



NEWSLETTER



Stripe Rust Update

Adapted from Xianming Chen

Stripe rust reached the highest severity level on susceptible varieties in the winter wheat nurseries and significant levels in spring wheat nurseries. Stripe rust developed to flag leaves and up to 80% severity in our winter wheat nurseries. We have received several reports of stripe rust in fields planted with winter wheat varieties 'UI Magic' and 'Curiosity' in Adams, Benton, Franklin,

and Walla Walla counties.

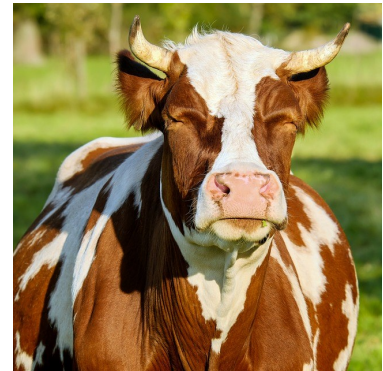
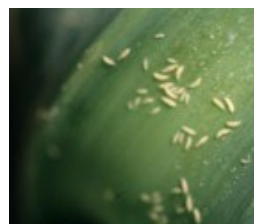
Recommendations for the eastern Pacific Northwest

For winter wheat, fields planted with susceptible or moderately susceptible varieties of winter wheat (stripe rust ratings 6-9) should be sprayed with fungicide before flowering. For spring wheat, fungicide application is recommended for fields planted with susceptible and moderately susceptible varieties (stripe rust ratings 6-9) at the herbicide application time. Because high-temperature adult-plant resistance does not work maximally under the cool and wet conditions in the recent and next two-week weather conditions, it is critical to check fields planted with varieties with ratings 4 and 5 for stripe rust. If active rust pustules are found, fungicide should be applied before the incidence (number of plants having rust) or severity (infected leaf areas) reaches 5%. For fields sprayed with fungicides more than 20 days ago, second application may be considered if active rust pustules can be spotted.

It's Time to Scout for Thrips

Excerpted from WSU Onion Alerts

Thrips numbers are increasing. If you have not started scouting for thrips, then you should begin now. This is an important time to scout for thrips and make insecticide application as warranted. Applications should begin when you find an average of 2-3 thrips per plant after checking at least 50 plants per field; we suggest looking at five plants at each of ten sites in the field, and be sure to look for thrips between the newest leaves in the neck at the base of the plant. Scouting should be done at least weekly. Early thrips management is critical because small plants can only tolerate a few thrips without accumulating damage that can lead to an economically important decrease in bulb size and yield. The damage that occurs at the beginning of the season stays with the plant for the rest of the season.



Announcements

July 6-9, National Onion Association Convention, Boise.
<https://www.onions-usa.org/members/conventions/>

July 27, WSU Extension Forestry, Introduction to Bigleaf Maple Sugaring, webinar.
<https://bit.ly/3n1dGvt>

August 31—September 2, 2022
Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Days, Walla Walla County Fairgrounds.

THANK YOU Walla Walla County Cattlemen's Association for sponsoring this newsletter!





Visit the Walla Walla Extension office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. Bring in your home garden or lawn questions or problems and speak to a Master Gardener. Problem plant samples may be left at any time during office hours. A Master Gardener will look at the specimen during clinic hours and contact the home owner with recommendations. Master Gardeners will also have a booth at the Downtown Farmer's Market on Saturdays through September. Visit with our Master Gardeners and pick up free tip sheets on a variety of gardening topics.

POSTMASTER send address changes to:

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Home & Garden

What Can You Do With Powdery Mildew?

Adapted from WSU Hortsense

This year's wet early summer has meant we've seen a lot of home gardeners with this white, powdery growth on the surface of their leaves. Young leaves and shoots may be stunted and distorted. Severe infections can cause leaf drop and death of young shoots. Some powdery mildew pathogens attack many different plant species, but others are specific to a limited host range. Unlike most fungal pathogens, powdery mildew fungi do not require surface moisture for infection, so this disease is often most prevalent during dry weather.



So what can you do?

There are several non-chemical management options for powdery mildew:

- Avoid overfertilizing, which encourages susceptible new growth. If necessary, switch to a slow-release or lower-nitrogen formula.
- Gather and destroy all fallen leaves.
- Pick off infected leaves and prune severely infected shoots to prevent spread of disease.
- Plant disease-tolerant or disease-resistant varieties (see lists in PNW Plant Disease Management Handbook, <https://pnwhandbooks.org/>).
- Space plantings and prune to provide good air circulation.
- Watch for signs of infection during appropriate weather conditions (dry weather with warm days and cool nights).

Have Your Pressure Gauge Checked Annually



A pressure canner is essential for canning low-acid vegetables, meats, fish, and poultry. Two basic types are available. One has a dial gauge to indicate the pressure inside the canner; the other has a metal weighted gauge. Dial gauges must be tested for accuracy before each canning season.

The Extension Office offers free testing of your canning pressure gauge. Bring your gauge into our office at 328 W Poplar during office hours for your free test. If you have a new gauge, it is recommended to have it tested as well for accuracy.

Check the rubber gasket if your canner has one; it should be flexible and soft, not brittle, sticky or cracked. Also make sure any small pipes or ventports with openings are clean and open all the way through.



National Farmer's Market Week is August 7-13, 2022.

Six Tips for Planning Menus Around Farmers Market Selections. (adapted from Heidi LBlanc, Utah State University Extension)

Farmers markets are known for offering an ever-changing variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. Although variety is a

benefit of shopping at local farmers markets, it can be difficult and overwhelming to come up with a menu for the week without knowing what will be available at the market. Being flexible allows you to choose the produce that looks the best and is offered at the best price. Below are tips for planning meals around the unpredictable availability at farmers market.

- Reverse your menu planning schedule. Shop at the market first, then build a menu for the week based on what you purchased. This will ensure that you use what you bought, which will reduce food waste.
- Plan the non-vegetable portion of your meals, then add the vegetable part after seeing what looks best at the market.
- Have a general sense of when different fruits and vegetables are usually in season and available. Plan your menu with at least two options, then buy the one that is offered at the best price. Look here for ideas: <https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/seasonal-produce-guide>
- Bring your menu to the market. If there is something that looks great, but isn't in your plan, revise your menu on the spot to incorporate it.
- Include a few meals in your menu that use a variety of produce such as stir-fry, soup or omelets.
- Be open to making last-minute substitutions to your favorite recipe.

Barbecue Safely this Summer

Adapted from USDA



Farmer's Market Summer Cookout Recipe: Spicy Watermelon Relish

Ingredients:

3 C. cubed watermelon, seeds removed
2 cucumbers, thinly sliced
1/2 onion, chopped
1 carrot, thinly sliced
1/4 C. apple cider vinegar
1 tsp. red pepper flakes
2 Tbs. chopped mint
1 Tbs. chopped cilantro (optional)
Salt and black pepper to taste

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients and toss gently.
2. Chill, serve and enjoy!

Makes 6 servings.

Adapted from wchstv.com.

For more recipes that make use your Farmer's Market haul, see: <https://on.nyc.gov/3OGDScp>



3 tips for picking a sweet watermelon

Adapted from Mary Leigh Meyer, Texas A&M University

Determining ripeness requires some knowledge; how can you pick a ripe watermelon?

Tip # 1: Find the yellow belly, or the field spot—that means it's spent more time ripening on the vine

Tip # 2: Tap the underbelly and listen for a deep sound

Tip # 3: Look for a dull and heavy watermelon. A heavier watermelon likely holds more water, which will make it juicier.

WILDFIRE SEASON

Wildfire is a perennial challenge for Washington and the west. Learn about the risk of fire, and how to defend and restore balance in the landscape, with help from WSU and Extension foresters.

<https://bit.ly/3NmY9Sn>



Compounded by low rainfall, rising summer temperatures, and decades of fire exclusion, wildland fire poses a threat to homes and forests, natural resources, and our environment. Given time, warm temperatures and low relative humidity, trees, grasses and other plants can easily become fuel for a blaze.

Act Now to Prevent Future Fire

Adapted from WSU Kittitas County Extension

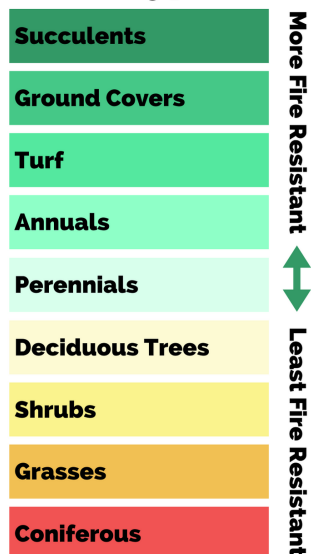
- Prune or remove brush close to the house.
- Prune out low hanging tree limbs, 10 feet from ground.
- Avoid plants that create and collect a lot of plant litter and dry matter (leaves, pine needles, dry grass etc.).
- Well-spaced plants are less likely to carry fire. Planting groups of shrubs and trees close together should be avoided.
- Coniferous evergreens like fir, pine, or juniper are resinous and highly flammable. If you use conifers, plant them 30 feet away from structures and each other.
- Maintain a "greenbelt" of irrigated turf area for at least 50 - 100 feet around structures, depending on the slope. Fire moves faster up slopes, so maintain a larger greenbelt on hills.
- Use fire resistant groundcovers or low growing grasses, keeping them well watered and/or mowed during the fire season.
- Use mineral or rock mulches instead of flammable bark or straw.
- If using groundcovers to control erosion on slopes, consider plants that are fire resistant. A low growing or discontinuous groundcover produces less fuel, lessening the fire hazard.

Fire Resistant Landscapes

Adapted from Idahofirewise.org

Plant materials are the living vegetation in your landscape, both native and introduced. The term "firewise" or "fire resistant" plant materials indicate plants that are less flammable than others. In the figure below you will see different types of plants and where they rank on a more to less fire resistance spectrum.

Plant Types



All plants will burn if conditions are right.

Plant condition is more important than species. Depending on growth form and access to water and nutrients, the same species may be slow to ignite in one environment and highly combustible in another.

More fire resistant plants share characteristics. They often:

- have a higher moisture content in their leaves
- have little seasonal buildup of dead vegetation
- have low, compact growth form
- are high in soap or pectin content
- have green stems
- are drought tolerant

Less fire resistant plants typically share one or more of the following characteristics. They often:

- are water-stressed
- accumulate fine, twiggy, dry, or dead material
- are evergreen
- have stiff, leathery, small, or fine, lacy leaves
- have loose or papery bark
- will flame (not smolder) when preheated and ignited with a match
- retain low-growing branches even as they become shaded

Many fire resistant plant material lists are available on the Internet as well as from fire-focused agencies and organizations. No list is all-inclusive. Use the characteristics of fire resistant plant materials, along with site characteristics such as slope, aspect, hardiness zone and amount of precipitation, to choose plant materials suitable for your landscape.

Fire resistant plants cover the gamut from bulbs to succulents, trees and shrubs. If there is a plant in your landscape that is highly flammable that you are fond of, there is often a fire resistant plant that is similar in shape and color that you can use to replace it with.

Resources for planning fire-resistant landscapes

Fire-Resistant Plants for Eastern Washington, Al Murphy, WSU Chelan/Douglas County. <https://bit.ly/3Afyp6y>

Fire Resistant Landscapes, <https://idahofirewise.org/firewise-landscapes/>

Are You Prepared for Wildfire? WSDNR. <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/firewise>

Landscaping in Fire Country: How to Design a Firewise Yard, Okanagan Conservation District. <https://bit.ly/3ONy6UW>

Firewise

Groundcovers

Adapted from Amy Jo Detwiler, Stephan A. Fitzgerald, *Fire-Resistant Plants for Home Landscapes*

*Fire resistant does not mean fireproof!

Fire-resistant plants will burn if not well-maintained. Be sure to keep all of your landscape plants healthy with appropriate watering, proper pruning, etc.



Rock Cress



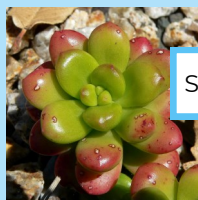
Purple & Yellow Iceplant



Wild Strawberry



Dianthus



Sedum



Congratulations to this year's 4H Presentation Award winners:

Shaylee Christenson, Sierra Christenson, Macy Chvatal, Kaytlyn Dreger, Dominic Fazzari, Mica Hartman, Kynzie Huse, Marcus Klem, Kayla Lohr, Bailey Lyons, Emma Lyons, Juniper Lyons, Carly Newton, Ryan Newton, Connor Olson, Jaden Olson, Leah Ruthven, Siobhan Ryle, Vanora Ryle, Jillian Saylor, Joshua Saylor, Tucker Wicks.

4-H presentations help kids build important public speaking skills and gain experience. Thank you to event sponsors, Walla Walla Noon Rotary and The Exchange Club of Walla Walla. Thank also to our volunteer judges, 4-H Leaders' Council and everyone who helped organize the event.

Livestock

Watch for Heat Stress in Livestock as Temps Climb

Adapted from Oklahoma State University Extension

The heat of summer is setting in, and after a cool spring, livestock are not yet fully acclimated to warmer temperatures. When animals experience discomfort from heat stress, their behaviors change to reduce heat load. These reactive behaviors include increased water consumption, decreased feed intake, seeking shade and standing in water. Beck said water intake per unit of feed intake is twice as high during the summer than in the winter. During heat stress, the linear water space in a body of water or stock tank increases from 1 inch per head to 3 inches per head to allow for sufficient water access.*

Cattle alleviate their excess heat load through panting, which is the evaporation of moisture from the respiratory tract. Livestock owners can help animals lower their body temperatures by providing shade, especially for feedlot cattle. Shade relieves and prevents heat stress for cattle in the finishing stage in the following ways:

- Lower respiration rates and body temperatures when external temperatures increase
- Increased average daily gain, hot carcass weights and dressing percentage
- Improved feed efficiency

Providing shade, if designed correctly, is an effective strategy to reduce heat load by lowering heat accumulation from direct solar radiation and has animal welfare benefits that can improve performance...

Effective shade structures include:

- At least 1.8 to 9.6 square yards of space per head of cattle
- Efficient thermal properties of the shade material
- Sturdy ground cover under the shade
- A height of at least 12 feet to reduce direct solar radiation and increase the shelter's air movement
- Proper ventilation

Metal shades effectively block direct solar radiation but can gather heat and radiate it onto the animal. Shade cloth is a better option because it allows more air movement and heat dissipation.



*Estimated total daily water requirement for beef cows in average 90°F temps:

Cow Body Weight (lb)	Milk Production (lb/day)	*Gallons of Water/Day
1,100	0	13.4
1,100	10	15.7
1,100	25	17.9
1,300	0	14.3
1,300	15	17.4
1,300	30	19.7
1,500	0	15.3
1,500	20	19.1
1,500	35	21.4

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Knowledge and Changing Lives.

Debbie M. Williams

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County Extension Director