

SPRING  
2019

Native Plant Spotlight:



**Red-Flowering Currant**

(*Ribes sanguineum*)

Produces flowers from March to June

*A great plant for pollinators!*

Photo By: [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)

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The Columbia SWCD Presents:  
**THE DIAT**

**Fishhawk Creek Habitat Restoration**



**Project Details:**

**Land Ownership:** Private  
**Partners:** ODA, OWEB,  
 OSU College of Forestry  
**Location:** Birkenfeld, OR  
 near Fishhawk Lake  
**Watershed:** Nehalem River  
**Engineer:** Anderson Perry &  
 Associates Inc.  
**Contractor:** Northwest  
 Watershed Restoration LLC  
**Area of impact:** Roughly  
 500 feet of stream and  
 streambank.

**Scope of Project:**

- \* Streambanks were peeled back to create a more natural bank slope, reduce erosion, and improve floodplain connection.
- \* Large wood structures and rootwads were installed along the streambank to deflect high flow velocities, provide fish habitat, and increase beneficial organic inputs.
- \* Livestock fences were set back to keep animals out of the riparian area.
- \* Riparian areas were planted with native plants for erosion control, habitat enhancement, and water quality.



**Projected Benefits:**

- 1) Restoration of overall ecological and hydrologic functions;
- 2) Improved water quality through the establishment of plants and trees that provide shade and filtration of surface runoff;
- 3) Reduced erosion of streambank through installment of large wood structures in-stream and the development of plant communities along the riparian corridor; and
- 4) Increased/enhanced fish habitat resulting from all project activities.

# GET INVOLVED

## Local Board Meetings:

**Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District:**  
 3rd Wed. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at their office in Saint Helens

**Scappoose Bay Watershed Council:**  
 1st Tue. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at their office in Scappoose

**Lower Columbia River Watershed Council:**  
 2nd Tue. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Clatskanie PUD office

**Upper Nehalem Watershed Council:**  
 4th Thur. of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Vernonia High School

## CSWCD STAFF

**District Manager**  
 Kari Hollander

**Assistant District Manager**  
 Malysa Legg

**Senior Resource Conservationist**  
 Nathan Herr

## CSWCD BOARD

**Chair:**  
 Jason Busch

**Vice Chair:**  
 Randy Bergman

**Treasurer:**  
 Jeff Van Natta

**Secretary:**  
 Bill Eagle

**Director:**  
 Debra Brimacombe

**Director:**  
 Craig Ellis

**Director:**  
 Dave Freytag

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**04/06/19 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Friends of Nob Hill Work Party; Nob Hill Nature Park, St. Helens**  
 Help keep Nob Hill beautiful by volunteering a few hours of your time to pull weeds and maintain trails at one of St. Helens' few nature parks. Meet at the front entrance of the park. Parking available at 451 Plymouth Street. Dress appropriately; bring gloves and water.

**04/13/19 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: SBWC Native Plant Sale; Scappoose High School**  
 Want to add some beautiful and beneficial native plants to your garden? Come by and check out Scappoose Bay Watershed Council's native plant sale located at the nursery behind SHS. Call or email Amber for more information at [amber@scappoosebay-wc.org](mailto:amber@scappoosebay-wc.org) or 503-397-7904.

**04/13/19 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm: Native Plant Society Walk; Nob Hill Nature Park, St. Helens**  
 Join the Friends of Nob Hill Nature Park (NHNP) and the Native Plant Society of Oregon for an easy stroll to view trillium, fawn lilies and other native plants. Learn about native plants found in this lower-Columbia River ecosystem at the beginner's level. For day of event, call 503-349-8586.

**04/20/19 10:00 am - 2:00 pm: Friends of Scappoose Parks Earth Day Festival, Heritage Park**  
 The Friends of Scappoose Parks will be co-hosting this festival with the city of Scappoose, offering food, music, activities for kids, and more. Local organizations will also be present to provide information how to be earth friendly all year long!

**04/27/19 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: OSU Extension Master Gardener's Spring Fair**  
 The Columbia County Master Gardener's will be having their spring fair and tomato plant sale at the St. Helens High School. Local vendors and general garden information provided.

**06/21/19 10:00 am - 2:00 pm: LCEP Science to Policy Summit, Vancouver, WA**  
 This year's summit will address the topic of plastic pollution in the Lower Columbia River. Check out LCEP's website to find out more details and about the summit and registration. <https://www.estuarypartnership.org/event/2018/science-policy-summit-plastics-columbia-river>

**Resource Conservationist**  
 Selene Keeney

**Riparian Specialist**  
 Crystalyn Bush

**Office and Outreach Coordinator**  
 Jennifer Steinke

## NRCS STAFF

**District Conservationist**  
 Don Mehlhoff

**Program Support Tech**  
 Dee Robinson



Do you have questions regarding noxious weeds or native plants? I can help!

Call our office or email me at:

[crystalyn.bush@columbiaswcd.com](mailto:crystalyn.bush@columbiaswcd.com)

Connect with us to see what we're up to by following us on Facebook and Instagram!

@Columbiaswcd



# What in the Weeds?!

English holly (Ilex aquifolia) is a nonnative, evergreen, woody shrub or tree that can grow as tall as 50 feet. It has dark green, glossy, wavy leaves with thorns at the tips. Bright red, orange, or yellow berries appear in late summer/early fall. Berries are toxic to humans and pets, but are consumed by birds and rodents, one of the main ways Holly is dispersed. Holly also spreads by suckering and layering, which, if left unchecked, can result in dense thickets. Holly is a common intruder in riparian areas and forests. It can grow in full sun to deep shade and likes well drained soils. While it is not on the official State Noxious Weed list, it is definitely a threat to native plant communities, forest health, and habitat.



Photo credit: King County Noxious Weed Control Program

## What You Can Do:

- \* Pull or dig small plants when soil is moist. Don't leave pulled plants in contact with soil. Replant previously infested areas with native trees and shrubs.
- \* Cut large plants at the base. This is most effective when herbicide is applied to the cut stem. Call or email the Columbia SWCD for tips on holly control.
- \* Choose natives over ornamentals for your yard and never dump yard debris.

# Local Markets Springing Up!

Handcrafted goods, plant starts and more from local vendors! Here's where they're sprouting through the area:



## Scappoose Farmer's Market

**Season Opening**  
NE 2nd Street, Scappoose, OR  
Saturday, May 18  
9:00 am—2:00 pm

## Clatskanie Farmer's Market

**Spring Sale**  
Hazen Hardware Building, 136 N Nehalem St. Clatskanie, OR  
Saturday, May 11  
9:00 am—3:00 pm

## Vernonia Open Air Market

**Spring Fair & Plant Sale**  
Vernonia Schools Commons, Vernonia, OR  
Saturday, May 11  
9:00 am—3:00 pm

# Garden Gab:

**Gardening tip from the SWCD: "Planting in Families":** It is well known that tomatoes should be rotated to prevent diseases like blight and wilt. But did you know that crop rotation is beneficial to many of our garden favorites as well as to long term soil health and quality. To simplify crop rotation, try to plant crops belonging to the same family together and rotate them on a minimum 3 year schedule (returning to their initial planting site in year 4). These are the 4 main families for rotating: 1) Solanaceous: tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplants; 2) Cruciferous: cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, brussel sprouts; 3) Root: beets, carrots, turnips, radishes; and 4) Leguminous: all beans and peas.

**(Feel like sharing?** Post photos of your garden greatness on our Facebook page and share tips with other growers.)

## Seed Outdoors

**March:** Arugula\*, Asian greens\*\*, Asparagus\* (crown), Chard\*, Fava Beans, Garlic (cloves), Kale, Mustard greens\*, Peas\*, Scallions\*\*, Spinach\*\*

**April:** Beets\*, Broccoli\*, Cabbage (early types)\*, Carrots\*, Cauliflower\*, Celeriac\*, Celery\*, Chard\*, Choi\*, Cilantro\*, Dill, Endive\*, Fennel (bulbing), Jerusalem Artichoke\* (tuber), Kohlrabi\*, Lettuce\*, Radicchio, Radish, Sorrel, Turnips\*

**May:** Basil, Beans\*, Bruss. sprouts\*, Cabbage, Collards\*, Dill, Fennel (bulbing), Leeks (over wintering), Parsnips\*, Potatoes\* (tubers), Pumpkin, Radicchio, Radish, Rutabaga, Salad greens, Squash

## Seed Indoor

**March:** Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Celery, Eggplant\*, Leeks, Lettuce, Peppers\*, Scallions, Tomatoes\*, Tomatillos\*

**April:** LATE APRIL- Basil, Cucumber, Melon, Pumpkin, Squash

**May:** Basil, Cucumber, Melon



- \* Indicates best times and methods of planting
- \*\* Indicates plant may be seeded outdoors during any of the three months listed.

(Information obtained from Portland Nursery's veggie calendar at <http://portlandnursery.com>. Check it out for more detailed information about best planting times and methods.)

# DO YOU KNOW...

## How to Manage a Pasture?

You can have it all! With proper pasture management, you can have clean water, healthy animals, and a thick, vigorous pasture - all at a reasonable cost. The first step toward these goals is to recognize the differences between poor and proper management. For people who have just moved from the city, a 5-acre farm may seem like unlimited space. Consequently, many small acreage landowners put too many animals on too little pasture. Close grazing and trampling can result in bare ground and cause poor animal health, erosion, and nutrient runoff into ditches and streams.

**What Are My Pasture Options?** In general, your acreage will point to three pasture options\*: Exercise lot (1 acre or less), Full-time pasture (1 to 5 acres), or Hay and pasture field (5 acres or more).

Fertilizer should be spread at the right rate, at the right time. Excess soil nutrients can wash into water or produce forages that sicken your animals. A soil test will give you fertilizer recommendations that are tailored to your soils and crops.

**Did You Know?** A pasture's condition should be scored several times a year during key critical management periods throughout the grazing season. More information can be found here: <https://goo.gl/XTY9gm>

Pasture condition scoring can be useful in deciding when to move livestock or planning other management actions. It sorts out which improvements are most likely to enhance pasture condition or livestock performance.

A pasture calendar and more information can be found here: [goo.gl/84yL4N](http://goo.gl/84yL4N)

In addition to the CSWCD and NRCS, the OSU Extension Service also offers assistance on pasture management. The Columbia County Extension office can be reached at (503) 397-3462, or [extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia)

\* More information on Pasture Options: <https://goo.gl/iqNfvp>

### Use Plant Stubble Height to Time Rotation

<u>Plant Species</u>	<u>Begin Grazing</u>	<u>End Grazing</u>
Tall Fescue	6-8 Inches	3-4 Inches
Smooth Brome	8-10	3-4
Reed Canarygrass	12	6
Meadow Foxtail	6-8	3
Orchardgrass	6-8	3-4
Timothy	8-10	3-4
Annual Ryegrass	6	3
Perennial Ryegrass	6	3
Intermediate Wheatgrass	8-10	4-6
Pubescent Wheatgrass	8-10	4-6
Tall Wheatgrass	8-10	4-6
Alfalfa	10-12	3-4
Alsike Clover	6-8	3-4
Ladino Clover	6-8	3-4
New Zealand Clover	6-8	3-4
Red Clover	6-8	3-4
Subterranean Clover	4-6	4-6
White Dutch Clover	4-6	3
Birdsfoot Trefoil	8-10	3-4

Note: Allow a minimum of 21 days of regrowth between grazings.

## Soil Testing and Pasture Condition Scoring

Interested in a Soil Analysis? Email us at [information@columbiaswcd.com](mailto:information@columbiaswcd.com) for a list of Labs serving Oregon!  
A Pasture Condition Scoring Sheet can be found here: [nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1044237.pdf](http://nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1044237.pdf)

## Fertilizing Western Oregon Pastures in Spring

Pastures should be lightly dragged with a spring-tooth harrow to break soil surface crusts and to scatter accumulations of waste hay left from winter feeding. Fertilizer and trace elements should be applied as indicated by annual soil tests. Apply one-half of the needed Phosphorous and Potassium in April (apply other half in autumn). Fertilize each pasture with Nitrogen (N), as long as moisture is present, just after removing animals at the end of each grazing period. Usually this means applying about 35% of the



needed N in April, 20% in May, 20% in June and 25% in September. Split applications improve year-round fertilizer effectiveness, reduce the loss of nutrients through leaching and runoff, and minimize the risk of surface and groundwater contamination. Take into account the amount of N excreted by the grazing animal (about 0.4 lbs. per day) and when applying manure, account for its N content in satisfying the pasture requirements. The efficiency of nutrient uptake depends on the vigor of the forage plants. Allow three weeks from the time of liquid manure application until regrazing. For more information on year-round pasture management in Western Oregon, visit: <https://goo.gl/zNVsSj>

# Partnering for Success

## Q & A's with the Columbia River Youth Corps.

- **What is CRYC's mission?**

"To empower youth through conservation-based work, projects, and individualized classroom instruction." Hands on work and opportunities to learn from land managers, natural resource experts, and other professionals helps prepare the students for real world jobs and gives them a better understanding of what these jobs are.

- **How did CRYC get started?**

"CRYC was started in 1995 as part of the Columbia County Parks Department. We quickly joined with the school district and moved into our current building a few years later."

- **How did the relationship between the CSWCD and CRYC begin?**

"The relationship with SWCD began about 9 years ago. We have partnered on countless projects including tree planting, fence building, nursery work, greenhouse construction, invasive weed removal, and native plant production".

- **What are some benefits of partnering with the CSWCD?**

"The biggest benefit has been the vast knowledge that the SWCD staff has imparted onto our students and deep insights into the conservation/restoration field they have shared. Working alongside the project managers has led many students to pursue a career in the environmental field".

- **How do the two agencies support each other's missions and goals?**

"Through tireless efforts to improve the local ecosystem and to educate those that live in it." The SWCD provides opportunities for the students to learn on site, perform valuable community service acts, and feel pride in their accomplishments. The CRYC provides a critical local workforce that allows the SWCD to provide more services to the community and environment at a lower cost.



Summer 2017: Spurge laurel (noxious weed) removal in St. Helens.



Spring 2018: Garlic mustard (noxious weed) removal in Scappoose.



Fall 2018: Fishhawk Creek riparian planting. Students rowed across the creek to plant on an island.

**Columbia SWCD**  
**35285 Millard Road**  
**St. Helens, OR 97051**

Non Profit  
Organization  
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St. Helens, OR  
Permit # 128

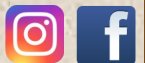
If you would prefer to receive our newsletter electronically, please send a request to [jennifer.steinke@columbiaswcd.com](mailto:jennifer.steinke@columbiaswcd.com).

### Contact us:

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[www.columbiaswcd.com](http://www.columbiaswcd.com)



### IDENTIFY YOUR WEED



**SHINY GERANIUM**

Annual/biennial, grows up to 3 feet tall. Round waxy leaves, small pink flowers, red stems branch off from a central root. Found in open forests and edges, roadsides, pastures, fields, hillsides. Reproduces by seed. Full sun to partial shade, tolerates variety of soil conditions.



**MEADOW/SPOTTED KNAPWEEDS**

Perennial forb growing up to 3' tall with pink-purple flowers appearing in midsummer. Upper leaves have no stalks. Stems are many branched and topped by a single flower. Reproduces by seed. Outcompetes grasses and native forbs. Found in pastures, fields, forest openings, roadsides, sand or gravel bars. [Report sightings of this plant to our Hotline at 1-800-741-6105.](http://www.nps.gov/learn/identify/identify.htm)



**HERB ROBERT**

Annual, low growing, forb similar to Shiny geranium. Leaves appear lacy, foliage turns red as plant matures, hairy stems meet at a central node, small pink flowers. When crushed it emits an unpleasant, musty odor. Often found in disturbed or open forests, forest edges, trails, roadsides, and parks.

\* Before performing weed control it's a good idea to always: 1) Check with local experts to ensure accurate plant identification; 2) Research effective and appropriate control methods; 3) Wear protective clothing like long sleeves and gloves; and 4) Seek advice before using herbicides.\*