



Japanese Beetle Spotted in Pasco

Adapted from WSDA

A single Japanese beetle was confirmed by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) July 12 in Pasco, Washington. State officials urge anyone in Yakima, Benton or Franklin counties to look for and report these beetles. Growers can consult crop protection specialists and community members can consult WSDA's website for guidance from Washington State University Extension on protecting their gardens from this invasive pest. WSDA mapping specialists created a real-time detection map that growers can use to determine how close they are to known Japanese beetle detections.

Public participation is key

More than ever, public participation is key in fighting invasive species. With these detections along the I-82 corridor, WSDA is asking residents – especially in Yakima, Benton and Franklin counties – to look for and report Japanese beetles.

If you live in Washington state and think you see a Japanese beetle, please snap a photo and report the sighting online. <https://tinyurl.com/yfvpeyvm>

Identifying Japanese beetle

Japanese beetle adults are metallic green and brown and have little tufts of white hair on their sides. They emerge – usually from lawns or in other soil – and feed on more than 300 types of plants. From fall to spring the grubs (larvae) overwinter in the soil and slowly develop into mature adults ready to emerge again the next year in the summer as temperatures warm.

How can I help?

To rid the area of the pest, community members can help by trapping, reporting and killing the insects on their properties. Residents that live in an area where the beetles have been detected can limit the spread by not moving plants, yard waste or soil from their property to prevent spreading the beetles.

Adult beetles can hitchhike on vehicles and on items stored outdoors. When adult beetles are flying, those who live in or visit the quarantine area should take a second to ensure they are not giving a free ride to beetles when they leave the area. This can be as simple as checking the back of your pick-up truck to ensure that no beetles are taking advantage of a free ride.

If Japanese beetle becomes established in the area, it could have significant impacts on gardens and yards, parks and farms as well as farmers' ability to move agricultural products out of the area.



Report sightings: <https://tinyurl.com/yfvpeyvm>



WSU EXTENSION
Walla Walla County

Coming up...

Aug. 30—Sep. 3. *Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Days.* Come see the WSU Walla Walla County Extension booth in the Flower Building and the 4-H displays in upstairs in the Pavilion!

Sep. 25—Dec. 4. *Whole Farm Planning.* Cultivating Success, in partnership with WSU Food Systems, WSU Extension & University of Idaho Extension: Covering a broad range of topics and decision-making tools for you to create a successful small farm enterprise. Whether you are just exploring the opportunities available or already have an existing operation, you'll learn what it takes to create, sustain, and grow a viable small farm or food business. ONLINE

www.cultivatingsuccesswa.org/whole-farm-planning

October 7. *Experience 4-H* Learn about local 4-H Clubs at the Downtown Farmer's Market from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Information on current projects; how to join a 4-H Club; as well as fun, hands-on activities.



The Master Gardener is In

You can see the Master Gardeners Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 am—2:00 pm where you can bring your plant problems and get advice from our university-trained volunteers. You can get a head start by filling out a virtual plant clinic form ahead of time.

extension.wsu.edu/wallawalla/gardening/

Interested in becoming a Master Gardener?

WSU Walla Walla County Extension will soon start accepting applications for the Master Gardener Class of 2024. Fill out an interest form today to be notified when the application period begins! extension.wsu.edu/wallawalla/gardening/mg/

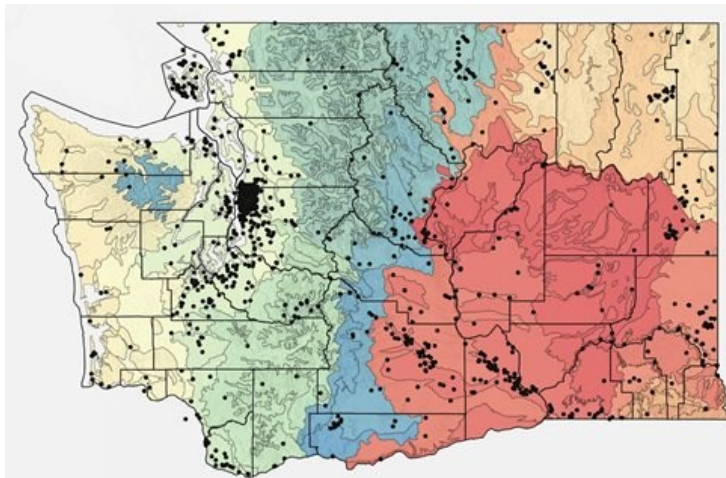
WSDA Bee Atlas Program

Adapted from WSDA

The Washington Bee Atlas (WaBA) is a WSDA Pollinator Program project that trains and partners with volunteers to identify and map existing native bee species in every county in the state. Volunteers commit to training and are provided supplies to collect native bees and process the specimens. The WSDA pollinator taxonomist then identifies the

bee specimens and provides the data to the public, including researchers, agricultural stakeholders, and conservation groups.

Native bees include all species of bees except the honey bee. The European



The WSDA is working on an interactive map of native bee detections in the state. This static map shows detections locations as of June 2023.

honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, is one species of domesticated bee. There are more than 20,000 other species of bees in the world, 4,000 in the United States, and an estimated 6-700 species in the state of Washington. These bees range from large bumble bee size to smaller than a grain of rice and they come in all different colors. Most of them nest in the soil by themselves, not in a hive.

No previous experience is necessary. New volunteers are expected to take the Master Melittologist (bee scientist) online course offered by Oregon State University. This course provides training modules on how to collect bees along with background knowledge and basic biology of native bees. In-person training throughout the state will then help you learn hands-on techniques for collecting and identifying bees to genus. The program uses the iNaturalist smartphone app to document the GPS coordinates, dates, and host plants of the bees collected. Contact the WSDA pollinator taxonomist, Dr. Karen Wright, to learn more about becoming a Washington Bee Atlas volunteer. karen.wright@agr.wa.gov



OSU Master Melittologist program:
extension.oregonstate.edu/master-melittologist

Pollination, bee identification, bee conservation, native bees and more:
www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/pollinators/animals/bees.shtml



Tips for Gardening in the Heat

Adapted from OSU Extension

People and plants need care to make it through an over 100°F heatwave without wilting.

Erica Chernoh, Oregon State University Extension Service horticulturist, offers some ideas to help keep yourself and your garden as comfortable as possible.

- Keep hydrated. Carry a water bottle – and use it! You need water as much as your plants do.
- If you plan to work in the garden, do it in the morning before the hottest part of the day.
- Wear a hat and lather on the sunscreen when outside.
- Water in the morning to give plants time to take up moisture before the worst heat.
- Water plants deeply, at least to 6 inches down. Plants are the best indicator of when they need water – they wilt. Watch your plants. If they begin to droop, it's time to get out the hose. Or, dig down in the soil 1 to 2 inches next to the plant to see if it needs moisture. Plants in sandy soil will need to be watered more often than those in clay soil, which retains water much more than sandy soil.
- If you are watering by hand, water close to the soil under the plant.
- Hanging baskets and containers will need to be watered more frequently than those in the ground. Be sure to check them often. Stick your finger in the soil to see when it needs water. If they are small, pick them up. If they are light, water. Consider moving potted plants into a shadier spot during the heat wave.
- Mulch around your plants; it slows down evaporation. You can use straw, compost or decomposed steer manure.
- Use shade cloth, available at garden centers, to shelter particularly precious plants. Rig up some sort of frame and spread the cloth over. Try not to lay it directly on the plants so they have air circulation. The temperature under the shade cloth can be 10 degrees lower. Or, use shade cloth over cold frames, cloches and greenhouses.
- Don't do anything that will stress a plant, like transplanting, pruning or fertilizing.
- If you're growing seedlings, move them to a shadier spot.

Tips for the future:



- Grow drought-tolerant plants and group them together.
- Use drip systems and soaker hoses for the most efficient watering. They get the water right to the plant's roots and avoid excess evaporation.
- Keep the garden well weeded; weeds compete with desired plants for water and nutrients.
- Amend soil with organic material. Well-amended soil holds water better.

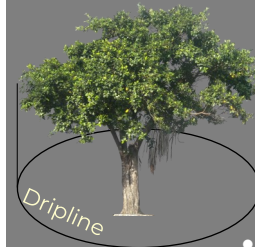
Tree Watering Tips

Adapted from WSU Walla Walla County Extension Bulletin

The WSU Walla Walla County Master Gardener Volunteers have seen a lot of ailing trees in their plant clinics this year. Many times, the problem the tree is under watered. Water stressed trees are more susceptible to insects, diseases, and winter injury.

Here are some tips to make sure you are giving your tree enough water:

Frequent, shallow watering can lead to shallow roots and rapid stress under hot conditions.



- The tree's root system can be as wide as the tree is tall. Water all over within the dripline (see illustration)
- Lawn sprinklers aren't enough! Soaker hoses, trickle or drip systems allow water to penetrate to the root zone. Minimum depth is 12 inches. Check depth after watering by sinking a shovel blade into the soil. Moisture should reach at least to the tip.
- Established trees should be deeply watered about 3x per month in the spring and summer.
- Trees need water in the fall and winter too. 1-2x per month depending on the weather.
- New trees need more frequent watering until root systems are well established.
- Trees in the lawn or growing alongside sidewalks and driveways need extra water.



4-H Happenings:



Come Experience 4-H!

October 1-7 is National 4-H Week! In 4-H, opportunities abound! No matter your interests or experience, we are sure to have something fun for you.

Come Experience 4-H and explore the possibilities. 4-H staff and volunteers will host a variety of fun and interactive activities. Open to all youth ages 6-18.

Experience 4-H, Saturday October 7, 9:00 am—1:00 pm, Walla Walla Downtown Farmer's Market. 106 W. Main St.

Come see us at the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days. Check out all the 4-H projects on display in the Pavilion and throughout the fair. Look for arts and crafts, clothing and textiles, poultry, rabbits, pocket pets, livestock, and more! If you have a child interested in 4-H, or you are interested in becoming a volunteer, look for the 4-H interest cards and QR codes throughout the fair.



Member
interest form



Leader interest
form

Harvests Past

A collection of photos of Walla Walla County harvests of the 1930s and '40s, from the Library of Congress.



Chinese laborer harvesting potatoes, July 1936. Arthur Rothstein



Straw pours from combine on Eureka Flats. Walla Walla, July 1941. Russell Lee



Farm hands at dinner. Walla Walla, WA. July -Sep, 1941. Russell Lee



Mule skinner who drives the twenty-mule team used to pull wheat combine. Walla Walla, WA. July 1941. Russell Lee



Mule skinner and one of his mules. Walla Walla, WA. July 1941. Russell Lee

Inland Northwest Soil Acidity and Agricultural Liming Workshop: Survey on Subject Prioritization

UI and WSU Extension along with the PNW Famers' Network value your input in helping us design an effective soil acidity and agricultural liming workshop. Your responses to the following questions will guide us in selecting the most important subjects to focus on during the workshop. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey.

<https://tinyurl.com/2d8rmmad>

Walla Walla Extension Agronomist Rachel Wieme will be providing more information about the workshop in the next newsletter!



Cost Share Funds Available to Cherry and Stone Fruit Producers through Grant for X-disease and Little Cherry Disease Tree Removal

Washington State University Extension in partnership with county Conservation Districts and Pest Boards announce availability of cost share funds for the removal and testing of trees infected with X-disease and Little cherry disease to slow the spread of these devastating pathogens.

The Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides financial assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines lost by natural disasters. The Washington State committee has designated losses to X-disease phytoplasma and Little Cherry Virus (as well as fire blight) as eligible natural disasters in Washington state. The Washington State Committee determined that when infection reaches or exceeds 20% of a stand/block AND the grower has made the decision to remove the whole block all remaining trees in the stand become no longer commercially viable and may be considered for tree loss assistance.

Funding is available through a grant from the Washington State Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grants. Eligible cherry, peach,

nectarine, plum and other stone fruit orchards must have suffered a tree loss due to confirmed X-disease phytoplasma or Little cherry virus. Reimbursement levels are up to 50% cost share for up to ten acres (up to \$7,500 per applicant). Required documentation includes documentation of presence of confirmed infection by X-disease phytoplasma, Little cherry virus 2, or Little cherry virus 1 via lab results (positive test results from one or more trees from labs participating in the WSU proficiency testing program or from Washington State University). Results must be from the year of tree removal. Contact us for help with testing.

Contact
Tianna DuPont
WSU Extension
(509) 713-5346
tianna.dupont@wsu.edu



Links

Learn more and apply here:

treefruit.wsu.edu/cost-share-for-little-cherry-and-x-disease-tree-removal/

WSDA Compost Reimbursement Program for Washington Farmers

Adapted from WSDA

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is launching the Compost Reimbursement Program to encourage on-farm compost use. Approximately \$1 million will be distributed annually on a first-come, first-served basis.

All commercial Washington farmers – including those in agriculture, silviculture, aquaculture – are eligible for the program. Participants must agree to conduct soil sampling before and for several years following the compost application. Additionally, the compost must be purchased from a business with a solid waste handling permit.

Producers must first apply to and be approved for the program, ensuring that their business and compost source are eligible. Once approved, program participants must sign a grant agreement contract and conduct pre-application soil sampling before applying the compost. After expenses are incurred, applicants will submit a reimbursement application for their total expenses. The expenses are then calculated and the applicant is reimbursed for 50 percent of their expenses, not to exceed \$10,000 total per business.

WSDA anticipates accepting applications beginning in September. But producers can sign up now to be notified once the application period opens. Applications will continue to be accepted until the allotted funds are spent each fiscal year, which runs from July through June.

Learn more about the Compost Reimbursement Program on WSDA's website or email compost@agr.wa.gov.



Food Preservation Resources: Finding Answers

Adapted from Susie Craig WSU Faculty

As you harvest your garden, you may be thinking about how to preserve your bounty. How can you save your fruits and vegetables to eat year-round?

Home food preservation methods like canning, freezing and drying, can be safe and effective if you follow the rules carefully. Here are a few resources to make sure you have the most up-to-date information about home food preservation.

National Center for Home Food Preservation

www.ugs.edu/nchfp

The National Center for Home Food Preservation is your source for current research-based recommendations for most methods of home food preservation. The Center was established with funding from the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (CSREES-USDA) to address food safety concerns for those who practice and teach home food preservation and processing methods.

They have research-based, tested recipes for canning, drying, freezing, pickling, fermenting, jams and jellies, curing and smoking foods.

Oregon State University Resources

Food preservation hotline: 800-354-7319.

The hotline is open July 10—October 13, Monday—Friday, 9:00 am—4:00 pm.

OSU has lots of resources like publications,, videos, recipes, classes, and articles about home food preservation. extension.oregonstate.edu/food/preservation

Washington State University publications

pubs.extension.wsu.edu Also available in the Extension Office

[Using and Caring for Your Pressure Canner](#), PNW421

[Canning Fruits](#), PNW199

[Salsa Recipes for Canning](#), PNW395

[Canning Tomatoes and Tomato Products](#), PNW300

[Canning Vegetables](#), PNW172

[Freezing Fruits and Vegetables](#), PNW214

[Pickling Vegetables](#), PNW355

Get Your Pressure Gauge Tested at the Extension Office

From PNW421 Use, Care and Operation of Your Pressure Canner

Dial gauges must be checked for accuracy at least once a year. If your dial gauge reads high or low by more than 2 pounds when tested, it should be replaced.

Come by the office during regular work hours, and we'll test your gauge for free!

POSTMASTER send address changes to:

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Debbie M. Williams
County Extension Director

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