

Welcome to Pasture Management 101 Virtual Workshop series provided by Skagit Conservation District in partnership with WSU Skagit County.

Funding for this program is through a PSP Near Term Action hosted by Washington State Department of Health supported by EPA National Estuary Program to maintain healthy and productive shellfish beds in Skagit County.



Spring and Summer workshop series:

May - What does a healthy pasture look like, and how do I make my pasture look like that!

June - Are they weeds or are they food? Why do I have more weeds than grass

July – How do I water my livestock if they can't get to the stream? (Watering systems)

August – Now that it is dry what should I be doing? (Harrow, fertilizer, ditch plugs, mowing)

September – Can I really collect rain water off of my roof and use it on the farm?

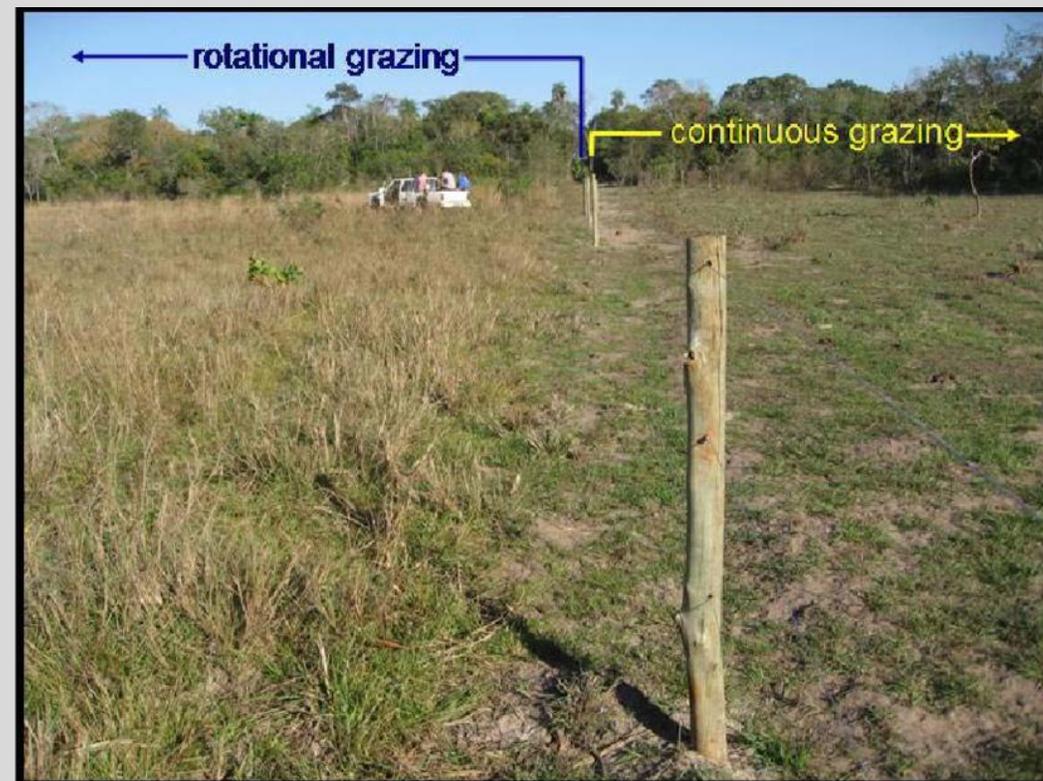
MONTHLY FARM PLANNER

JUNE

ANOTHER GRASS/WEEDS GROWING MONTH!

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* AVOID UNDER-GRAZING—Don't allow grass to "get ahead of livestock"

*Orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata* L.) is a bunch-type, tall-growing, cool-season perennial grass. It is one of the most productive cool-season grasses, tolerant to shade, fairly drought resistant with moderate winter hardiness.

*Orchardgrass is adapted to the better well-drained soils and is especially well adapted for mixtures with legumes such as alfalfa or red clover.

*Orchardgrass is a versatile grass and can be used for pasture, hay, green chop, or silage.



*Mowing Pastures Can Prevent Them From Going To Seed & Losing Nutritional Value.

*For Grass Quality and Quantity, Grass Seed-Heads Should Be Nipped Early.

*Cutting Seed Heads Before Emergence Makes Better Feed In Many Ways.

*Perennial ryegrass is a bunchgrass which grows from 1 to 2 feet tall and has medium longevity.

*Perennial ryegrass is a valuable forage and soil stabilization plant.

*They will stand in fairly wet soils with reasonably good surface drainage.

*Ryegrass responds well to good management, such as intensive rotational grazing and fertilizer applications.



- *Identify the Weeds of Concern: Annuals, Biennials or Perennials
- *Ways to control weeds: mechanical (e.g. mowing), chemical (e.g. herbicide) and cultural (e.g. overseeding) methods.
- *Pasture management is the best way to prevent weed growth and infestations.
- *Herbicide Control- Please refer to the [PNW Weed Management Handbook](#) or contact your [county noxious weed coordinator](#).
- *Eliminating weed seed heads prevents weeds from reproducing and spreading in the pasture.



Creeping Buttercup:

- * Buttercup is both invasive and moderately toxic.
- * Creeping buttercup chokes out other plants, especially in wet soils.
- * Depletes potassium in the soil – has a detrimental effect on surrounding plants.
- * Fresh buttercup plants are toxic to grazing animals.
- * Fortunately, buttercup has a strong, bitter taste so animals generally try to avoid it if more palatable forage is available. Also, the toxin protoanemonin is not very stable and loses its potency when dry, so buttercup is not generally toxic in hay.
- * Unfortunately, livestock occasionally develop a taste for buttercup and consume fatal quantities. It is safest to keep populations of buttercup under control on grazed pastures and offer plenty of healthy forage.
- * Herbicide Control- Please refer to the [PNW Weed Management Handbook](#) or contact your [county noxious weed coordinator](#).





Common St. Johnswort- *Hypericum perforatum*

Family: Clusiaceae

Other Common Names: St. John's wort, Klamath Weed, Common Goatweed and Tipton Weed

Weed class: C

Year Listed: 1988

Native: In Europe, Asia and Northern Africa

Toxicity: Toxic to Humans and livestock



Why Is It a Noxious Weed?

***Common St. Johnswort** spreads easily to new sites.

*Over-exposure to common St. Johnswort can cause various animal health problems including severe skin lesions and necrosis when skin becomes hypersensitive to sunlight.

*Find out more about Common St. Johnswort toxicity in: [Protect Your Horses and Livestock From Toxic Plants.](#)

Bull thistle

Cirsium vulgare



- **Bull Thistle** is a biennial plant growing between 3 to 7 feet tall with one upright branched stem.
- Flowerheads can be, 1.5 to 2 inches in diameter. Flowerheads are spine-tipped. Flowers are purple or rarely white, blooming July through September.
- Leaves alternate and lobes have a spine-tip. Upper leaf surface is rough with bristle-like spines while the undersides are covered with white woolly hairs.
- **Mechanical Control**-Hand-pull and dispose of flowering plants in trash to prevent seed spread. Mowing can help. Make sure the plants do not flower. If cut too early before flowering, plants may re-sprout and flower again that season. Remove stems from site if plants are cut or pulled with flowers.
- **Biological Control(Cultural)**-Bull thistle seed production is impacted by the seedhead. Reducing seed head from growing may significantly reduce seed production if bull thistle populations are sustained for many years. For more information about the biological control of bull thistle, please visit [WSU Extension Integrated Weed Control Project](#).
- **Herbicide Control**-Please refer to the [PNW Weed Management Handbook](#) or contact your [county noxious weed coordinator](#).



Tansy Family



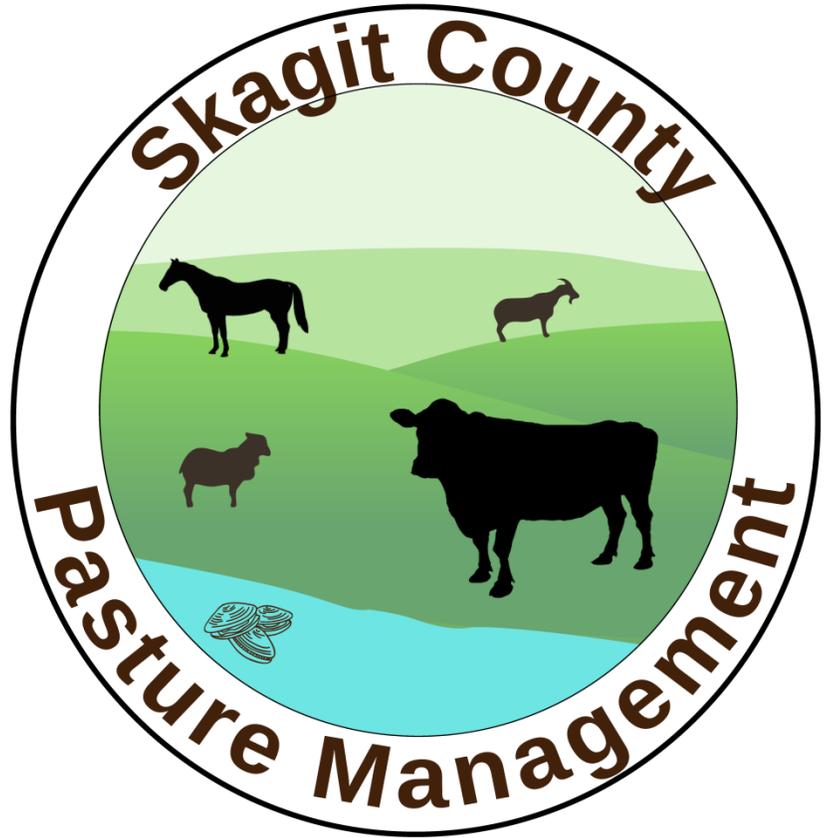
Tansy Ragwort

- Biennial – 1st year rosette, 2nd year flowering
- Up to 150,000 seeds per plant, viable in soil for 10 or more years
- Poisonous to cattle, horses, some goats, pets and people. Can be fatal. Symptoms include swelling, inflammation of membranes, diarrhea, blood in feces, rough coat and excessive fluid in body. Liver damage can occur. Displaces quality forage plants due to its highly aggressive growth. Toxic when fresh or dry. Can contaminate hay crops.
- Treatment: dig up plant and dispose of in garbage; tillage kills plants but stimulates seed germination; Mowing encourages regrowth; Cinabar moth caterpillars eat plants; herbicides

Common Tansy

- Rhizomaceous perennial, 1-5 ft tall
- Strong odor on hot days or when crushed; toxic to livestock, irritant to skin and eyes
- Treatment: dig up plant wearing gloves, monitor for resprouts; mowing is not effective; herbicides





Pasture Management Outreach & Technical Assistance Program

- Monthly Farm Planner
 - Workshops
- Additional Resources

www.extension.wsu.edu/skagit/pasture-management/

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Thank you

Questions?

Skagit Conservation District

www.skagitcd.org

Phone: (360) 428-4313 E-mail: skagitcd@skagitcd.org

emmett@skagitcd.org ext. 1015

jeff@skagitcd.org ext. 1014

joe@skagitcd.org ext. 1020

bill@skagitcd.org ext. 1017
