



EASTERN IDAHO

PEST ALERT

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

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Master Gardener Plant Promotion

By Lena Allen, Horticulture Aide

Our Master Gardeners just completed our annual Plant Promotion Sale where many master gardeners start seeds of their favorite varieties and we then sell them to the community at a reduced rate. This is our only fundraiser for our Master Gardener programming, but our Master Gardeners outdid themselves and had their best year yet! This is also a fantastic event for the community as there are many different plants available— new things to try and old standbys. There is something for everyone! We also had some very exceptional raffle prizes this year. Overall— it was a wonderful event for everyone! Congrats to our Master Gardeners!!

Start Your Lawn Out Right

By Ron Patterson, Extension Educator

University of Idaho Extension, Bonneville County

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Spring is finally here and is the time to train your lawn. A healthy lawn will be more resistant to insects, weeds and diseases. Spring mowing and irrigation practices set the stage for lawn resilience during the summer—it will get hot eventually.

Mowing

When possible, mow more frequently when the grass is growing fast and not as often when growth is slow. The target is to not remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade.

Ideally, mow every four or five days in the spring and fall and every ten days during the hot summer season. A good average is to mow weekly all season long.

Even more important is the mowing height. Grass that is cut shorter than 2.5 inches will have shallow roots—the longer the blade the deeper the roots. Three to three and a half inches is better. The easiest way to measure is to determine how far above the edge of the mower deck the blade is inside the deck then measure to the bottom of the deck with the mower on the sidewalk or driveway. Add the two numbers together for your mowing height.

The mower blade should be sharpened after every ten hours of use. A sharp blade will make a cleaner cut and the tips of the cut grass will have less browning.

Mulching the grass clippings back onto the lawn will help conserve water, reduce weed seed germination and reduce the amount of fertilizer that needs to be applied.



The inset shows ¼ inch to the blade. Added to the deck height and this mower is set at 3.5 inches. Photo Ron Patterson

After five days this lawn is ready to mow. Photo Ron Patterson



Irrigation

Proper irrigation in the spring will encourage deep root development. A healthy lawn should have roots to about twelve inches deep. The first step to proper irrigation is to check your system to make sure it is functioning properly.

People will often say they water every night for 20 minutes.

First, every night is not necessary. Frequent spring irrigation encourages shallow roots. The amount of water available to the plants in the summer is limited.

Second, twenty minutes is no indication of how much water is being applied to the lawn. Take a few minutes to determine how long it takes to apply 0.50 – 1.0 inches of water. Do this for each zone. Once that number is determined, that is how long you should run that zone, every time you irrigate. Straight-sided soup cans work well.

Now that you know how much you are applying you need to adjust the frequency with the season. If you have a sandy soil, you will target the $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of water and water a little more frequently because sandy soils do not hold as much water. If your soil is loamy to clayey then target one-inch application and water less frequently.

Depending on the spring rains and winds it may be 7 – 14 days between irrigations. As the growing season warms up and dries out, you can go about 3 days for sandy soil and 5 days for heavier soils.

So, rather than set your sprinkler system in the spring and turn it off in the fall, take control of your controller and irrigate when the lawn tells you that it needs it. Use the automatic feature of your timer only when you go on vacation.

Spots that seem to dry up too quickly can be hit with a hose-end sprinkler every other week.

Train your lawn roots to go deep now, before it gets hot.

Fire Blight

By Ron Patterson, Extension Educator

Fruit trees are finally starting to bloom in most areas.

Most backyard growers will not need to apply an antibiotic if they are diligent. Fire blight symptoms begin to show up two weeks after full bloom. New infections can be pruned out on a dry day as soon as they show up. Pruning tools need to be disinfected between each pruning cut. Rubbing alcohol, 10% bleach solution or disinfectant wipes work. If spray is warranted, it should be applied just before or after a wetting event and is effective for four or five days. Most garden centers carry streptomycin (don't use too often or resistance may develop).

Fire blight risk based on weather forecast—remember that in addition, blossoms must be open, and a wetting event must occur. This is a description of the key words and suggested actions in the chart.

Burley and Pocatello may have open apple blossoms soon.

Exceptional—Outbreak may occur if blossoms are wetted, no matter the blight history of your orchard. Apply antibiotic within 24 hours before or after the wetting event. Biological products should already be present on flowers and may not work as well if only applied at this risk period.

Extreme— Outbreak may occur if blossoms are wetted, no matter the blight history of your orchard. Apply antibiotic within 24 hours before or after the wetting event. Biological products should already be present on flowers and may not work as well if only applied at this risk period.

High—If unprotected flowers are wetted, infection is possible. If flowers are numerous, you may choose to protect every 2 - 3 days with biological product during the high-risk period. Or, apply antibiotic within 24 hours before or after the infection (wetting) event.



Caution—Wetting at this point is not likely to lead to infection, except within a few yards of an actively oozing canker. Continue to closely monitor the fire blight forecast, and consider applying biological sprays to reduce the potential build-up of blight bacteria if High risk is forecast in three or four days.



Burley	May 19 – 24 May 25 May 26 – 28 May 29 – June 2	Exceptional High Caution High
Pocatello Eastside	May 19 – 24 May 25 – June 2	Exceptional High
Pocatello Airport	May 19 – 24 May 25 May 26 – 29 May 30 – June 2	Exceptional High Caution High
Fort Hall	May 19 May 20 – 24 May 25 May 26 – 30 May 31 – June 2	Extreme Exceptional High Caution High
Blackfoot	May 19 May 20 – 24 May 25 May 26 – 30 May 31 – June 2	Extreme Exceptional High Caution High
Idaho Falls/Ammon/Shelley	May 19 May 20 – 24 May 25 May 26 – 31 June 1 – June 2	Extreme Exceptional High Caution High
Idaho Falls Airport	May 19 May 20 – 24 May 25 May 26 – 31 June 1 – June 2	Extreme Exceptional High Caution High
Ucon	May 19 May 20 – 24 May 25 – June 2	Extreme Exceptional Caution
Rigby	May 19 May 20 – 24 May 25 May 26 – June 1 June 2	Extreme Exceptional High Caution High
Rexburg	May 19 May 20 – 24 May 25 May 26 – June 1 June 2	Extreme Exceptional High Caution High
Sugar City	May 19 May 20 – 23 May 24 May 25 – June 2	High Exceptional Extreme Caution
St Anthony	May 19 May 20 May 21 – 23 May 24 May 25 – June 2	Caution High Extreme High Caution
Driggs	May 19 May 20 May 21 – 23 May 24 – June 2	Low Caution High Caution

Chemical Controls For Fire Blight	Brand Name	Chemical Name	Application Timing
	Bonide	Fixed-copper	Pre-bloom
	Drexel	Copper Sulfate	When wet weather coincides with flowering
	Kocide	Copper Hydroxide	Note: copper can damage
	Miller	Lime Sulfur oil	Early bloom, Dormant
	FireLine	Oxytetracycline	Early bloom to petal fall
		Kasugamycin	Early bloom to petal fall
	Actigard	Acibenzolar-S-	Early bloom to petal fall

Table and information from Cornell University Extension

Read and follow pesticide labels with any product

To manage fire blight, it is important to remove diseased wood during the dormant time (before buds form in spring). A general antimicrobial can be put on green tips to lessen chance of disease. Defense inducers can be applied before bloom. Protectants can also be applied during blooming. Protectants should be applied with the onset of wetting events (heavy rain or moisture). Sometimes post-bloom applications to blossoms give continued protection to shoots.

For more information: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/biocontrolbytes/2019/04/26/battling-fire-blight-with-biologicals/>

Product	Active Ingredient	Mode of Action
Firewall	Streptomycin	antibiotic – kills pathogen
Blossom Protect	<i>Aureobasidium pullulans</i> strains DSM14940 & 14941	competitive with pathogen
Bloomtime Biologi-	<i>Pantoea agglomerans</i> strain E325	competitive with patho-
BlightBan	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> strain	competitive with patho-
Serenade Optimum	<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> strain QST713	antibiotic metabolites
Double Nickel	<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> strain D747	antibiotic metabolites
Serifel	<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> strain MBI600	antibiotic metabolites
Regalia	extract of <i>Reynoutria</i> (giant knotweed)	resistance inducer
LifeGard	<i>Bacillus mycoides</i> isolate J	resistance inducer

Codling moth

We are just barely starting to trap moths. As you prepare for what we hope will be warmer temperatures, consider the following guidelines.

Conventional production options

High fruit damage in past years:

- Apply the first application for either Option A (insecticide) or Option B (oil) at the listed date.
- For Option A, repeat the insecticide spray 14 days later, for a total of 2 applications in the first generation.
- For Option B, apply the insecticide spray at the listed date once.
- When the “start date” for the 2nd generation is provided, spray every 10-18 days until Sept. 15.
- Pick a different product to use for each generation.

Low fruit damage in past years:

- Apply the first application for either Option A (insecticide) or Option B (oil) at the listed date.
- For Option A, do not spray again.
- For Option B, apply insecticide at the listed date.
- Wait until the “start date” for the 2nd generation is provided, and spray on that date, and repeat 14 days later, for a total of 2 sprays.
- Do the same for the 3rd generation.
- Pick a different product to use for each generation.

Organic production options (other than bagging)

High fruit damage in past years:

- Apply the first application for either Option A (insecticide) or Option B (oil).
- For Option A, repeat twice, spaced 7-10 apart, for a total of 3 applications in the first generation.
- For Option B, apply insecticide at the listed date and re-apply 7-10 days later.
- When the “start date” for the 2nd generation is provided, spray every 7-10 days until Sept. 15.
- Pick a different product to use for each generation.

Low fruit damage in past years:



Codling moth spray schedule

We are just barely starting to trap codling moths. This table will provide spray dates for codling moth at the given region. Select the region that has similar climatic conditions to determine when to begin spraying.

Spray Timing Table				
Location	Option A Apply First Spray	Option B		Greatest Period of Egg Hatch
		Apply Oil	Apply First Insecticide	
Burley	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Pocatello Airport	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Pocatello East Side	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Fort Hall	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Blackfoot	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Idaho Falls Airport	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
South Idaho Falls	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Ucon	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Rigby	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Ririe	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Rexburg	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Sugar City	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
St Anthony	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Driggs	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown

Ingredient	Efficacy	Residual length	Comments
Conventional			
Carbaryl (old Sevin products)	Good	14	
Gamma-cyhalothrin (Spectracide Triazicide)	Good to Excellent	14 – 17	Last application at least 21 days prior to harvest
Malathion (Bonide Malathion, Hi Yield Malathion)	Good	5 – 7	Max 2 applications; some products are pears only
Zeta cypermethrin (Garden Tech Sevin)	Good to Excellent	14 – 17	Last application at least 14 days prior to harvest
Organic			
Azadirachtin (Safer BioNeem)	Fair to Good	7 – 10	
Codling moth virus (Cyd-X)	Good (if populations)	7	Works best when used at beginning of generation
Kaolin clay (Surround)	Fair	7	Produces protective barrier
Oil (All Seasons Oil, EcoSmart, Neem)	Fair	3	Recommended for the first application of the generation only
Pyrethrin (Ortho Fruit Spray, Fertilome Fruit Tree Spray, Safer End All)	Good	3 – 5	
Spinosad Monterey/Fertilome Spinosad	Good	7 – 10	Max 6 applications

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 23 IDAHO HOME GARDEN TIPS

FRUIT THINNING

RON PATTERSON, EXTENSION EDUCATOR

May 23 | 7:00pm MT

This class will cover why it is important to thin fruit in your home orchard. Ron will cover timing and methods of fruit thinning. Come ready to learn and ask your home orchard questions!

PLANT TALK

RON PATTERSON & REED FINDLAY

May 23 | 7:30pm MT

Following our class on fruit thinning, we will have our Plant Talk question and answer session. Feel free to join us on zoom to ask any of your gardening questions!

JUNE 27 IDAHO HOME GARDEN TIPS

SUMMER WEED CONTROL

TOM JACOBSEN, EXTENSION EDUCATOR

June 27 | 7:00pm MT

Make sure you get on top of those stubborn weeds this summer! Learn how to identify weeds and the best ways to manage them.

PLANT TALK

RON PATTERSON & REED FINDLAY

June 27 | 7:30pm MT

Following our class on summer weed control, we will have our Plant Talk question and answer session. Feel free to join us on zoom to ask any of your gardening questions!



PHOTO OF THE WEEK: Photo credit: Josh Allen

PHOTO OF THE WEEK:

Some of my favorite spring bulbs are the ones that happen on accident when bulbs cross breed to create beautiful colors and patterns. This tulip was new this year – a cross between a pink French tulip and a white parrot tulip. The striping is gorgeous and the slight feathered edge from the half parrot is fun. What fun crosses do you get in your yard??

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