

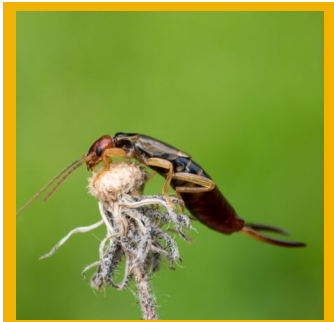


# EASTERN IDAHO

# PEST ALERT

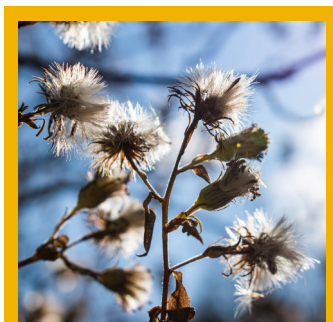
BANNOCK, BINGHAM, BONNEVILLE, CASSIA, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, AND MADISON COUNTIES

## INSIDE THE ISSUE



**BAD?**

PG 2



**BAD**

PG 2



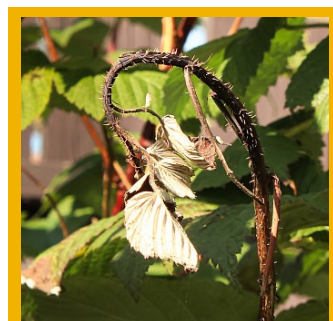
**GOOD**

PG 4



**PHOTO OF THE WEEK**

PG 5



**FIREBLIGHT**

PG 4

# Earwigs

By Ron Patterson, Extension Educator

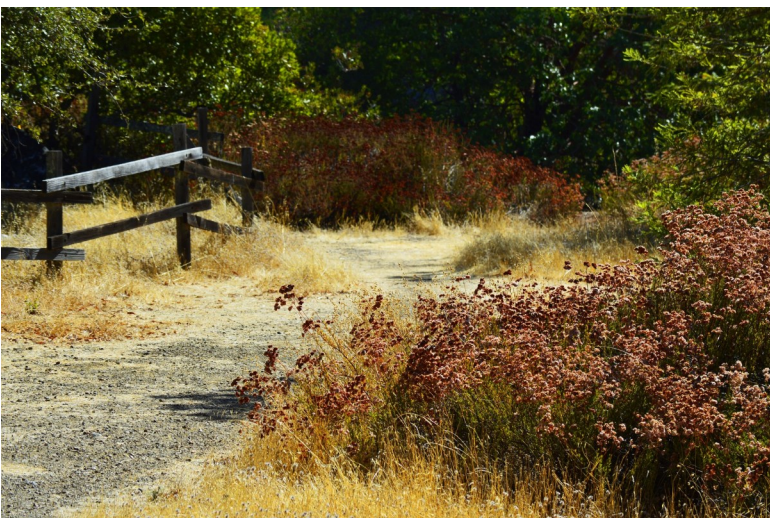
For most of the year I don't get very excited about earwigs. They are a Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde kind of insect. For much of the year they are predaceous and eat all those little critters that feed on our vegetables and flowers. So, early in the growing season they are Dr. Jekyll. The Mr. Hyde part is that they will also feed on ripened soft fruit—most commonly raspberries and peaches. They don't usually eat into harder fruits like apples but will take advantage of holes made by other pests, like birds.

So, this time of year I do a few things to try and reduce the earwig population. Since I can't spray with the fruit so near harvest, I do a little trapping. Here is a video from Utah State University on how to trap earwigs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlgpfCT0wYo&t=37s>

Here is a fact sheet on them.

[https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1898&context=extension\\_curall](https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1898&context=extension_curall)



## Fall Weed Control

By Ron Patterson, Extension Educator

Fall is a great time to control most weeds. Winter annuals, biennials and perennials are prime targets for fall weed control.

## Winter annuals

Winter annuals germinate in the fall and produce seeds in the early spring. To control annual weeds, you need to keep them from going to seed. When these plants are flowering in early spring we are often busy with other gardening activities, or the weather is too contrary to employ good control options. The two most effective fall control options are tillage and herbicide application.

**Tillage**—a light hoeing is quite easy in the fall when the plants are small. All you need to do is sever the top from the roots.

**Herbicide**—Pre-emergent herbicides can be applied right now to control most late-germinating winter annuals. Post emergent herbicides are most effective when plants are small.

A good one-two punch for winter annuals is a light tillage followed by a pre-emergent herbicide application.

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/plan-winter-weed-control-now/>

## Biennials



Biennials germinated sometime this summer and enter the winter in the rosette stage of growth. Since biennials only reproduce by seed, the key to control is to keep them from going to seed. Treating the rosette is the best time to do this. Biennials have spent the summer forming a taproot and producing the rosette. Tillage and herbicide application can be equally effective. The biggest challenge with biennials is that we often don't pay attention to them until they are sending up their flower stalks in the spring. This is often too late.

**Tillage**—the key to biennial weed control by tillage is to sever the taproot 2 – 3 inches below the crown. Some may grow back, but most will die.

**Herbicide**—an appropriate post-emergent herbicide will be much more effective on rosettes in the fall than waiting until spring when the plants are forming their flower heads.

## Perennials

Perennials provide our biggest challenge in weed control. Not only do we need to keep them from going to seed, we also must kill the root for complete control.

Part of the challenge is that root and rhizome (underground stem) fragments will often generate new plants, so tillage will only work if done repeatedly about every two or three weeks throughout the growing season.

This leaves us with herbicides or some sort of barrier. The exciting thing is that fall is typically the best time to apply herbicides to perennial weeds. As days shorten and temperatures cool, perennial plants get the signal to store more carbohydrates in the root system. This rootward action pulls more herbicides into the roots and does a better job of killing the roots.

The problem with waiting until fall is that these plants have usually already produced seeds. So, removal of flowers and control of seedlings is also critical.

<https://extension.psu.edu/biennial-and-perennial-weed-control-is-best-in-the-fall>

Weed control will be necessary every year. Ignoring them will not make them go away, nor will it get any better.

I am working with a rancher in the Blackfoot area who has a ten-year plan to remove all the Russian olive from her property. After that it will be a matter of controlling any new Russian olives that show up. We need to approach our own weed control with the same kind of plan and dedication.

# Using Tarps to Control Weeds

By Ron Patterson, Extension Educator

Tarping is different from soil solarization. One blocks sunlight from getting to seedlings and growing plants and they die of starvation. The other allows the light to pass through a clear plastic which heats up the soil and kills seedlings and germinating seeds. Soil solarization is done during the hot summer season. Tarping can be done any time of year.

Using a weed barrier in your landscape is a form of tarping. I use weed barrier in much of my vegetable garden. It saves me a lot of time. But tarping is a little different from using a weed barrier.

In this context, tarps are large sheets of thick plastic, usually black, that can be laid over and removed from a piece of ground. They are held down with sandbags, stones (we have plenty in Jefferson County) or other heavy objects and can be left on for varying lengths of time. Four weeks is considered the minimum to get some benefit from them. They don't require sealing around the edges as they are only blocking sunlight.

Rather than planting through the tarp, the tarp is removed just prior to planting. There are parts of the country where large silage tarps are spread over large plots as a weed and moisture management tool.

Here are some potential benefits of tarping:

Weed control

Reduce tillage

Break down crop residue

Kill cover crop before planting

Reduce leaching or waterlogging of soil in the spring—not usually a problem in eastern Idaho

Reduce wind erosion in off season

Conserve soil moisture until just before planting—more likely in eastern Idaho



Consider incorporating tarps into your garden management, especially if you want to be as organic as possible while reducing the amount of tillage.

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2018/04/take-me-out-to-a-tarped-field-needs-sidebar/>



## Fire Blight

At this point, prune out any new fire blight strikes as they happen. Don't wait until fall or wintertime.

Remember to disinfect your tools between each cut.

## EASTERN IDAHO

## PEST ALERT

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 27** IDAHO HOME GARDEN TIPS

FALL LAWN CARE

RON PATTERSON, EXTENSION

EDUCATOR

**7:30 PM** PLANT TALK**OCTOBER 11** IDAHO HOME GARDEN TIPS

DIVIDING PERENNIALS

**OCTOBER 25** IDAHO HOME GARDEN TIPSWINTER PROTECTIONS OF ROSES,  
GRAPES, CANE BERRIES ETC.

BRACKEN HENDERSON, EXTENSION

EDUCATOR

**7:30 PM** PLANT TALK**NOVEMBER** MASTER GARDENER

REGISTRATION BEGINS

EMAIL [LENA.LALLEN@UIDAHO.EDU](mailto:LENA.LALLEN@UIDAHO.EDU) FOR  
MORE INFORMATION

PHOTO OF THE WEEK: Photo credit: Ulleo

**PHOTO OF THE WEEK:**

Indian corn is a fun, beautiful way to decorate for fall! Did you know you could grow your own?? It needs a longer growing season than the sweet corn most home gardeners grow. However, you can start it indoors several weeks before our last frost in Idaho, then carefully plant out in your garden for some fun fall color!

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