experts on the topic: farmers, landowners, and farm incubator managers willing to share their experiences regarding what works, what doesn't, and how to create good lease relationships.

Space is limited, the cost is \$15 per person per workshop (or take all three for \$40). To ensure your spot, visit GrowYourFarm.eventbrite.com to register. For more information on the workshops, contact Kate Ryan, kate.ryan@wsu.edu, (425) 357-6024.

UPCOMING

Cultivating Success: Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Business Planning

Thursday Evenings 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM, January 10 - March 21

Take your farm business to the next level with this 12-week course. A unique combination of guest speakers, in class discussion and assignments, this course dives into the business side of running a farm, from sales and marketing to financial management. At the end of the course, you will have the core elements of a business plan to guide your farm forward. Course fee is \$260 per farm.

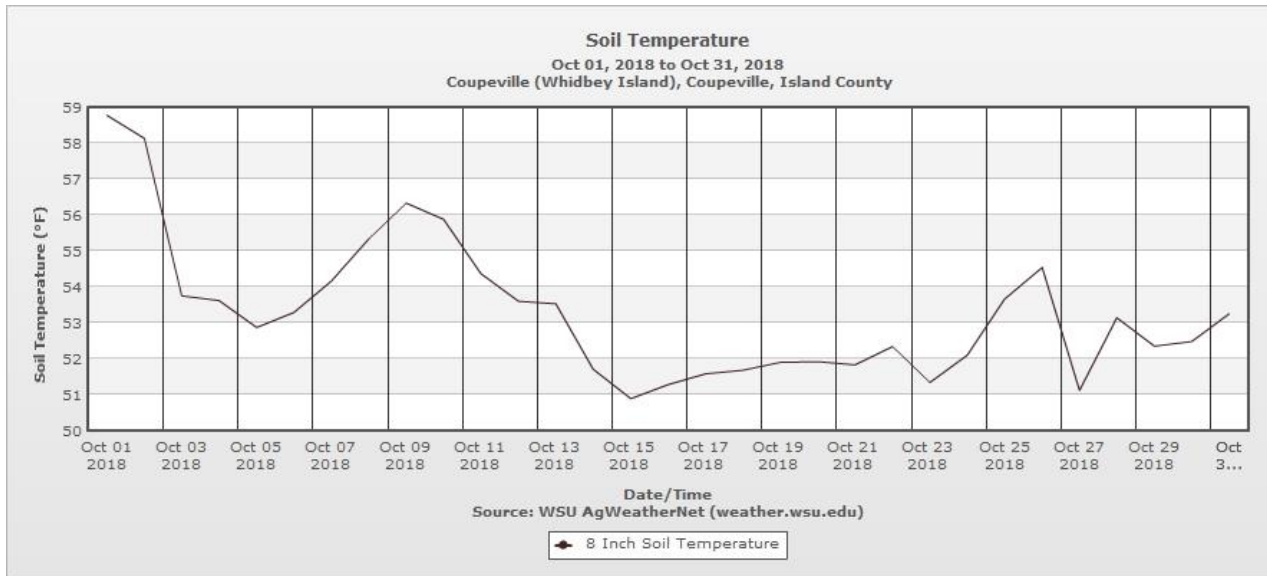
Two locations linked by video-conference to choose from:

- WSU Skagit County Extension, 11768 Westar Lane, Suite A, Burlington
- WSU Island County Extension, 406 North Main Street, Coupeville

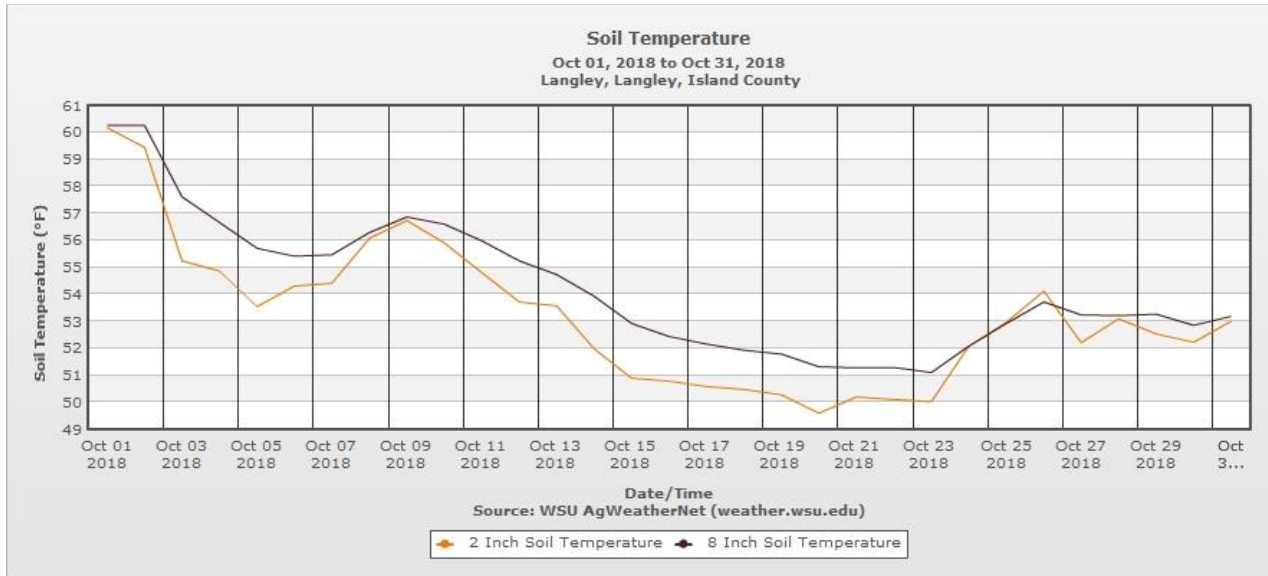
For more information, email loren.imes@wsu.edu or call 360-639-6059. [Register Here.](#)

Whidbey Island Weather Data

October Soil Temperatures at Coupeville



October Soil Temperatures at Langley



Visit WSU's [AgWeatherNet](http://weather.wsu.edu) website for more weather data from our two island locations.

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