

The Ache-Ridge Post



A Quarterly Publication for Living on the Land Alumni



Spring, 2010

Volume 1, Issue 4

Can Forage Production & Pasture Management Co-exist?

Scott Jensen, Owyhee County

Forage production on irrigated pastures as well as animal performance is directly related to your pasture management. You do not just turn livestock in on irrigated pasture and walk away. Plants can regrow to be grazed a second and third time or more during the growing season if given the opportunity. To maximize forage production as well as animal performance, most cool season grasses and forbs should be grazed no shorter than 3-4 inches. This will allow the plant sufficient photosynthetic sites to maximize growth if sufficient moisture is available.

To accomplish this and provide adequate pasture rest for regrowth, pastures should be divided/sub-divided so that the livestock are concentrated in one area while the remaining areas of the pasture are resting/regrowing. Good application of this concept can literally double annual forage production on irrigated pasture versus season-long grazing. It makes good management sense and cents to increase



Challis, Idaho states "People are amazed by how much grass I can grow on the ground that I've got. I run 300 cow-calf pairs on 11 paddocks and I can keep them on grass until the middle of November before they have to be supplemented with hay".

Joe Miller from central Idaho improved for-

age production and utilization on his ranch to the point that he reduced hay needs by 95%. This has translated into greatly increased profitability. On a 250-cow herd Joe has paid down \$200,000 of accumulated debt in just 4 years.

While both of these examples feature larger producers, the same principles apply to smaller acreages. Good management of irrigated pasture really does work.



"Huh? Martha! Are those really sheep in our pasture?"

Is it easy? Well, not necessarily. You have to have a commitment to water and nitrogen management and concentration/stocking rate of livestock. You have to monitor and adjust according to the needs of both the animals and the forage resource.

If you are interested in learning more about improving your grazing management and intensive grazing of irrigated pasture consider attending the Lost Rivers Grazing Academy to be held on June 15-18 in Salmon, Idaho. For more information about the grazing academy go to <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/owyhee/ag.htm> or email me at scottj@uidaho.edu.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 10
ISDA PESTICIDE DISPOSAL
PICKLES BUTTE LANDFILL
CALL 442-2816 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PARTICIPATE

PLANT CLINIC
ONGOING THROUGHOUT THE SPRING & SUMMER AT
DIFFERENT LOCATIONS
(SEE INSIDE)

JUNE 15-18
LOST RIVERS GRAZING
ACADEMY

Inside this issue:

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Fruit Trees Living On Your Land? Read This...

Tony McCammon, Payette County Extension Educator

Our unseasonable warm March weather has pushed our buds out a bit premature. Beware of cold temperatures for much of Southwestern Idaho these next few weeks. See the Table on critical temperatures for flower and bud damage. Orchardists should use heaters if available, or turn on wind machines as forecasts predict freezing low temperatures. Other options include: overhead irrigation, but this can be costly. The idea is to cover the buds and blossoms with water that will freeze, forming an ice layer. Remember that water freezes at 32 degrees F, and a permanent, uninterrupted layer of ice throughout the frost period will insulate those flowers and buds. The ice must remain until the daytime air temperatures rise above freezing.

The last freeze will occur 2 out of 10 years after May 4 at a temperature of 28 degrees or less in Payette County, May 6th in Emmett and Parma, May 13th in Weiser, and April 27th in Caldwell. A 10% loss of a tree's flowers is tolerable for orchardists. They consider it as a tinning technique, you may do likewise.

In addition to our unseasonably warm weather, if sudden wet weather occurs diseases will play a large part in your management practices this year. **Here are a few Diseases that you should look for!**

Coryneum Blight (Peach Shothole): If your apricots or peaches looked like this last year you might want to read this. Peach and

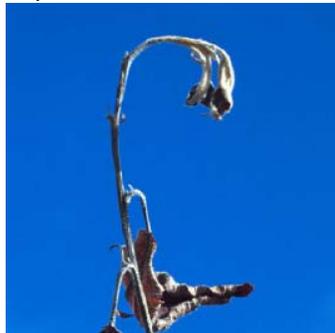


apricot growers should thoroughly examine trees at this time to look for cankers. Most of these infections probably occurred in the fall and have developed over the winter. A canker may look like a dark patch with reddish borders, and is often centered at buds.

Dead, unopened, gummy buds on year-old wood are fairly diagnostic of Coryneum Blight in spring. At shuck-split (when the growth the fruit splits the flower open) spray Bravo Weather Stick, Captan, or Spectracide Immunox for home use or Abound, Ziram, or Pristine for commercial use. These sprays are only necessary in orchards where fall or delayed-dormant fungicide applications using copper were not made.

The shuck-split application should provide protection for the newly set fruit. If you had a problem with this pathogen last year, hopefully you have already applied your delayed-dormant application whereas these sprays should not be applied now.

Fire Blight: Scout your apple and pear trees for overwintered cankers. Often they will be stems or twigs with last year's leaves still attached. Prune them out 8-12" below the canker. If they aren't pruned out, they will become an inoculum source for infections this spring. Fire blight bacteria are spread by rain, flies, and pollinators throughout the orchard. This spring is creating a perfect environment for Blights. I feel we are



in for a bad Blight year. Stay on top of weather forecasts during the blooming period of your trees. Treat only when necessary. See extensions fruit information at www.extension.uidaho.edu/payette/index.htm to get alerts on Blight infections.

ALWAYS read and follow the instructions printed on the pesticide label. The pesticide recommendations in the UI publi-

	Stage of Development	10% Kill (°F)	90% Kill (°F)
Apple	Silver tip	15	2
	Green tip	18	10
	1/2-inch green	23	15
	Tight cluster	27	21
	First pink	28	24
	First bloom	28	25
	Petal fall	28	25
Peaches	Swollen bud	18	1
	1/2-inch green	25	15
	Pink	26	21
	Bloom	27	24
	Petal fall	28	25
Pears	Swollen bud	15	0
	Bud burst	20	6
	Green cluster	24	15
	White bud	25	19
	Bloom	28	24
	Petal fall	28	24
Sweet Cherries	Swollen bud	17	5
	Bud burst	25	14
	Tight Cluster	26	17
	White bud	27	24
	Bloom	28	25
	Petal fall	28	25
Tart Cherries	Swollen bud	15	0
	Bud burst	26	22
	Tight cluster	26	24
	White bud	28	24
	Bloom	28	24
	Petal fall	28	24
Apricots	Swollen bud	15	---
	Calyx red	20	0
	First white	24	14
	First bloom	25	19
	Full bloom	27	22
	Post bloom	27	24

cation do not substitute for instructions on the label. Pesticide laws and labels change frequently and may have changed since this publication was written. Some pesticides may have been withdrawn or had certain uses prohibited. Use pesticides with care. Do not use a pesticide unless the specific plant, animal, or other application site is specifically listed on the label.

(Continued on page 3)

Garden to Market

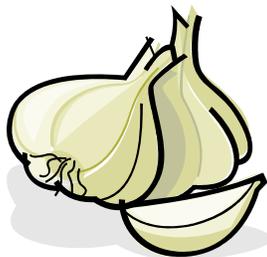
With Ariel Agenbroad



Extension Horticulturist

“Sorry, Not Available for Shipment to Idaho...”

‘Deerfield’ is a “mid-season, 50star garlic, known for its uniformity, size and flavor,” according to the glowing description in the Territorial Seed catalog. I read on... “flavor starts out mild and finishes with a fervor of spice.” I’m sold! Just as I was about to add a pound of the bulbs to my shopping cart...WAIT! Cannot ship to Idaho? Many SW Idaho gardeners and growers are stopped short when trying to order garlic or shallot bulbs, onion sets, potatoes, grapes or berries from mail order sources. What is this about? How come?

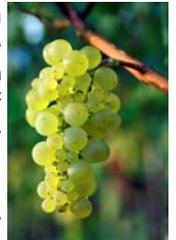


As we all know, Idaho still proudly boasts Agriculture (with a big “A!”) as our major industry. We’re all proud of our famous potatoes (and onions, wheat, beans, seed crops, mint, milk, cheese..even ‘gator’~) So, according to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), “Idaho has several quarantines in place to mitigate the entry and/or spread of harmful pests into our state. Quarantines against a particular pest may apply to a wide range of plants or commodities, and even to vehicles and machinery. Anyone selling or bring plants, agricultural or horticultural commodities, or nursery stock into Idaho should read through our quarantine summary. By making sure your products meet quarantine standards, you can help us keep harmful pests out of Idaho!”

For example, the Onion/White Rot quarantine is in place to protect Idaho fields from a devastating fungal disease know as white rot. According to Idaho Rule 2.06.07, only bulbs, sets, or seedlings of Allium species grown from seed within the boundaries of Ada, Bingham, Blaine,, Boise, Bonneville, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jefferson, Jerome, Lincoln, Madi-

son, Minidoka, Owyhee, Payette, Power, Twin Falls, and Washington counties (in Idaho), and Malheur County (in Oregon), will be accepted into these same counties. True seed may be imported. That explains why I can’t try “Deerfield” garlic unless someone in the quarantine area is growing and selling clean and certified bulbs!

For some other crops, like potato or grape, we can bring seed tubers or vines into the area if they’ve been inspected and certified as being free from disease and virus. Not all companies do this. If they don’t, their products are usually not able to be shipped into Idaho.



The good news is that more local producers are getting into the garlic game, so look for more varieties to be available in the next few years. And many quality companies offer a variety of certified potato seed, berries, and other restricted plants, even through mail order.

For more information on Idaho quarantines and how they might affect your growing plans, visit <http://www.agri.state.id.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/Quarantines/indexPlantDiseasesInsectsand Pests.php>.

(Continued from page 2 “Fruit Trees”)

Store pesticides in their original containers and keep them out of the reach of children, pets, and livestock.

Trade Names—To simplify information, trade names have been used. No endorsement of names products is intended nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.



Remember, too...if you plan on selling more than \$500 worth of nursery or greenhouse stock this year, be sure to get your Nursery License through ISDA while you’re at it!



THE LOVE OF
GARDENING IS
A SEED THAT
ONCE SEWN
NEVER DIES

~ Gertrude Jekyll

Are You "Springing" Into Spring?

Rikki Wilson, University of Idaho Extension Educator, Gem County

Spring time and all its beauty is a wonderful time of year. The birds start chirping, the flowers start blooming, and the grass starts growing. I know many of us have been working hard to get our pastures shaped up and ready for grazing season with our livestock, so here are a few tips to remember before you spring into spring!

Although the green grass looks lush and pretty, don't jump the gun and turn your livestock or horses out to graze too soon. Early forage growth has high water content and doesn't contain adequate concentrations of essential nutrients that every



animal needs. You should make sure your pasture is at the "4-leaf stage" or at least 6-8 inches tall before grazing. Grazing pasture too early will result in a loss of vegetation

and won't give plants the chance to replenish root reserves. Grazing one week too early in the spring, can sacrifice three weeks grazing in the fall.

Make sure you set up a rotational grazing system to keep those grasses looking healthy. Forage plants



need rest and re-growth periods to replenish their nutrient levels. Remember the "take half-leave half" theory in grazing, and properly man-

age your pastures. Leave at least 2-6 inches of leaf area so that photosynthesis can take place and restock root reserves. Overgrazing can be detrimental to your pasture area. If the pasture is grazed continuously or doesn't get enough rest time, it can deteriorate the root system of the grass. Root health is very important for the plant's

ability to grow throughout the growing season. With this in mind, make sure you monitor your rotational grazing system to allow ample time for root re-growth. If you can, take a sample of your forage to have it tested. This way you can determine any supplements for your animals, or fertilizer recommendations you may need to make your pasture grass more productive and energy efficient. With some proper pasture planning and preparation, you can go ahead and spring into spring!



Treasure Valley Food Coalition Celebrates Earth Day

The Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival on Tour will be at the Egyptian Theatre in downtown Boise on Friday, April 23rd, 2010. A matinee showing of the movie, FRESH at 4 pm will be hosted by the Treasure Valley Food Coalition. The movie celebrates the farmers, thinkers and business people who are reinventing our food system. Forging healthier sustainable alternatives, they offer a practical vision for a future of our food and our planet.

The Festival's theme this year is Food and Water. The chosen films highlight environmental and agricultural concerns as well as innovative solutions.

It is of interest to note that the Treasure Valley Food Coalition is conducting a local food assessment to reveal a clearer picture of local food consumption habits. Janie



Burns, a local farmer and chair of the Treasure Valley Food Coalition notes, "without good information, we're just guessing about how to increase the Treasure Valley's food self-reliance." It is their goal to create a safe, sane and sustainable local food system. The food assessment will help answer many questions, such as, where are the grocery stores, and the farmers markets? How many

school lunches are eaten? How much food is eaten at senior centers? What facilities do we have in the valley to turn raw food into processed foods? Where are the local farms and what do we know about what they grow? Where are the recycling facilities and what are they composting? How much are consumers spending on food that could be grown here in the valley, but isn't?

The film festival will continue into the evening with movies starting at 7pm. Tickets are \$12 for adults; student and kids 18 years and under are free. Matinee tickets include the evening show. Purchase tickets at the door, or online at www.egyptiantheatre.net. Plan to come and bring the family!

The Tractor Barn Report

by Tee Hurd

Spring is arriving quickly! Folks are getting itchy to get farm and garden preparation work done.

Before you get started be sure to check your ground for adequate "dryness" to run your equipment and start farming. This time of year is sometimes deceiving. The top few inches of the ground are warm, cracked a little bit, and appear to be ready to till. Deeper down, it may be a different story.

Place your shovel in the ground. If it is wet deeper than your blade's height, it may be too wet for tilling just yet. Or, grab a handful of dirt. If you can easily squeeze it into a ball of dirt in your hands, it may be too wet for tilling.

Now, let's say your ground marginally passes these two quick tests, and you go ahead and start the engine. Things are going

well, you're feeling pretty confident. Then, all of a sudden you get stuck. If you do get stuck, remember not to use a fence post chained to the tires. This will cause excessive torque with no place to roll, except with your front end up. This will possibly cause a tractor tip-over. Not a fun or safe experience. If you have to pull yourself out of a bind, be sure to hook good chain or cable at places designed specifically for pulling.

Check your batteries before starting. If you have not used your equipment during the winter months, batteries may have frozen. Be careful when jump starting. Be sure to jump start ONLY by using the proper terminals. Oh yes ... and ALWAYS wear safety glasses!

Bees and spiders have a way of filling overflow

spouts in radiators. Therefore, be on the safe side and analyze them when checking your coolant levels. Checking those radiator spouts just may save a radiator explosion.

Other equipment, especially seeders and drills, may also have openings filled. If these remain unchecked you will probably have "misses" when you go to plant.

Finally, be certain that your equipment has proper lighting and "slow moving vehicle" signage. Since this large equipment can be slow-moving, there are times when other drivers come up on them too fast. Proper lighting and signage can be a deterrent to an impending problem.

Once again, folks are in a hurry to get to the fields. Take time now to be safe! Have a great season!

"I KEEP A LOG FOR EACH PIECE OF MACHINERY, WHETHER IT HAS A MOTOR OR NOT... THEN, SPEND TIME DURING THE WINTER REVIEWING THE ENTRIES".



PLANT CLINIC



Do you feel you could use more information to learn how to best care for your garden and landscape, or get practical "how-to" advice on many home gardening topics? Then, you may want to check out one of the "Plant Clinics" being offered in several locations throughout the Treasure Valley.

When you first decide to come in, you will need to bring:

- A full description of your situation
- Details about your planting, watering, fertilizing and pesticide practices
- Good samples or photographs that show the whole plant or insect

When you arrive, you can expect:

- Friendly volunteer assistance from a University of Idaho Master Gardener
- A response within 48 hours
- Our educated "best guess" diagnosis
- Approved growing recommendations from the University of Idaho

- Approved pesticide recommendations
- Suggestions for learning more through our quality web and print resources

LOCATIONS

Mondays, 1-4 pm

Wednesdays, 9 am-12 pm

Fridays, 9 am-4 pm

501 Main St. in Caldwell (208-459-6003)

April through October

Wednesdays, 5-8 pm

Caldwell Farmers' Market

mid-May through October

Saturdays, 9 am-1 pm

Nampa Farmers' Market

Late April through October

Spring is the time for planting...and monitoring for cutworms!

Some years my first planting of spinach never makes it out of the ground, or so it seems. Sometimes my pea plants put up a row of sprouts, and then suddenly disappear. I'm still not sure about the spinach, but the disappearing pea plants often show signs of cutworm damage. The sprouts lie wilted on the ground, neatly cut at the base, as if beheaded. Sifting the soil around the base of the plant often reveals the culprit: a fat, dark, mottled caterpillar curled up nearby.

Cutworms are the common name of a number of species of moths in the family Noctuidae, including the Black, Variegated, Red-backed and Western Bean cutworms. Some species overwinter as larvae and pupate in March, hatching as adults in April when they lay eggs of the first generation of the season. Other species overwinter as eggs and hatch in the spring to feed, emerging as adults in late spring or early summer. Adults fly at night; hence the name "Noctuid".



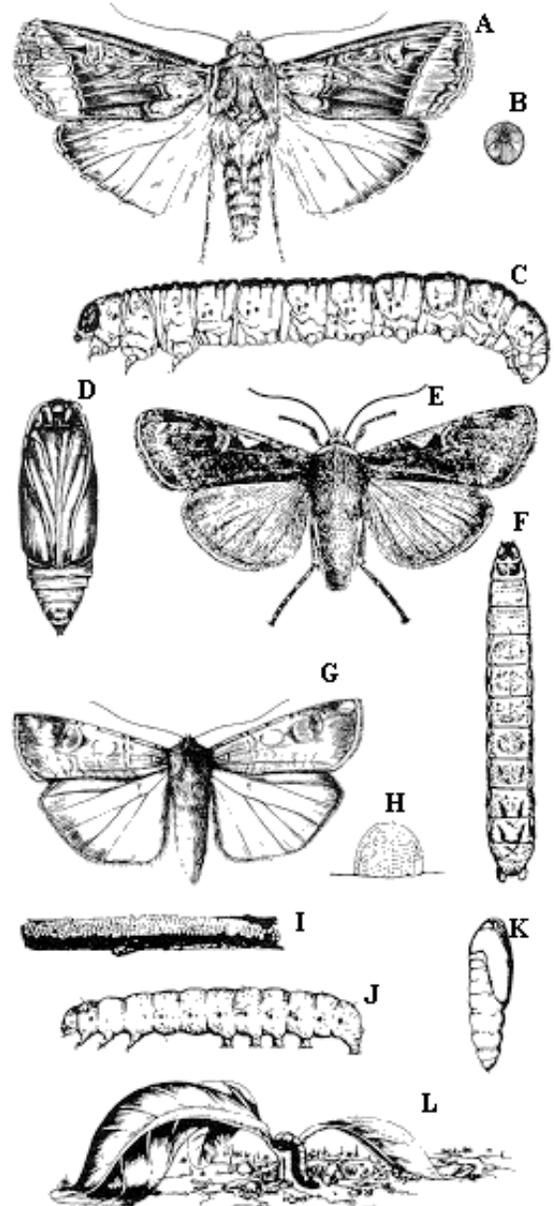
Black cutworm larva

The youngest larvae feed on foliage of spring weeds first, but soon migrate into the soil and feed on roots and young plants at night. It's best to look for them and their damage in early morning. Mature larvae reach 30 - 40 mm long. They attack a variety of crops including corn, beans, alfalfa, and cabbage plants. Probably lettuce

and spinach as well.

Cultural controls include removing weeds and plant residue to reduce sites for egg-laying; and tilling before planting to expose the caterpillars to birds and other predators. Physical controls: when you plant vulnerable seedlings such as cabbage, broccoli, tomatoes, etc., put cardboard collars around the base of the plant. If you find the caterpillars near plants that have been attacked, throw them to the edge of the garden or field, away from the crop, where birds can find them. A variety of insecticides are registered for use against cutworms if infestations are really bad. They are easiest to control when small; large larvae under the soil they may be protected from sprays.

Find more information about cutworms and their control at these websites, and remember to sign up for Treasure Valley Pest Alerts (<http://tvpestalert.net/>) to get timely warnings about potential pest problems for the crops that are important to you.



Cutworms. A-D, Black cutworm. A, Adult. B, Egg. C, Larva. D, Pupa. E-F, Spotted cutworm. E, Adults. F, Larva. G-K, Variegated cutworm. G, Adult. H, Egg. I, Egg mass. J, Larva. K, Pupa. L, Typical cutworm damage.

Websites of Interest:

<http://uspest.org/pnw/insects> (look up the crop that interests you, or search for cutworms)

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu>

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/compoennts/M1225.pdf> (cutworms in home gardens)

http://attra.ncat.org/intern_handbook/entomology.html





The Weed Wacker

Mike Stanton, Zamzows

Spring Weed Control

This time of year we are able to see hundreds of small seedling weeds starting to come up. If you can control the seedling now, the amount of summer weeding will be greatly reduced. Germination will continue until the moisture in the soil drops. Once it dries out, most of the spring weeds will quit and then the summer weeds will start.

In the early spring it is hard to control the weeds because of the temperature. Most of the popular weed killers will not work effectively until the day time temperature is constantly above 65 degrees. Weeds like Bur Buttercup will have already gone to seed well before that time. Weed control this time of year may involved taking one of several methods.

bare patches of ground. This is where learning to identify your weeds is very important.

Knowing what weeds are currently growing, as well as having knowledge of their life cycle will save you time. Additionally, this valuable information will also prevent the improper application of a chemical that may not work because of the temperature conditions.

If you use a chemical for weed control please pay close attention to replant instructions and grazing restrictions. And, as always, please read and follow the label instructions.

“A WEED IS A PLANT THAT HAS MASTERED EVERY SURVIVAL SKILL EXCEPT FOR LEARNING HOW TO GROW IN ROWS.”

~Doug Larson



This time of year I prefer flaming for the best weed control. Heat from the burner will kill the tender seedling. Also, if enough heat is applied to the soil, some of the weed seeds will also be killed. This will stop them from germinating in a few days after you have flamed. The next cold weather weed control is the use of cultivation to kill the weeds. Cultivation can be very effective in taking care of annual weeds on

Puncture Vine: a deceptive culprit destined to induce pain!

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University of Idaho
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The fragrantly sweet juiciness and deep red color of strawberries can brighten up both the taste and aesthetics of any meal; it is no wonder they are the most popular berry fruit in the world.



Receipts from the Garden

Chilled Strawberry & Spinach Salad

The Receipt:

- 1/3 cup cider vinegar
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 T. fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 small red onion, grated
- 1 1/2 T. poppy seeds
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1 1/2 pounds fresh spinach, washed and torn into pieces
- 1 cup feta cheese
- 2 cups strawberries, stemmed and sliced
- 1 cup slivered almonds

The Method:

For the dressing, combine the vinegar, sugar, lemon juice, and salt in a small non-reactive saucepan and heat over medium heat until the sugar dissolves, stirring frequently. Remove pan from heat and let cool to room temperature. When cooled, whisk in the oil, onion, poppy seeds, dry mustard and paprika until thoroughly combined. Set dressing aside. In a salad bowl, combine the spinach, feta cheese, strawberries, and almonds. When ready to serve, add some of the dressing, and toss gently. Serve the remaining dressing alongside the salad so diners may add more, if desired.



**Picked Fresh
from the Garden!**