



# Newsletter

## Updates

WSDA's Waste Pesticide Identification and Disposal Program collects and properly disposes of unusable agricultural and commercial grade pesticides from residents, farmers, small businesses, and public agencies **free of charge**.



**Due to COVID-19**, the Waste Pesticide Program's traditional pesticide collection events have been replaced by direct pick-up of pesticides from customer's sites in order to operate safely during 2021. **WSDA will schedule pick-up of your unwanted pesticides directly from your storage location during the first week of October.**

The program only collects unusable/unwanted agricultural and commercial grade pesticides.

### Approved items are:

- herbicides
- insecticides
- fungicides
- rodenticides
- other related chemicals that kill, mitigate, or repel a pest.

**WSDA cannot accept materials such as fertilizers, micronutrients, motor oil, and Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW).**

To participate, follow these steps:

1. Download and complete the [customer inventory form](#). Use the [instructions](#) document as a guide. For more information, visit our [Waste Pesticide Program webpage](#).
2. Once completed, submit the form in one of these three convenient ways:
  - a. Email it to [Wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov](mailto:Wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov)
  - b. Fax it to (360) 902-2093
  - c. Or mail it to the address on the form.
3. A confirmation of receipt will be sent to you. Program staff will contact you and give you further instructions and information about collection activities as they are planned.

In addition, Agri-Plas, Inc. operates an industry-sponsored container recycling program. To recycle empty plastic pesticide containers, call (503) 390-2381, send an email to [logistics@agriplasinc.com](mailto:logistics@agriplasinc.com), or visit their website [Agri-Plas Inc.](http://Agri-Plas Inc.) for more information.



Photo by Brian Colombo

## Announcements

### SEPTEMBER

15– Road to Recovery, WSU Extension Post-Fire Information Webinar. Find information at: [https://forestry.wsu.edu/classes-and-events/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://forestry.wsu.edu/classes-and-events/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

21-December 7- Whole Farm Planning. \$200 for the 12 week course through Zoom. Class meets on Tuesdays from 6 PM—8:30 PM. Scholarships available. Register at: <https://www.cultivatingsuccesswa.org/courseregistration/p/whole-farm-planning>

### OCTOBER

5- WWCCD Voluntary Stewardship Program Virtual Meeting, 7 PM. Help avoid more state ag regulations. Meeting link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9cKy.CVnJWgCCv8xH2r\\_l&id=51](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9cKy.CVnJWgCCv8xH2r_l&id=51). Grant Traynor 509-956-3767.

**We're OPEN**

The WSU Walla Walla County Extension Office is open to the public with normal office hours: 9 AM noon and 1 PM- 5 PM. Face masks are required inside the office. You can contact us at 509-524-2685.



**MG PLANT CLINICS**

Master Gardeners are available for plant issues and identification through our office clinics. Office hours for MG Clinics are on Tuesdays from 9 AM—11 AM and 2 PM– 4 PM.

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

WSU EXTENSION NEWSLETTER  
PUBLISHED 4-6 TIMES ANNUALLY  
VOLUME 2021 NO. 5  
WSU EXTENSION  
WALLA WALLA COUNTY  
328 WEST POPLAR  
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

**JAPANESE BEETLE COUNT PASSES 20,000**

Amber Betts, WSDA Communications

There have been more than 20,000 Japanese beetles caught in Grandview this summer. Sound the alarm, ring the bell, this is not good news. If established in our state, we could see dire results to our crops, our gardens, and even our grass.



These invasive beetles almost double the human population in Grandview, and it keeps climbing. Our Pest Program staff are working to determine just how widespread the beetle has become.

So far, the beetles are being detected in the highest numbers in the residential area of Grandview. A few, however, have crossed the road into rural areas where the crops many people rely on for our living are found. Adult Japanese beetles love to feast on more than 300 plants, including roses, grapes, apples, hops, and grass. They are highly destructive, difficult and expensive to eradicate or control.

**What is a Japanese beetle?** The Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) is a garden pest native to northern Japan. The adults eat the leaves, buds, and flowers of plants while the larvae attack the roots, particularly the roots of grasses.

**How did they get here?** We've been trapping for Japanese beetle since the 1980s and occasionally find that they've caught a ride to our state, normally on a plane from an infested area in the Eastern U.S. But it has been more than a decade since even a single beetle has been detected beyond the vicinity of an airport. The larvae are found in soil associated with the roots of host plants, they are common under turf or sod and can be moved in potted plants.

**What are we doing?** If you've been in Grandview at all in the recent months, you have likely seen traps hanging all over the city. That's us, trying to determine the extent of the infestation. At the end of the season, we will look at the data we've collected and begin formulating a plan on how to eradicate these pests.

**What happens next?** Trapping for Japanese beetles will continue at least through September, after which our staff will begin removing the hundreds of traps currently in the area. The trapping results will inform both the eradication plans which are anticipated for next spring as well as a quarantine which is being considered to prevent the unintentional movement of the beetles into beetle-free areas of the state.

## Agriculture

### ALFALFA: A WINNER FOR PRODUCERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

USDA Agricultural Research Service

Alfalfa has a long history as the go-to feed for farm animals and poultry. Aquaculture has also discovered the power of alfalfa by refining it into a high-protein [fish food](#). But what has not been widely recognized is alfalfa's importance to the environment.

Scientists with the Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) [Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory](#) in Mandan, ND, have been studying the effects of alfalfa on carbon balance. What their multiyear study found was that hayed alfalfa is more efficient than perennial grasses in taking up carbon under variable growing conditions.

"This attribute is important for producers, as it shows that alfalfa can be a stable source of forage when conditions get tough," said [Mark Liebig](#), research soil scientist at the ARS lab. "The study also showed that alfalfa can limit the amount of carbon lost from cropland when included in rotation, so that's good for the environment."

Liebig and his team found consistently higher levels of carbon flux in alfalfa than in grassland. Carbon flux refers to the exchange of carbon between one place and another, in this case between the atmosphere and either an alfalfa field or a grass pasture.

An eddy covariance flux tower measures CO<sub>2</sub> and water vapor in an alfalfa field. (Photo by Mark Liebig, D4664-1)

"The greater carbon fluxes in the alfalfa field equated to more carbon being taken up from the atmosphere, essentially acting as a sink for carbon dioxide," Liebig said. "From a climate mitigation standpoint, this is a good thing."

The weather during the 5-year study included 1 very dry year, 1 very wet year, and 3 somewhat normal years. "For the variable conditions, this attribute of alfalfa was impressive. It showed that alfalfa could keep growing and taking-up carbon under suboptimal conditions," he said. "So, with a predicted future of more variable weather, alfalfa offers some resistance to weather-induced extremes."



An eddy covariance flux tower measures CO<sub>2</sub> and water vapor in an alfalfa field. (Photo by Mark Liebig, D4664-1)

Alfalfa is the [fourth most widely grown crop](#) in the United States, with an annual estimated value of \$11.7 billion.

Based on results from this study, alfalfa can decrease the amount of carbon lost from semiarid cropping systems while providing valuable forage for livestock.

"This is a win-win for the producer and environment," Liebig said. — By [Scott Elliott](#), ARS Office of Communications.

### AFRICAN SWINE FEVER GETS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT OF U.S. PORK CONSUMERS

*Dan Flynn, Food Safety News, July 30, 2021*

The USDA's confirmation that African Swine Fever (ASF) has turned up in the Dominican Republic changes the metrics for pork consumers in the United States.

Classical Swine Fever was in the Dominican Republic almost 40 years ago, but ASF changes things. North America is no longer free of the virus that's been sweeping the globe, and only 800 miles separate U.S. swine from the disease.

What isn't changing is the prohibition on exporting Dominican pork to the United States. The ban on Dominican pork exports to the United States exists because of the country's history with swine fever.

Classic swine fever swept through the Dominican Republic between 1978 and 1980 when the country's pork farmers destroyed 192,000 pigs in 374 locations with the virus.

According to the U.S. Swine Health Information Center, not much is known about the two Dominican farms with the new ASF discoveries, except that they are geographically separated.



## 4-H News

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 9th 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!

A special **THANK YOU** to the Walla Walla Cattlemen's for sponsoring this newsletter!

Walla Walla County  
CATTLEMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION

## Family Living

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO AVOID FINANCIAL FRAUD?

Adapted from Brenda Long, MSU Extension

Millions of people become victims of countless [forms of fraud](#) each year. The Federal Trade Commission received more than [3.2 million reports of fraud](#) in 2019. Criminals use a variety of methods to tempt you into sending money, purchasing products, or giving out personal information. During the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), [scammers](#) are taking advantage of people to give up their money in times of uncertainty, according to the Consumer Financial Protect Bureau. As technology and disasters continue to change, we need to do our best to stay informed about the new ways criminals try to get our personal information and our money.



The [Federal Trade Commission](#) offers the following tips to help you protect yourself.

1. Keep in mind that wiring money is like sending cash: once it is gone, you cannot get it back.
2. Do not send money to someone you do not know.
3. Do not respond to messages that ask for personal or financial information, regardless if the message comes from an email, phone call, text message, or advertisement.

Do not play a [foreign lottery](#); it is illegal to play a foreign lottery through the mail or the telephone.

1. Do not agree to deposit a check from someone you do not know and then wire money back, no matter how convincing the story.
2. Read your bills and statements at least monthly – both paper statements (if you still receive them) and online statements.

After a natural disaster or crisis, only donate to [established charities](#).

Educate yourself on the issues related to [medical discount plans](#) and [medical identity theft](#).

1. There is no such thing as a sure thing. Never pay fees first for the promise of a big pay-off later — whether it is for a loan, a job, a grant, or a so-called prize.

Understand who you're dealing with. It's challenging to really know where someone is calling from. Check out the Better Business Bureau or [online reviews of the product and/or company](#).

Put your number on the [National Do Not Call Registry](#). Visit [OnGuardOnline.gov](#) to learn additional tips on how to use public Wi-Fi spots, understand mobile apps, what to do if your email gets hacked, how to secure your computer, [protect your kids online](#), and avoid scams. You can also sign up to receive online security updates via email.



# Food Safety

## WHERE TO FIND SAFE HOME FOOD PRESERVATION RECIPES AND INFORMATION

Karen Fifield, MSU Extension

Many of us enjoy preserving our own food, and following tested preserving methods and recipes will ensure that our food will be kept safe and shelf stable. Bacteria can grow in preserved food if it is improperly canned. Sometimes you can see the signs of spoilage but many times it is not visible. It is important to follow recipes that provide safe methods when preserving food. Here are some recommended sources that can provide you with valuable information.

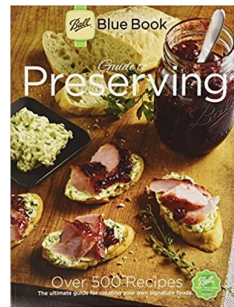
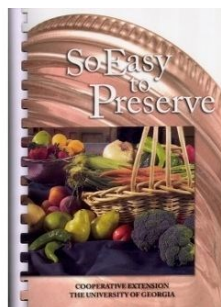


One of the most complete resources for home food preservation is available from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning is based on research conducted by the [National Center for Home Food Preservation](#) in cooperation with USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. This resource contains research-based, scientific canning principles and recipes on how to achieve safe, high-quality home preserved foods. This publication is available for free online and can also be purchased as a hard copy book.

Another reliable resource is [So Easy to Preserve](#). This publication, developed by the University of Georgia Extension, contains research-based information on [canning](#), [freezing](#), [drying](#), [curing and smoking](#), [fermenting](#), [pickling](#), [making jam and jelly](#) and [safe home food storage](#) as well as frequently asked questions. It is a 375-page book with over 185 tested recipes. It has step-by-step instructions and in-depth information for both new and experienced food preservers.

An up-to-date Ball Blue Book has been a longtime reliable resource for preserving food at home. It is still a trustworthy resource that has research-based recipes and information.

It is important to stay current with changes in safely preserving food at home. To assist consumers with food safety questions, Michigan State University Extension developed a Consumer Food Safety Hotline. This toll-free number is 877-643-9882 and is managed by the MSU Extension Food Safety Team, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Consumer questions can also be directed through [Ask an Expert](#).



## Pressure Gauge Testing

Time to check your pressure canning gauge so that you are ready to go when canning season begins.

Dial gauges should be checked for accuracy before use each year. New pressure gauges should also be checked for accuracy before use. Gauges leaving the factory are spot checked so occasionally an inaccurate one is sold to a consumer.

Gauges that read high cause under-processing and may result in unsafe food. Low readings cause over-processing. Every pound of pressure is very important to the temperature needed inside the canner for producing safe food, so accurate gauges are essential.

WSU Extension will check your pressure gauge against our certified gauge to confirm it is safe for use or to let you know if it has become inaccurate. We can test your gauge while you wait or you can drop it off and pick it up later during office hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m.

## Home & Garden

### SEASON EXTENDERS

Protection from rain can extend the life of a fall and winter garden dramatically. Heavy and prolonged rains can saturate the soil, encourage slugs, and create an ideal environment for leaf diseases. By covering your winter crops with a cloche, cold frame, row cover, Wall-o-water™, plastic mulch, or other product, you can avoid many of these problems and extend the growing season. The following structures protect plants from frost as well as heavy rain.

#### Cold frames and hotbeds

Cold frames and hotbeds are inexpensive structures for growing cool-weather crops. Cold frames rely on the sun for their sole source of heat. Heat is collected when the sun's rays penetrate clear plastic, glass, or fiberglass. Hotbeds are heated by soil-heating cables, steam-carrying pipes, or fresh, strawy manure buried beneath the plant rooting zone.

#### Cool Season Crops

Beets, Broccoli, Brussel, Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Collards, Garlic, Lettuce, Onions, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb, and Spinach.

### FALL GARDEN CHORES

#### Flower and Vegetable Gardens

- Pull emerging weeds in beds when ground is moist and before they develop deep roots.
- Harvest any vegetables left on the plants. Green tomatoes can be put into brown paper bags and stored in a cool, dry place and will ripen slowly. Pull out all of your crops and clean up any fruit and vegetables that have fallen and also any leaves and stems. Debris that is left in the garden over the winter can cause diseases to enter the soil and re-appear the following spring.
- Mulch garden beds with leaves or compost to reduce winter weeds and feed the soil. Or plant winter cover crops in open beds.
- Prepare new planting areas by digging in compost.
- Plant bulbs such as tulips and daffodils in fall for spring and summer color.

#### Tree and Shrub Beds

- Deep water trees and shrubs before heavy frost arrives to provide moisture for the winter months. Frequently, plants die in the spring because they have not been adequately watered during fall and winter.
- Mulch tree and shrub beds with leaves, wood chips, or bark.
- Plant trees, shrubs, and many perennials in early fall to give them a good start.

#### Lawns

- Improve thin areas of lawns in late September or early October by aerating, overseeding, and top-dressing with compost.
- Fertilize lawns with "natural organic" or "slow release" fertilizer in September to develop healthy roots and crowd out weeds. If you only fertilize your lawn once a year, this is the best time.
- Plant new lawns in early fall, or mid-spring (when soil is warm).

#### Watering

- Reduce watering for cooler weather in September.
- When rains come, shut off and drain watering systems.
- Put away exposed soaker hoses, or re-cover with mulch if left out.

#### Composting

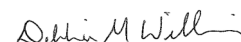
- Clear out annual garden growth and compost it for spring. Keep pile as moist as a wrung-out sponge.

#### Tools

- Clean up all of your gardening tools. Have pruners, mower blades and shears sharpened now so they will be ready first thing come spring and you will beat the rush of those who waited.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
WALLA WALLA COUNTY EXTENSION

Celebrating 100 Years of Extending  
Knowledge and Changing Lives.



Debbie M. Williams  
County Extension Director