

## **LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS FIELD WORKSHOPS**

Clallam Conservation District is offering three separate workshops on landscaping with native plants.

- ◆ **September 28** from 2:30pm - 3:30pm at the Dungeness River Festival at Railroad Bridge Park
- ◆ **September 29** from 1:00pm - 4:00pm at the Dungeness Recreation Area
- ◆ **October 6** from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Robin Hill Park

The Railroad Bridge Park workshop includes a brief classroom presentation followed by a short walk in the park. The workshop at the Dungeness Recreation Area involves three hours of walking on about two miles of trails near the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge. The Robin Hill Park workshop is a much shorter and easier walk than Dungeness Recreation Area.



The native plant communities at each workshop site differ slightly. Railroad Bridge Park is mostly riparian, while lowland evergreen forest dominates at Robin Hill, and the Dungeness Recreation Area is very diverse. Workshop participants will learn about over 25 native trees and shrubs. Cultural requirements, landscaping values, and environmental and wildlife habitat benefits of each species will be discussed. In addition, tips on how to plan and develop a natural landscape will be offered.

All **workshops are free of charge but pre-registration is required** for the Dungeness Recreation Area and Robin Hill Park workshops. The registration deadline is September 25. Please phone Clallam Conservation District at 360-452-1912 ext. 5 for more information and to reserve a spot.

## **NATURAL LANDSCAPING COURSE in OCTOBER**

Participants in this popular course will receive step by step instruction and employ Permaculture design principles to develop landscape designs suited to the unique ecological conditions of their properties. The course focus is a naturalistic landscape style, with special emphasis on low maintenance, water conservation, wildlife habitat enhancement, and stormwater management.

The course includes three evening classes and three afternoon field trips. The evening classes will be from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm on October 4, 11 and 18 at the Dungeness River Audubon Center located at 2151 West Hendrickson Road. Afternoon field trips will be on Friday, October 5, Saturday, October 13 and Saturday, October 20. A \$20 registration fee covers the cost of materials, which include the WSU Extension publications *Grow Your Own Native Landscape*, the *Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington Homeowners*, as well as a binder of other useful resources.

For more information and to register, call 360-452-1912 ext. 5 or email: [ccd-info@conservewa.net](mailto:ccd-info@conservewa.net).

The **registration deadline is September 27.**

You can learn more by visiting our website at [www.clallamcd.org](http://www.clallamcd.org)

# **DON'T MISS OUT... WORKSHOPS for FARMS in SEPTEMBER**

## **GET YOUR FARM READY FOR WINTER...ATTEND A FREE FARM TOUR**

**WHEN:** September 20 (Thursday) from 2:00pm to 3:30pm

**WHERE:** A farm in the Agnew Area near Finn Hall Road

**COST:** FREE, but pre-registration is required

Clallam Conservation District is leading a tour on Donald Gonder and Kandy Mulroney's horse farm in Agnew. In the summer of 2010 Don, Kandy and their six horses moved to their 5-acre property in Agnew. They were not quite prepared for the knee-deep mud around their barnyard that made manure removal, and even feeding for that matter, nearly impossible. In March 2011 they contacted the Conservation District to get help developing a farm plan.

Since that time Don and Kandy have made many improvements to their farm including building graveled heavy use areas around their barn and horse shelters for mud-free footing, taking soil tests to properly apply fertilizer and lime to their pastures and hayfield, creating a rotational grazing system and installing an irrigation system. Come join us to learn how to keep your horse paddocks mud-free and keep pastures and hayland in tip-top shape!!!



To register and receive directions for the tour call  
360-452-1912 ext. 5 or email: [ccd-info@conserveva.net](mailto:ccd-info@conserveva.net)

## **CHICKEN PROCESSING WORKSHOP: FROM PASTURE TO PLATE**



**WHEN:** September 13 (Thursday) from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

**WHERE:** Clark Farms, 863 E. Anderson Road, Sequim

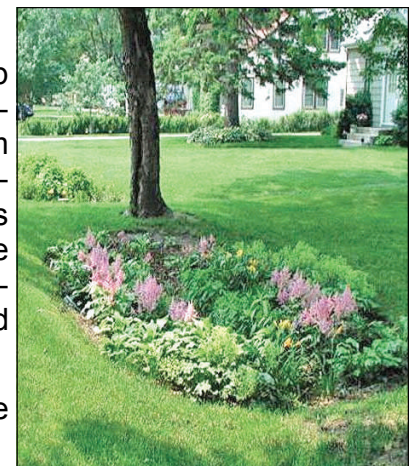
**COST:** Workshop fee is \$20 per household, pay at the door

WSU Clallam County Extension has invited Stuart Boyle and Michele Gilles from the Kitsap Poultry Growers Co-op to teach about processing chickens from pasture to plate. Stuart will be demonstrating poultry processing equipment and discussing the Kitsap Poultry Growers Co-op's exciting plans to develop a mobile processing unit to serve poultry growers in this area. If you are currently raising chickens for meat or even just thinking about it, this informative workshop is for you! If you need more information please call WSU Clallam County Extension at 360-417-2280.

## **RAIN GARDEN COLLABORATION**

Clallam Conservation District is pleased to announce a new partnership with WSU Extension to help train Master Gardeners as "Rain Garden Mentors" and to assist with the design and installation of rain gardens in Clallam County. Once trained, mentors will conduct community education and outreach, answer public inquiries about rain gardens, perform initial site visits and evaluations, and make referrals for further technical assistance to the Conservation District. We hope that this new collaboration will result in increased awareness of the importance of managing stormwater runoff and the installation of more rain gardens in Clallam County!

If you are interested in learning more about raingardens please call the Conservation District at 360-452-1912 ext. 5.





## **HAY-BUYING TIPS: What to Look for & What to Avoid**

Many livestock owners take advantage of summer's more affordable hay prices to fill their barns for winter. Finding the right hay for your animals is important not only to your animals' health but also to your land's health. Hay can be a major source of weed infestation, so it is wise to take steps to avoid introducing toxic and/or noxious weed seeds onto your land.

**How much hay do your animals need?** As a general rule of thumb most livestock require 2-3% of their body weight in feed each day for maintenance. A 1,000 pound horse would need roughly 20-30 pounds of quality feed per day. If hay is poor quality (not much leaf blade, weedy) then animals will need more hay to meet their needs and may even require supplemental feed like grain. If you are trying to finish livestock (put on weight), have bred animals, young animals, or older animals that cannot efficiently digest feed, then more hay may be required. Consult with your veterinarian for more information on designing a feeding program for your livestock.

Many farmers will offer a discounted price when selling hay directly out of the field. If possible, try to take a look at the field before it is cut to give you a better idea of what's growing in the field, especially if there are weeds. **Avoid weedy fields**, especially those that may contain poisonous plants such as tansy ragwort, poison hemlock, and nightshade.

**Good quality grass hay should consist mostly of grass plants, not broadleaf plants** like fern, daisy, thistle, etc., and should contain mostly dried leaf blades rather than stems & seed heads.

**Avoid bales along the perimeter of the field** as these bales are more likely to contain weedy plants. If you are purchasing hay that has already been stacked ask the farmer to open a few, randomly selected bales so you can look for toxic weeds and mold.

**Purchasing local hay reduces the risk of introducing foreign weed species** on your land, however if you do order hay from out of the area be sure to ask the seller if they know where the hay comes from and if the fields are known to contain any poisonous and/or noxious weeds. It may also be helpful to ask the seller if they have local references/customers you can talk to. As with locally grown hay you should open a few bales and look for weeds.

**We recommend feeding hay in one area on your property and diligently watching the feeding area to ensure that weeds are not spreading.** Many weed seeds can pass through the gut of an animal and be viable in manure. This means that even if you control weeds in the feeding area the seeds can still spread in the manure. This is especially true of horses. Using best management practices, like rotational grazing, will encourage grass growth and decrease weeds in your pastures. Contact the Conservation District for more information on good pasture management. **Clallam County Noxious Weed Control (360-417-2442)** can also assist property owners with weed identification and management.

### **WEED WATCH: TANSY RAGWORT**

- ◆ Invasive, biennial weed found in pastures, roadsides, vacant land
- ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> year plant has rosette of lacy (ruffled), bright green leaves
- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> year plant sends up flower head, multiple spikelets of bright yellow flowers.
- ◆ Mature plant grows 1-4 feet.
- ◆ Toxic to livestock both in pasture and dried in hay.
- ◆ Call Clallam County Noxious Weed Control at 360-417-2442 to learn more about controlling this, and other pasture weeds.



Tansy Ragwort Rosette

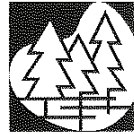
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Clallam Conservation District is a subdivision of state government created to promote the stewardship and conservation of natural resources in Clallam County. Public meetings are held at 3:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the USDA Service Center, 1601 E. Front St., Bldg/Suite A in Port Angeles.

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- ⇒ Native Plant Workshops and Classes
- ⇒ Upcoming Farm Tour and Chicken Workshop
- ⇒ Rain garden Collaboration
- ⇒ Hay Buying Tips

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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