

*A quarterly newsletter produced and distributed by the Palouse Conservation District— bringing you news and updates on conservation efforts within SE Whitman County*

# Palouse News

## NORTH FORK PALOUSE RIVER INFORMATION MEETING

The Palouse Conservation District is excited to invite you to attend the North Fork Palouse River Information Meeting. Landowners, livestock owners, local residents, and anyone interested in the watershed is invited to attend. Local experts will discuss how developing local markets for value-added agricultural and livestock products may allow producers to receive a higher price for their product while protecting our soil and water resources. Please join us for light refreshments and a panel discussion to learn more about:

- How you can benefit from value-added markets for your agricultural and livestock products
- How you can obtain cost share for conservation projects

**When: Thursday, February 3, 2011 7:00pm**

7:00pm-8:30pm Environmental markets/value added products panel

8:30pm-9:00pm Cost share and technical assistance panel

**Where: Palouse Federated Church, 635 N. Bridge Street, Palouse, WA**

For more information please contact Jennifer Boie at 509-332-4101 or [jenniferpcd@palousecd.org](mailto:jenniferpcd@palousecd.org).

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

As spring draws near, people are beginning to inquire about possible volunteer opportunities. The Palouse Conservation District has a reputation for providing fun and engaging events that allow volunteers to work alongside others interested in conservation on the Palouse. The following is a list of volunteer activities that will be available in March and April:

- Tree planting
- Building bird and bat houses

Please contact Randy at 509-332-4101 or [randypcd@palousecd.org](mailto:randypcd@palousecd.org) with questions or if you would like to sign up for an event.



Did you know that you can receive the Palouse News electronically right to your e-mail Inbox?

Simply call or email our office and we will put you on our electronic mailing list. You can also go to our website: [www.palousecd.org](http://www.palousecd.org) where you will find the Palouse News filed under "Newsletters".

If for any reason you want to be removed from our mailing list please let us know.

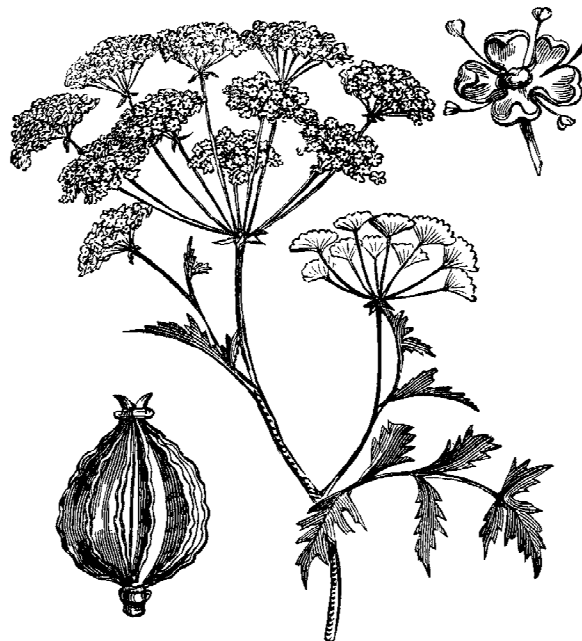
## Weed Spotlight: Poison Hemlock

Native to Europe, poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) was introduced to the US as an ornamental, and is now found in every state. In Whitman County it is typically found along ditches, creeks, rivers, at field edges, and on disturbed ground. Poison hemlock is listed as a class B noxious weed in the state of Washington meaning that control is required to halt the spread to new areas while working towards containing and reducing existing populations.

**Note: All parts of the plant are fatally poisonous to humans and livestock!** This is the same plant used to kill Socrates in ancient Greece and it only takes ingesting 6 leaves to kill a human adult.

**Description and ID:** Poison hemlock is a biennial herbaceous species reproducing only from seed. The first year of growth results in a low growing rosette with a fern like appearance. In the second year, the plant bolts pushing up a hollow, reed like stem up to 10' in height. The stem is a pale green and covered in purple splotches. The leaves are pinnately divided, retaining a fern like appearance, often confused with wild carrot or parsley. The foliage has a strong musty odor, especially when crushed. The flowers are small and white and born in an umbrella shaped cluster 2-4" in diameter. Each flower produces two brown ridged seeds which have about a three year seed bank longevity before they are no longer viable. The seeds either fall within a few feet of the parent plant or can be carried great distances by water, sprouting where the seed gets caught up on the river bank.

**Control:** Hand pulling and hoeing works well for smaller populations. Use caution and **wear protective clothing** when handling plant material. Mowing or weed whacking after bolt and before seed set will prevent plant from producing seeds although additional mowing may be needed if moisture persists and the plant bolts again. There are many effective herbicides available for control of this species. Be sure to follow all label instructions and use caution when applying herbicides near water. Timing of an herbicide action will be dependent on the product being used. Both PRE and POST emergent products are available. Burning this plant is **not recommended** because the smoke can be toxic if inhaled. After an area of poison hemlock has been successfully controlled it may be necessary to revegetate the area to prevent reinfestation.



*Conium maculatum.*

Image source: "Materia Medica and Pharmacognosy" by David Culbreth, M.D. (1927)

## Annual Surplus Plant Sale

Mark your calendar! The Palouse Conservation District's Annual Surplus Plant Sale is just around the corner. The event will take place on **Friday April 1st from 9:00am - 4:30pm and Saturday April 2nd from 9:00am - 1:00pm** at our office which is located at 1300 NE Henley Ct in Pullman.

Overstocked conservation trees and shrubs will be available for purchase at a great price on the day of the surplus plant sale. Palouse Conservation District staff will be available on site to answer any questions that you may have. Whatever the size of the planting project you have in mind, the Palouse Conservation District is available to help develop a plan which will include the proper plants, materials and labor to help make it more successful.

The surplus tree sale will include a limited number of plants—so come early!

Reminder: If you ordered plants during our pre-sale, your plants will be available for pick up during the Annual Surplus Plant Sale.

## Direct Seed Incentive Program

We are excited to announce The Palouse Conservation District Direct Seed Incentive Program, our new cost share program to assist in converting over to Direct Seed/No Till practices. If you have land in the Palouse Conservation District then you are eligible to participate in the program. If you don't have land in the Palouse Conservation District, please pass this information on to someone who does...

The Palouse Conservation District Direct Seed Incentive Program aims to accomplish the following:

- Increase crop residue by encouraging the transition from conventional tillage to direct seed/no-till systems.
- Improve soil health by increasing organic matter.
- Reduce/limit wind erosion and water sedimentation on the Palouse by holding soil in place.
- Reduce turbidity and enhance water quality in the Palouse watershed.
- Reduce the potential risk associated with employing a new farming practice (direct seeding) by providing a mentor. The mentors will provide education, as well as custom seeding using their own equipment if needed.
- Allow growers an opportunity to direct seed CRP ground instead of plowing.

The cost share will pay \$25.00/acre for up to 200 acres per year for 3 years. That is a total of \$5,000/year! This is a good opportunity to try direct seed on a portion of your property and compare it to the conventionally tilled crop land. The program can assist in the transition by providing mentors, crop and weed scientists and equipment recommendations.

Also, NRCS will have Direct Seed/No Till as part of the upcoming Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). If you were to rank into that program it would mean that you could increase your acreage into Direct Seed/No Till and receive up to \$40.00/acre with both programs.

We are excited to assist you in making the transition from conventional tillage to direct seed/no till. If you would like to apply for the program or have questions, please contact Mary at 509-332-4101.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

An election for a board seat on the Palouse Conservation District will be held on March 1, 2011, at the Palouse Conservation District, 1300 NE Henley Court, Pullman, WA. Polls will open at 12:00pm and close at 6:00pm. Registered voters who reside within the Conservation District boundary are eligible to vote. Elections procedures are available at the district office. Absentee ballots are available upon request for eligible voters, but must be requested on or before February 15, 2011 by 4:00pm. Please contact Pam at 509-332-4101 or visit the District office at 1300 NE Henley Court, Pullman, WA, for absentee ballots or if you have any questions.

## Free Weed Mat/Erosion Control Fabric

Have you been thinking about a landscaping or gardening project that requires weed mat or geotextile? Do you need something to go under a layer of bark, wood chips or gravel?

Palouse Conservation District is removing weed mat from a huge project site, and we are offering it for free to anyone in the community. We would much rather see this high quality and functional product in your yard than in the local landfill.

This extremely heavy fabric has served us well for two years and shows no signs of degradation from weather or sunlight. Thousands of square feet of fabric are available, and we have even cut the fabric into manageable pieces for your convenience. We can usually help load your truck or trailer during business hours.

Stop by our office at 1300 NE Henley Court #6, Pullman, WA and claim your weed mat today!



*Palouse News*  
Palouse Conservation District  
1300 NE Henley Ct.  
Pullman, WA 99163

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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



North Fork Palouse River  
Information Meeting

Thursday, February 3

Details Inside

## MEET OUR NEW INTERN



Drew Schuldt is our new AmeriCorps Riparian Restoration and Outreach Intern. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, with a BS in Environmental Studies. Drew has spent the last two years traveling the country and partaking in various outdoor education and environmental restoration internships. Drew is excited to be working for the district and very eager to meet new people and make a difference.

The Board of Supervisors meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the District Office. There is no meeting in August.

Board of Supervisors  
Larry Cochran, Chair  
Keith Kopf  
Mark Whitmore  
Chris Heitstuman  
Joan Folwell

Associate Board Members  
Greg Jones  
Dave Stout

District Staff  
Mary Rosen, District Manager  
Randy Stevens, Natural Resource Coordinator  
Pam Furchtenicht, Administrative Assistant  
Jennifer Boie, Information & Education Coordinator  
John Celley, Conservation Intern  
Drew Schuldt, Restoration and Outreach Intern

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