

**University of Idaho, Bonneville County Extension**

**Eastern Idaho PEST ALERT**

**Sept 27, 2021**

*Bannock, Bingham, Bonneville, Cassia, Fremont, Jefferson, and Madison Counties*



**GOOD**



**BAD**



**PICTURE  
of the week**



**UPCOMING**

**UPCOMING:** This will be our **last pest alert** of this season!

It's been a great season though. We hope you've

learned a lot and that we've help you control some of the pest problems in your yard. If you have other pest questions or something you'd like to see us write about, please reach out to us! [lallen@uidaho.edu](mailto:lallen@uidaho.edu) or [Bonneville@uidaho.edu](mailto:Bonneville@uidaho.edu).

As we come to the close of this garden season and move toward the cold serenity of Idaho winter, we have a few more classes to help you make the most of your landscape at the close of the year and prepare it for the year to come. We also have an upcoming class on house plants for those of you who need your garden- ing fix during the winter months!



September 28 7:00pm	<a href="https://youtu.be/dEYK2vJEDmE">https://youtu.be/dEYK2vJEDmE</a> Or scan:		<b>Ron Patterson</b> Extension Educator, Horticulture/ Agriculture
October 12 7:00pm	<b>Winterizing your landscape</b> Check off all the boxes for a healthy yard and garden next year by properly caring for each crop as you prepare for winter. Everything you need to know to keep those more tender precious plants alive and healthy for best growth next summer.		<b>Ron Patterson</b> Extension Educator, Horticulture/Agriculture
October 26 7:00pm	<b>Winterizing Tools and Equipment</b> Make sure your yard and garden equipment has the care it needs to function properly next spring. Followed by		<b>Ron Patterson</b> Extension Educator, Horticulture/Agriculture
November 9 7:00 pm	<b>Houseplants</b> View on zoom or join us live for hands on instruction. We will be learning about the care of houseplants, including hands-on practice with re-potting techniques and propaga-		<b>Ron Patterson</b> Extension Educator, Horticulture/Agriculture

## Bad Weed:

## Fall puncturevine control

Ron Patterson, Horticulture/Agriculture Educator  
University of Idaho Extension, Bonneville County



Puncturevine is a summer annual. So discussing it now is after the fact. But it is very visible right now and there were quite a few people who asked about it at the Eastern Idaho State Fair. There are a few things you can do now that might help reduce next year's puncturevine crop.

Prevention is always the best first choice. If you have been around puncturevine, check your shoes and tires to make sure you don't bring them onto your property. They are most likely to enter your property from a roadway, so check along your property frontage for plants and remove them.

Any puncturevine you see right now will have the seed head on it. Spraying puncturevine in the fall does no good—the horse is already out of the barn. Fall activities that help include picking up all the vines and throwing them away. The problem is, many of the seed heads will drop to the ground, ready for next year.

While the sharp points make walking on goatheads painful, they also give us a way to pick a lot of them up. They will stick into just about anything. If you have something soft, like old carpet pad or Styrofoam material, you can lay it out over the infested area and walk around on it. Roll it up with the seeds on the inside and throw it away. This won't get rid of all of them, but it will help a lot.

### Things you can do next summer:

I've had good success with flame weeding and soil solarization with plastic on young puncturevine seedlings in the summer. Of course, pulling a plant as soon as you see it will also kill it. If it has any seed heads on it throw it away.



The problem with going the herbicide route is that these plants will germinate all summer long, and it only takes about three weeks to go from germinated seed to flowering plant. Many herbicides have restrictions on how many applications you can do in one season. Pre-emergent herbicides can help, but as soon as you break the chemical barrier created by pre-emergent herbicides the seedlings will pop through again.

Start your puncturevine control efforts this fall, then keep on top of them next summer. After about 5 – 8 years of consistent management, you'll have your puncturevine under control!

Here are some links to information about puncturevine control:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NK0\\_iu3ef5U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NK0_iu3ef5U)

<https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/puncturevine>

<https://extension.usu.edu/archive/how-to-take-the-bite-out-of-puncturevine>

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74128.html>



## Good Insect:

## Bumble Flower Beetle



Ron Patterson, Horticulture/Agriculture Educator  
University of Idaho Extension, Bonneville County

We had a bumble flower beetle sample come into the office this summer. The bumble flower beetle probably fits more into the benign category for insects. But it is kind of cool. Another name for this beetle is the brown fruit chafer.

The grub of the bumble flower beetle assists in nutrient turnover by feeding on dead and decaying plant matter. It is often seen in compost piles. The adult is quite a noisy flyer, sounding similar to bumblebees.

Here is some more information on Here is more information on bumble flower beetles:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/bumble-flower-beetles-not-your-typical-grub>

<https://extension.usu.edu/pests/upddl/files/factsheet/bumble-flower-beetle2011.pdf>



## A Note from Our Agent:

## Last regular issue

This will be the last regular issue of the Eastern Idaho Pest Alert. I will start weekly issues around early April next year. During the winter I may get an itch to send something so you know we are still here. You are always welcome to bring gardening questions into the Extension Office at 1542 E 73<sup>rd</sup> S—just south of Sandy Downs.



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