



NEWSLETTER

Armyworm Invasion

Adapted from Utah State University

The WSU Walla Walla County Extension office has received numerous calls from homeowners concerned about armyworms in their lawns. For more information and recommendations see:

WSU Hortsense: <https://bit.ly/3fyHdwo>

University of Utah Extension: <https://bit.ly/3Sq9hQV>



Perdue University

Symptoms

Young armyworms skeletonize turfgrass or chew leaf blade margins at night. Armyworms are gregarious and prefer cool-season turfgrasses, and will often feed and migrate in large groups. Large masses of caterpillars will cause widespread damage of irregular brown patches.

Management

Cultural control

Keep plants healthy, but be careful not to exceed recommended fertilization and irrigation schedules.

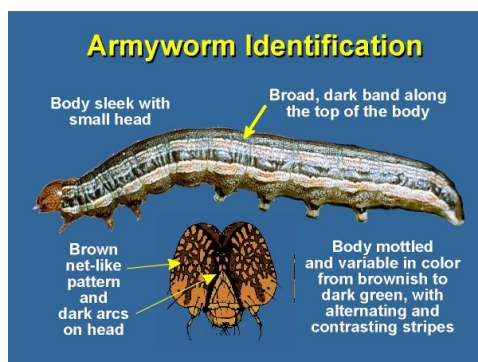
Scout for adults moving to turfgrass in early spring and start monitoring in the summer with soap flushing.

Consider "spot treatments" to target caterpillar infestations instead of blanket applications.

Chemical control

In certain situations where armyworms and cutworms are persistent over multiple years, a more aggressive control program may be needed. Chemical control should be considered when cultural methods are not effective. Consider using "reduced risk" insecticides like Spinosad and *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) as an alternative to broad spectrum products because they preserve natural enemies. Entomopathogenic nematodes can provide an alternative to chemical control as well.

It is important to use products recommended for use on armyworms in turfgrass. READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY.



University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Announcements

October

25-26 Pesticide Pre-License Review WSU IPM & Pesticide Safety Education. Puyallup. Pep.wsu.edu

27-29 Wine Society National Conference Bellvue, WA americanwinesociety.org/national-conference/

November

2-3 Washington Weed Conference. Online & in person, Wenatchee, WA. weedconference.org/

12-16 2022 NW Small Fruits Research Conference. Kennewick, WA. wine.wsu.edu/event/2022-ncsfr-conference/

17-18 Washington State Grape Society Annual Meeting Grandview, WA. grapesociety.org/wsgs-events.html

If you have seen Japanese beetle in Washington, please report it! Note the location and include a picture if possible. There are several ways to report suspected sightings in Washington State:

Report using online form:

[Japanese Beetle Watch](#)

Email:

PestProgram@agr.wa.gov

Call:

1-800-443-6684

Online or email reporting is preferred, and usually allows WSDA to respond more quickly.

Here is what to include with your report, if possible:

- Your name and contact information
- Location
- Date
- Photograph of the specimen(s)
- Number of specimens

POSTMASTER send address changes to:

WSU EXTENSION
328 WEST POPLAR
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

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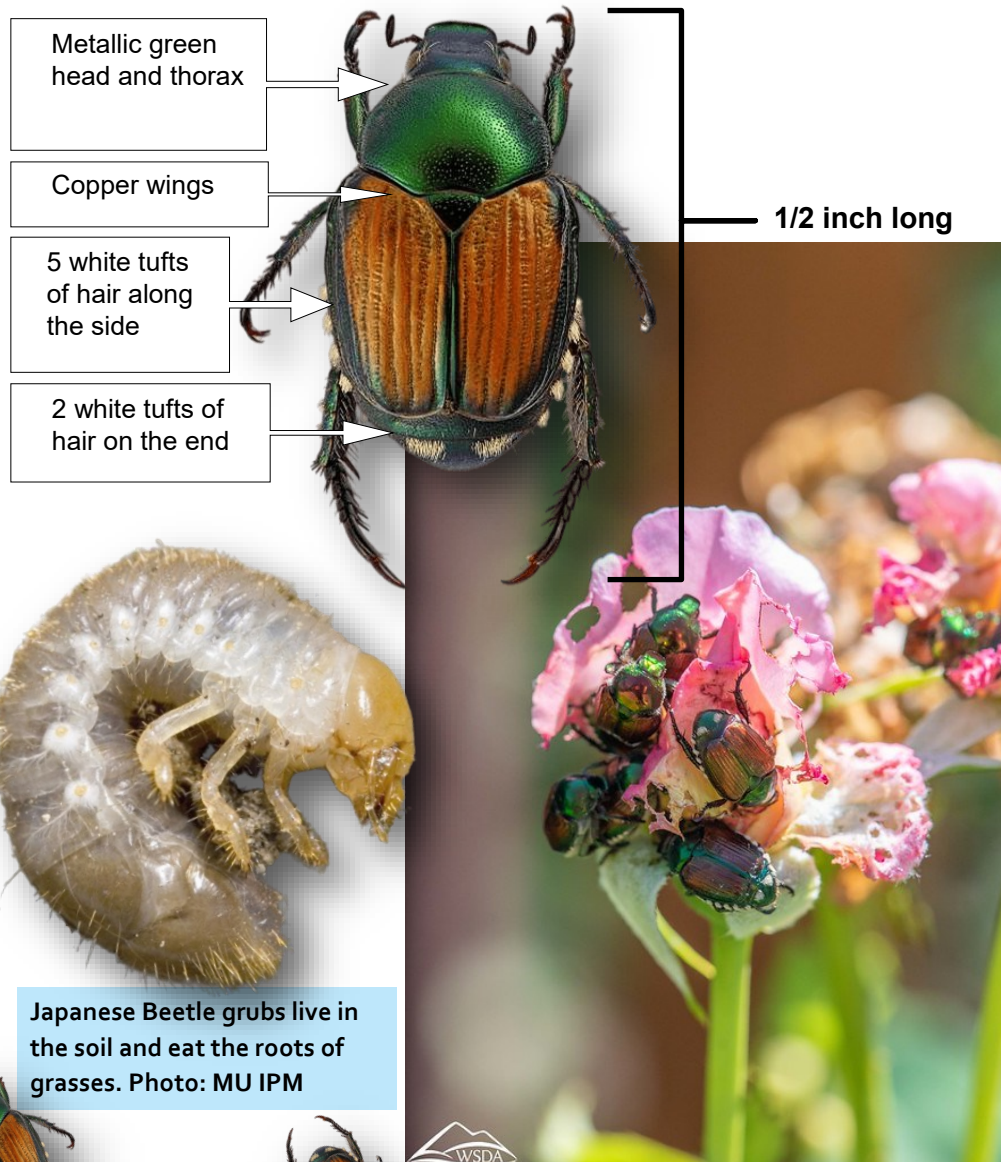
Japanese Beetle Sighted in Richland

Adapted from WSDA

Japanese beetles (*Popillia japonica*) are highly invasive pests of more than 300 plants, including roses, grapes, and hops. The adult beetles damage plants by skeletonizing the foliage. Adults also feed on buds, flowers, and fruit on the plants and are frequently intercepted with air cargo from the Eastern U.S.

Japanese beetle larvae are found in soil associated with the roots of host plants. They are common under turf or sod and can be moved from one location to another in potted plants, infested turf/sod, gardening soil, and yard waste.

So far, the Japanese Beetle has yet to be seen in Walla Walla County, but there has been a confirmed sighting in Richland.



Japanese Beetle grubs live in the soil and eat the roots of grasses. Photo: MU IPM



Cluster of Japanese Beetles, showing damage to a rose. Photo: WSDA



Canning Resources

Adapted from WSU Benton Franklin County Extension website "Food Preservation"



At home food preservation can be a rewarding experience, but proper steps must be followed in order to ensure safety. It can be tempting to try that old recipe passed down through the generations, but we don't recommend it! Many of those old recipes are no longer safe by today's standards. It's not worth taking the chance of making your family and friends sick!

WSU Extension resources are chock full with **current** research-based information, and every recipe has been lab tested to ensure it's safety for your family.

Extension publications

WSU Extension has a number of publications that contain current recommendations and recipes to help you can delicious food safely:

pubs.extension.wsu.edu/consumer-food-safety

Other Research-based resources

National Center for Home Food Preservation: nchfp.uga.edu/

USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning: <https://bit.ly/3SquwSO>

Don't forget to check your pressure gauge annually! Test for free at the Extension office. Call 509-524-2685 for details.

Profitability Decision Tool

Adapted from *Landscapes in Transition*

Growers who are considering alternatives to fallow, such as legumes or forage crops, want to understand the impact on their bottom line, including impacts to the profitability of their main wheat crop. Built in collaboration with University of Idaho, Oregon State University, Washington State University, and USDA Agricultural Research Service, the goals of Landscape in Transition's Profitability Decision Tool are to :

- Help farmers diversify wheat-based farming systems to increase soil health, profitability and resilience, taking into account increasingly variable climates and other environmental and economic sources of change
- Identify key factors that affect wheat-based systems at the landscape scale, and understand the consequences of land use change
- Within wheat-based system supply chains, identify:
 - ⇒ Best practices to address points of intervention that are most vulnerable to anticipated precipitators of change
 - ⇒ Opportunities to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and other greenhouse gases, by increasing carbon sequestration and improving nutrient use efficiencies



You Can STEW It!

Adapted from PNW300 Canning Tomatoes and Tomato Products.

Stewed Tomatoes

2 quarts chopped tomatoes

¼ cup chopped green peppers

¼ cup chopped onions

2 teaspoons celery salt

2 teaspoons sugar

¼ teaspoon salt

Yield: About 3 pints

Procedure: Combine all ingredients. Cover and cook 10 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking.

Pour hot mixture into hot jars, leaving ½ inch headspace. Remove air bubbles. Wipe jar rims.

Adjust lids, and process in a pressure canner:

15 minutes for pints and 20 minutes for quarts

(10 pounds of pressure

with a weighted gauge;

11 pounds of pressure with a dial gauge). Adjust pressure for altitude.

Be safe! Know what you're doing before you can!

Stop by the Extension office today to get WSU guides on canning with current recipes and recommendations for canning safely.

More canned tomato recipes available here:

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



<https://pnwilit.org/profitability-decision->



County Hires New Weed Board Coordinator

Vic Reeve is the new Noxious Weed Board Coordinator for Walla Walla County. He served as Coordinator for Benton County Weed Board (2015-2020), Franklin County Weed Board Inspector, Assistant Coordinator (2004-2010) and Coordinator (2010-2015).

He was born and raised in Franklin County, near Connell on a family dryland wheat farm that he also farmed for 25 years. Working with agriculture most of his life gives him an appreciation of the land and how our influences can change local environments. Education is the best tool to understand weed control, shared experience will help avoid costly mistakes. Long term results require long term commitments to ensure the sustainable use of land for generations to come.

Vic can be contacted by phone by calling 509-524-2688
Or by email : vreeve@co.walla-walla.wa.us

Uptick in Bird Flu Cases Likely This Fall

Adapted from WSDA

With the fall migration underway across the nation, Washington state is preparing for an uptick in highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) cases. Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) urges bird owners to continue their dedication to enhanced biosecurity efforts.

State Veterinarian Dr. Amber Itle says this fall flock owners should focus on keeping wild waterfowl away from domestic birds. The best way to protect flocks is to stay "S.A.F.E."

- **Self-report** –high numbers of sick or dead birds and report the health of your birds if located nearby an infected flock.
- **Avoid contact** with migratory waterfowl
- **Fence** birds out of shared water sources/ ponds
- **Eliminate** outdoor feeders, especially at night

Be ready for fall. More birds = more virus.

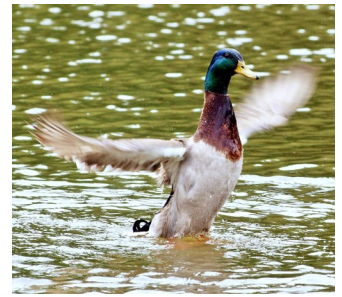
State veterinarians say the biggest risk factor to date is direct contact with wild waterfowl. Since May 5, when the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) announced the first Washington case, all 34 infected flocks have had contact with wild waterfowl.

What can I do?

Avoid bringing birds to fairs, exhibitions, poultry auctions, and on-farm sales.

WSDA resources for flock owners to learn about bird flu and protect their flocks include a bird flu webpage, an interactive map, frequently asked questions, a Facebook group, and biosecurity precautions when resuming exhibitions.

If your flock experiences sudden death or illness of multiple birds, use the new online reporting tool or call WSDA's Sick Bird Hotline at 1-800-606-3056.



Birds that have already died should be double-bagged and kept in a cooler on ice until WSDA veterinarians can arrange for sampling. Sick or dead wild birds should not be touched or moved and can be reported using the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's online reporting tool.

WSDA online reporting tool (domestic birds):

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

WDFW online reporting tool (wild birds):

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

Fall Garden Chores

Walla Walla Extension Bulletin #233

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 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 in cooler weather.
- When rains come, shut off and drain watering systems.
- Put away exposed soaker hoses, or 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.

Cover Crops/Green Manures

Adapted from WSU Extension Fact Sheet FS117E Cover Crops for Home Gardens East of the Cascades

Cover crops are plants grown to both cover and improve the soil. They may be used as a living or dead mulch on the soil surface, or they can be tilled into the soil as a "green manure."

Cover crops can:

- Replace soil organic matter
- Recycle nutrients
- Supply nitrogen (legumes only)
- Protect soil from rain and wind erosion
- Reduce runoff and water erosion
- Reduce leaching of nutrients
- Suppress weeds
- Break up compacted soil
- Attract beneficial insects by providing pollen and nectar
- Reduce disease and nematodes

Some winter cover crops that can be sown in October include:

- Cereal Rye
- Winter Wheat
- Winter Oats
- Fava Bean

For more information on cover crops east of the Cascades, see:

<https://bit.ly/3y2zyg9>

4-H News

Meet Our New 4-H Coordinator!



Caleb Patterson is coming from Boise, Idaho where he spent 5 years as a 5th-Grade teacher. Caleb was born and raised in Union County, Oregon, where he was heavily involved in the 4-H program- raising and showing sheep, as well as doing cooking, sewing, and many other projects. He is incredibly passionate about youth development, and firmly believes that investing in the youth of today is the best way to ensure a better tomorrow. Caleb is moving to Walla Walla with his beautiful wife, Annie, and their two Mini-Aussies.

When not at work, he can be found in the outdoors with his dogs, hiking, camping, snowboarding, mountain biking, running, and a number of other activities. Caleb is super excited to be part of the Walla Walla County 4-H team and looks forward to getting to know all the members, parents, and leaders that work so hard to make this program successful!

New 4-H Year Starts October 1

In 4-H, young people learn and have fun in the process. 4-H is an informal, practical, learn-by-doing educational program for youth. 4-H develops skills by helping young people acquire self-discipline, confidence, the ability to set goals, and a sense of responsibility. 4-H builds citizenship by providing youth with real-world experience, by showing them the importance of volunteering, and by encouraging them to take action in their communities. 4-H promotes sportsmanship by offering the opportunity to learn about fair and ethical competition at county, state and national levels. 4-H opens doors to the future by introducing 4-Hers to a variety of activities that can lead to careers in agriculture, business, education, family and consumer sciences, medicine, natural resources, range management, wildlife biology, and more. Call the WSU Walla Walla County Extension Office at 509-524-2685 or go to extension.wsu.edu/wallawalla/4h to find out how you can become a youth member or an adult volunteer!



Way to Go!

Walla Walla County 4-H members Kittrick Stroe and Mihai Stroe represented Walla Walla County in the 4-H Fashion Revue Championship Finals at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup. Kittrick was awarded Grand Champion and Mihai was awarded Reserve Grand Champion for their projects.

Walla Walla County Fair and Frontier Days

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!

Thank
You!

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Walla Walla County



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Debbie M. Williams

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County Extension Director