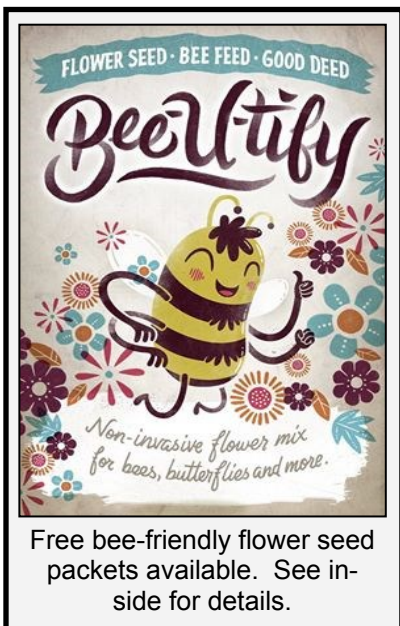


WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT HONEY BEES?

Article courtesy of Washington State AgForestry Class 37



If you've ever felt hungry, you will inherently realize why we should care about pollinators, specifically honey bees. As far as pollinators go, honey bees offer some distinct benefits for crop pollination. They work in mass numbers (colonies of up to 50,000 bees), can pollinate a wide variety of plants, and can be managed by humans.

Lack of suitable foraging habitat is one of the biggest issues facing honey bees globally, and this is true in Washington State as well. Planting bee friendly plants is a great way to help the honey bees. It isn't difficult to make your yard, garden or even patio space a haven for beneficial bees. The greater the plant diversity, the more bees you will attract and support.

Plant long blooming flowers or a variety of plants that will bloom at different times throughout the spring and fall. Honey bees need to eat until they retreat to their hives for the winter. Try to group at least ten bee plants in a bunch or grouping. The following nectar producing flowers will attract and nourish bees:

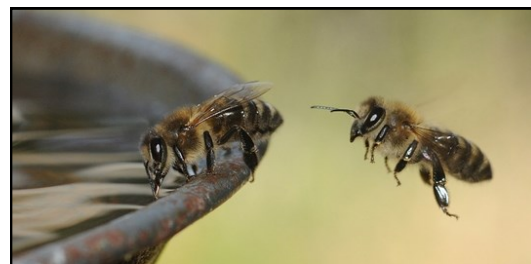
Annuals: cilantro, cosmos, cucumbers, marigolds, poppies, sunflowers, peppers, squash, zinnias,

Perennials: asters, clematis, clover, crocuses, dahlias, echinacea, foxglove, geraniums, germander, hyacinth, roses, sedum, snowdrops, honeysuckle, raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, garlic, fennel, lavender, mint, rosemary, sage, thyme

Trees: alder, fruit trees (especially crab apples), hawthornes, magnolias, maples, poplar, and willows

Honey bees need water in addition to nectar to have a strong colony. Provide a pond, fountain, or some other fresh water source. Watering your garden at optimal hours to avoid evaporation will provide a suitable source of water as well.

We all need to take simple steps around our homes, farms, and forests to provide an environment that is healthy for bees. Little actions have big results, so next time you are at the nursery take a moment to pick a plant that will not only benefit you, but benefit the honey bees as well.



JOE MURRAY RE-ELECTED

Clallam Conservation District supervisor Joe Murray has been re-elected to the board in an uncontested election. A forester with Merrill & Ring, Joe has served on the board of supervisors since 1995.

CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2015 was the first full year of our pioneering onsite septic system repair cost sharing program. Technical and financial assistance was provided to three homeowners to replace failing septic systems that were impacting water quality near Dungeness Bay and another at Diamond Point. Two septic systems were replaced in 2014.

Additional accomplishments include:

- Technical assistance to 66 horse and livestock operators
- 8 new Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contracts
- Maintenance on 8 existing CREP projects
- 2,400 feet of riparian exclusion fencing
- 8 heavy use areas
- 2 waste storage structures
- 2 roof runoff systems
- 38 participants in 2 horse & livestock workshops
- 230 participants in 8 sustainable landscaping workshops and presentations, 3 sustainable landscaping courses, and 1 course for real estate agents
- Piping of 6,709 feet of Cline Irrigation District and Sequim Prairie-Tri Irrigation Association ditches
- Jakeway-Carlsborg aquifer recharge project completed
- Soil testing for 64 landowners
- Environmental education with 500 elementary students
- 11,500 native trees and shrubs were sold

Total expenditures for 2015 were just under \$1 million. Grants, primarily state, comprised over 95 percent of revenues. Conservation practice implementation accounted for 75 percent of expenditures.



Roof runoff system installed at a cattle farm.



Sequim High School Future Farmers of America students dedicate a waste storage structure at the school farm.



Sequim school children participating in native plant activities at our Dungeness Riverfest booth.



Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crew planting native trees and shrubs in a CREP riparian buffer.

SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIR ASSISTANCE



Newly installed Glendon Biofilter septic system.

If you have a septic system that is in need of repair or replacement, Clallam Conservation District might be able to provide you with financial assistance.

Up to 75 percent of the cost of the repairs or replacement of failing septic systems in the Clallam County Marine Recovery Area are eligible for reimbursement. The full cost of design work and permitting is also covered. The MRA covers the area from Bagley Creek to the eastern county boundary.

If you think you might qualify for this program, give us a call at 775-3747 ext. 5 to find out more.

AQUIFER RECHARGE PROJECT UPDATES

Some have questioned the wisdom of piping irrigation ditches and then doing aquifer recharge (AR) projects. Well, it's all about timing and control.

Leaky irrigation ditches continually lose water, sometimes up to half the volume they convey. This has been occurring for over a century. Piping these ditches eliminates these losses, which is extremely important during the late summer critical low stream flow period.

However, during the snowmelt period in late spring and early summer, river flows are typically high. Some of this water that is flowing out to sea can be captured and "stored" by diverting it and infiltrating it into the ground. Water infiltrated into the shallow aquifer offsets well withdrawals and natural surface water losses that occur later in summer.

With irrigation pipelines and strategically located AR sites we can have the best of both worlds—no ditch losses when water is scarce and infiltration of water into the shallow aquifer when it is plentiful.

We recently completed construction of two shallow AR projects in the Dungeness Valley, which will be ready for implementation this spring.

A 2,771-foot infiltration system was installed along Carlsborg Road last fall. Most of that system consists of perforated pipe installed in drain rock. A small portion of the upstream end is open trench. Clallam Ditch Association is responsible for system operation and maintenance.



View of infiltration trench looking upstream toward McComb Road. New irrigation pipeline was installed to the right.

Another AR system was recently constructed in conjunction with a Dungeness Irrigation District ditch piping project in the McComb Road area. Approximately 600 feet of meandering irrigation ditch that was replaced with a pipeline was re-shaped with check dams for enhanced infiltration.

A third AR project is planned for construction later this spring near Robin Hill Farm Park. That system will be operated by Agnew Irrigation District.

On each of these projects, irrigation ditches and pipelines will convey water from the Dungeness River to the recharge sites during the snow melt period between May 15 and July 15. The water infiltrated into the ground during this time period will enhance flows in nearby streams later in the summer.

FUN FACT:

Before irrigation, many Sequim settlers raised turkeys because they could feed on abundant grasshoppers on the dry prairie in summer.



SPRING SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING CLASSES

Natural Landscaping Course

Learn how to design and install a sustainable landscape that will work for you and the environment. Using Permaculture design principles, you will learn how to evaluate the unique site conditions of your property, prepare a landscape plan suited to those conditions, and develop an implementation strategy.

WHEN: 6:00PM April 11, 18, & 25 and three Saturday field trips (April 16, 23, & 30)

WHERE: Evening classes at Dungeness River Audubon River Center, field trips TBA

COST: \$25, call 360-775-3747 x 5 or email: info@clallamcd.org to register

Landscaping with Native Plants Field Workshop

Learn to identify over 25 native trees and shrubs and how to incorporate them into your landscape while hiking two miles of trails near the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge.

WHEN: Saturday, April 23 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM

WHERE: Dungeness Recreation Area

COST: FREE, but pre-registration is required; call 360-775-3747 x 5 or email: info@clallamcd.org

FREE BEE-U-TIFY SEED PACKETS

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board has created a non-invasive pollinator friendly flower mix to encourage people to eradicate noxious weeds and plant non-invasive plants. This flower blend is a fantastic way to attract pollinators to gardens and other landscaped areas.

Seed packets are available for FREE, while supplies last. The Conservation District has packets available at our office or contact the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board at 360-417-2442 for other seed distribution locations.



Seed Mix Contents: Annual Lupine, Lance-Leaved Coreopsis, Purple Coneflower (*see picture above*), Dwarf Sunspot Sunflower, Perennial Lupine, Blanketflower, Partridge Pea, Mexican Hat, Cosmos Sensations Mix, Lacy Phacelia, Plain Coreopsis, Rocky Mountain Penstemon, Lemon Mint, Poached Egg Meadowfoam, Crimson Clover, Butterfly Milkweed, Blue Sage, Wild Bergamont/Bee Balmblank

In addition to planting the Bee-U-Tify seed packets, both the Washington State and Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Boards suggest you **take the following steps to help nurture and protect bees:**

Control noxious weeds on your property. Though some of our noxious weeds are known to benefit honey bees and other pollinators, these plants severely impact our ecosystem and natural resources by competing with native vegetation and causing huge economic losses for agricultural operations. Visit <http://www.clallam.net/weed/> for a list of noxious weeds in Clallam County.



Butterfly bush, commonly sold in nurseries, is a highly invasive non-native plant. The Dungeness River has been invaded by butterfly bush which crowds out native vegetation and puts out millions of seeds per plant. If you have this plant on your property please properly dispose of it.

Plant and maintain pollinator-friendly plant species. Here's where those seed packets come in handy! Replace noxious weeds and under-utilized patches of land with native or nonnative, noninvasive pollinator-friendly plants, especially those which bloom from spring through fall. These plants provide bees with food throughout their active season.

Time your weed control to minimize bee impact. Bees are less active in the morning and evening, so these are optimal times for any control work you need to do. Additionally, controlling weeds during early spring, fall, and even winter when plants are not in bloom will help avoid interfering with busy bees.

Follow herbicide and application instructions carefully. If you need to apply a chemical product carefully read the label to ensure it will not harm bees and be sure to follow the application directions. The Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board can help you with herbicide selection and application instructions for eliminating weed infestations.

SPRING HORSE & LIVESTOCK WORKSHOPS

How to Safely Graze Spring Pastures

Large animal veterinarians from Sequim Animal Hospital will share tips on grazing horses to reduce grass founder (laminitis) risk. Workshop includes a tour of a local horse farm with mud-free paddocks, healthy pastures and productive hayfields.

WHEN: 3:00-4:30 on April 20

WHERE: Agnew area horse farm (*address provided upon registration*)

COST: FREE, but pre-registration is required; call 360-775-3747 x 5 or email: info@clallamcd.org

Work Less, Ride More! Tips For a Chore-Efficient Farm

The Conservation District will be staffing a booth at the "Let's Ride 2016" tack sale sponsored by the Peninsula Chapter Back Country Horsemen. The tack sale will run from 9:00am-3:00pm and will include informational tables from local equine clubs. Join District planners at 1:00pm at the CCD booth to share ideas for improving chore efficiency on local horse farms. Tips will include ideas for reducing mud, collecting manure and improving pastures.

WHEN: 1:00 on May 7

WHERE: Macleay Hall (Sequim-Prairie Grange): 290 Macleay Rd, Sequim



Tip: A grazing muzzle can help reduce grass founder risk by limiting the amount of rich, spring grass horses consume.



Hay Buying Tips for Horse & Livestock Owners

Local hay expert Troy Smith will discuss hay-making basics that will help livestock owners choose the best quality hay. Cathy Lucero, Clallam County Noxious Weeds Coordinator, will teach participants how to identify poisonous plants in hay. Participants will also get tips for safely storing hay, pros and cons of local versus imported hay, and hands-on experience identifying different hay grass species. Bring

weed samples for identification!

WHEN: 3:00-4:30 on June 8

WHERE: Agnew Grocery & Feed, 2863 Old Olympic Highway, Pt. Angeles

COST: FREE, but pre-registration is required; call 360-775-3747 x 5 or email: info@clallamcd.org

Pasture Management Workshop Series

Presented by WSU Extension and the Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Conservation Districts

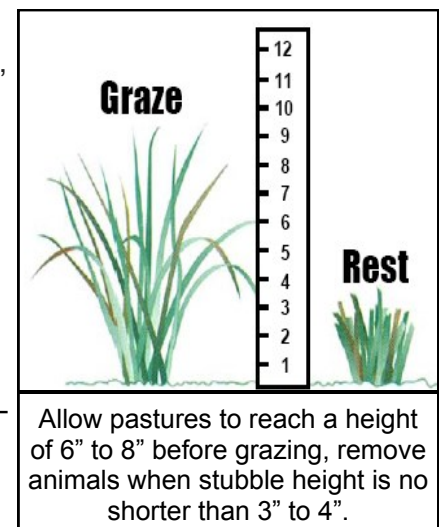
This workshop series is for farmers, producers or landowners on small acreages with pasture, livestock, and/or haying operations. The cost is \$40/day or \$100 to attend all three day-long workshops.

May 26 in Clallam County – In class topics include planning for small acreage farms, mud/nutrient management, financial assistance programs, followed by an afternoon in the field at a farm that features multi-species grazing and an intensive pasture rotation system.

June 9 in Jefferson County – In class topics include rotational grazing, forage management, and grass and weed Identification, followed by an afternoon at a farm to see weed management and stream buffers.

July 14 in Kitsap County – Topics include: pasture renovation, hay selection and livestock nutritional needs.

For more information, or to register for the WSU Pasture Management Workshop, please contact Kellie Henwood, Regional Small Farms Coordinator for WSU Extension - Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap Counties at (360) 379-5610 ext. 201 or kellie.henwood@wsu.edu



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Clallam Conservation District is a sub-division of state government created to promote the stewardship and conservation of natural resources in Clallam County. Public meetings are held at 3:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Clallam Conservation District office, 228 W First St., Suite H in Port Angeles (top floor of the Armory Square Building).

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joe Murray, Chair
Ben Smith, Vice-Chair
Don Hatler, Auditor
Matt Heins, Member
Robert Beebe, Member

DISTRICT STAFF

(360) 775-3747

Executive Director: Joe Holtrop
Admin. Assistant: Beth Loveridge
Conservation Planners:
Meghan Adamire & Jennifer Bond

Office Hours

Tues. - Thurs. - 9:00am to 4:00pm
Mon. & Fri. - by appointment

Over 1,175 folks are having their newsletter delivered via email. Call us at (360) 775-3747 ext. 5 or send an email to: info@clallamcd.org to start receiving your newsletter electronically.

WANT TO HELP US SAVE A TREE?

- Protecting and Attracting Honey Bees
- 2015 Accomplishments
- Upcoming Natural Landscaping and Horse and Livestock Workshops

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