Greetings from Extension! Hope your summer is off to a good start with many fun activities planned.

Summer is our time for youth camps with the Sixth Grade Forestry Tour and 4-H Summer Camp both held in July. We also have some workshops scheduled for June (Forest Insect and Disease Field Day in Cottonwood, and two installments of Reducing Fire Risk in the Wildland-Urban Interface, one in Fraser and the other in Grangeville) and two more in September addressing forest-land grazing and Clearwater Basin Ecology and Policy.

Right now, the summer of 2015 is looking to bring a high risk for wildfire in north-central Idaho, with the National Fire Center forecasting above normal potential for wildfire for our area in the July to September period, and increasing to above normal for June (see maps inside, page 4). Wildfire is an increasing issue in Idaho and other western states over the last 30 years, with 2012 setting a record for the most acres burned in the eleven western states since records began in 1916. Low snow-pack coverage in May is associated with the severity of the subsequent wildfire season and this year’s snow-pack extent was far below normal for May. Also, the most recent drought status report from the National Weather Service shows the entire state of Idaho either in drought or abnormally dry (see map inside, page 4).

So, be safe while you enjoy the summer!

Bill
Low Input Landscaping

Gardening inputs are materials and resources brought in from outside the borders of your yard or garden. Pesticides, fertilizers, and irrigation water are some of these inputs. Even your labor, and the gasoline needed to operate lawnmowers, edger’s, and hedge clippers are inputs. If you have input-intensive landscape, chances are you spend more time, energy, and money than necessary. With more inputs, the chances for environmental contamination, such as leaching of chemicals into the ground water, increase.

Request this University of Idaho Publication by contacting a U of I Extension office or online at www.extension.uidaho.edu. (CIS1054)

Water Conservation in the Landscape

Increasing numbers of gardeners want to use environmentally safe and energy conserving practices to maintain healthy, attractive landscapes. Their desire has produced a type of landscaping that reduces water use and maintenance, protects water quality, and increases the health and beauty of the surroundings. Water conservation in the landscape is an essential part of an environmentally sound approach to gardening.

Request this University of Idaho Publication by contacting a U of I Extension office or online at www.extension.uidaho.edu. (CIS990)

Tuxedo Bug

The tuxedo bug is becoming a significant nuisance pest in some areas of Idaho. Massive numbers move into residential landscapes, particularly during the fall, where they inadvertently enter homes. Although tuxedo bugs essentially are harmless, sheer numbers make them an intolerable pest.

Request this University of Idaho Publication by contacting a U of I Extension office or online at www.extension.uidaho.edu. (CIS1147)

Idaho Farmers Market

Orofino Farmers Market
Orofino City Park
Tuesday 3:00pm – 6:00pm
June 2 – October 13

Lewiston Farmers Market
D St. Parking Lot
Saturday 5:00pm – 8:00pm
June 7 – September 27

Tuesday Growers’ Market
Moscow Food Co-Op
121 E. 5th St.
Tuesday 4:00pm – 6:30pm
May – October

Moscow Farmers Market
Friendship Square Downtown
Saturday 8:00am – 1:00pm
May 2 – October 31

In addition to fresh produce, markets also offer a variety of plants, flowers, meat, eggs, dairy, baked goods, preserves, ready to eat foods, and crafts.

Know someone who would enjoy a copy of our Newsletter? Let us know, we will be happy to send them a complimentary copy. Then they can decide for themselves and let us know if they would like to be on our regular mailing list. clearwater@uidaho.edu

Community Calendar

June
2: Orofino Farmers Market—First Day
21: Father’s Day

July
2-4: Grangeville Border Days
4: Independence Day
4-5: Winchester Open Rodeo
18-19: Orofino Show & Shine
31-2 Pierce 1860 Days

August
1-3: Konskia Days
2: Raspberry Festival—Cottonwood

September
9-12: Annual Lewiston Roundup
17-20: Clearwater County Fair/Lumberjack Days
24-27: Lewis County Fair—Nezperce
24-27: Nez Perce County Fair—Lewiston

October
13: Orofino Farmers Market—Last Day

This list is not all inclusive

Making Garlic-and Herb-Infused Oils at Home

Endless culinary possibilities exist for preparing and using herb-and garlic-infused oils at home. Herbs are easy to grow in home gardens or containers, providing an inexpensive and plentiful supply for infusion. Many ethnic cuisines are characterized by specific combinations of garlic and herbs that transform ordinary ingredients into culinary classics. Popular uses for infused oils include dipping breads, making salad dressings, and flavoring pastas.

Infusion involves immersing garlic, basil, oregano, or rosemary in oil to extract their flavors. Infused oils have the potential to cause botulism, however. Before getting too creative, make sure your infused oils are safe to eat. The procedure for acidifying garlic and herbs will allow you to safely store your infused oils at room temperature. Refrigeration of the oils will maintain their fresh flavor for a longer time.

For a copy of this Pacific Northwest Extension Publication (PNW664) contact a local U of I Extension office or visit: www.extension.uidaho.edu.

Contact Us!

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Update on the Local and State Economy

by Bill Warren

According to the Idaho Department of Labor the state and local economy continue to improve from the recession with state-wide job growth approaching pre-recession levels. Clearwater County’s unemployment rate for April was 6.9% which was marked improvement over the same month last year which was 9.7%. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state as a whole in April was at 3.8% (a seven year low). Boise had the state’s lowest unemployment rate in April at 2.7%.

The Department of Labor reports that most industry sectors are seeing significant job growth, except for logging and mining which lag 3.1% over last year’s employment levels. Softwood lumber shipments from the US to China dropped by over half between the first quarter of 2014 and this year; however, strong gains in US new home construction (jumping over 20% in April to levels not seen since November 2007) should help mitigate this drop in exports.


Applying mandatory forestry BMP’s requires practice and judgment. Idaho Forestry Best Management Practices Field Guide is designed to educate forest landowners, managers, and operators. Contact your local U of I Extension office or go online for your copy. www.idahoforestrybmps.org

Idaho Hay Report
Idaho Hay and Forage Association

Growth in the manufacturing employment sector continues to be strong in North-Central Idaho with employment growth with ammunition manufacturers such as ATK and at Schweitzer Engineering in 2014. The manufacturing sector is also important because of the relatively high wages paid. According the Idaho Department of Labor the average Idaho worker earned $36,829 in 2013 compared to $53,248 for the average Idaho worker in manufacturing that year.

Despite the good news, Idaho still struggles with competitive wages relative to the rest of the country. According to the Idaho Department of Labor, Idaho workers saw their highest inflation adjusted wages in the year 1977 (a time when local economies were also at or near their peak due to forest product sector employment) when the average wage for Idaho was $22,087 in 1990 dollars. Unfortunately, Idaho’s lower cost of living does not make up for this disparity. Idaho’s cost of living adjusted average wage was $21,980 (in 1990 dollars) in 2012, ranking last in the US.

Reference: Idaho Department of Labor

A Sampling of Current Log Prices from Local Mills—June 2015

DF $375 – 400 / GF $350-375 (preferred lengths) – Empire Lumber (208-435-4703)
DF $325 – 425 / GF $250 – Tri-Pro (Ph. 208-476-4597)
DF $430 – 460 / GF $430 – 460 – IFG, Grangeville (208-507-0783)
DF $450 / GF $450 – Blue North, Kamiah (208-451-6072)

DF – Douglas Fir  GF – Grand Fir