



*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

## 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 4th, from 9:00am - 4:30pm** and **Saturday, April 5th, 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.

### Cost-Share Now Available

*Palouse Conservation District has cost-share available for projects that improve soil health, reduce erosion, improve grazing lands, establish or enhance native vegetation, restore riparian areas, improve wildlife habitat...*

**Protect valuable natural resources and improve your land and/or operation**

*Projects must be completed by June 30, 2015 and must meet NRCS specs*

**Call today to start a cost-share application (509)332-4101**



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.

## New Grant Funding NOW Available!

The Palouse Conservation District has funding available for projects that will improve your property and/or agricultural operation, protect water quality, and improve local waterways. Funding is available for projects on land throughout the Palouse Conservation District. If you have been planning updates to your property or operation that will benefit natural resources conservation, give us a call to see if our grant can help offset your costs.

**Cost-share is available up to 100% for projects!**

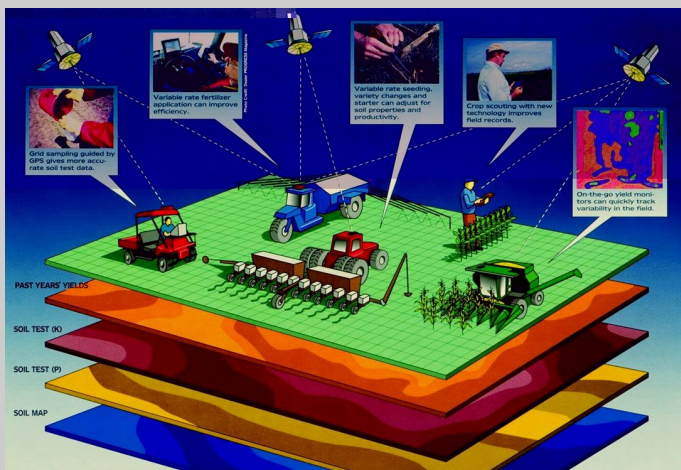
Projects may include: bank stabilization, vegetation establishment, development of off-stream watering facilities, protection of livestock heavy use areas, riparian buffer evaluation, and implementation of other practices to conserve natural resources.

**Please contact Jennifer at (509) 332-4101 or [jenniferpcd@palousecd.org](mailto:jenniferpcd@palousecd.org) today!**

## Precision Ag Series

The Palouse CD was excited to work with local partners including Ati, Evergreen Implement, and Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District to roll out a new Precision Ag Series. Winter activities included an Introduction to Precision Ag Workshop where precision agriculture specialists provided an introduction to precision agriculture and provided an overview of several software programs including Farm Works Software, SMS Software, and Apex Farm Management Software. Participants left the workshop with a better idea of how precision agriculture could

enhance their operations. Additionally, Ati facilitated an all day Farm Works Software Basics Training to provide instruction on how producers could best use Farm Works Software to suite the need of their individual operations. Next up for the Precision Ag Series will be a Sprayer Workshop in May, date to be determined. Please contact our office at (509) 332-4101 for more information on upcoming events or if you would like to be added to our contact list for notification of upcoming events.



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ON-FARM CONSERVATION OR  
WILDLIFE HABITAT RESTORATION????  
*YOU CAN GET PAID TO DO BOTH!!!***

*If so, Please join us at the*

## **PALOUSE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP**

**\*WHEN: MONDAY MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 6 to 8pm**

**\*WHERE: SCHWEITZER EVENT CENTER, PULLMAN, WA**



**This is a great opportunity for producers and landowners to learn more about how conservation can help you preserve valuable resources on your farm and to restore Native Palouse habitats at the same time**

*Presented by: The Palouse Conservation District, Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

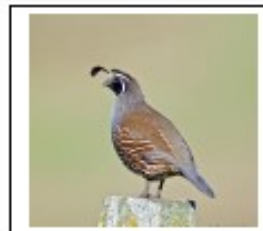
**FREE WORKSHOP OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!**

**Questions? Please contact the Palouse Conservation District  
(509)332-4101**



## CRP – Habitat Buffer Basics

### *Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds – (CP33)*



*Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (CP33) are 30' to 120' wide strips along the perimeters or edges of agricultural fields that are planted to grasses and forbs.*

*Habitat buffers (CP33) are a conservation practice, new in the state of Washington, under the CRP Continuous sign up that provides habitat for upland birds and other wildlife as well as provide soil and water quality benefits.*

#### **LANDOWNER ELIGIBILITY:**

- Field(s) to be enrolled must have been farmed or in CRP 4 of the 6 years between 2002-2007

#### **PAYMENTS and CONTRACT LENGTH:**

- Rental payments for 10 years at 100% of the soil rental rate
- \$150/acre one time incentive payment for land not in CRP today
- Approximately 90% cost-share for establishment of habitat buffers



#### **HABITAT BUFFER BENEFITS**

- Automatic enrollment of eligible acres; NO competitive ranking
- Buffer 1, 2, or all side of your field
- Buffer field edges where competition is high
- Straighten out irregular field edges
- Reduce soil erosion
- Improve water quality
- Provide habitat for Quail, Pheasants, and other wildlife
- Enroll low producing field edges

**HOW TO ENROLL:** Sign up with your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) – Whitman County FSA office (509) 397-4301

**QUESTIONS:** Contact your local NRCS office or local WDFW Private Lands Biologist – Whitman County NRCS (509) 397-4636 or WDFW Biologist Erik Lewis at (509) 595-1447



## Weed Spotlight: White Bryony (*Bryonia alba*)

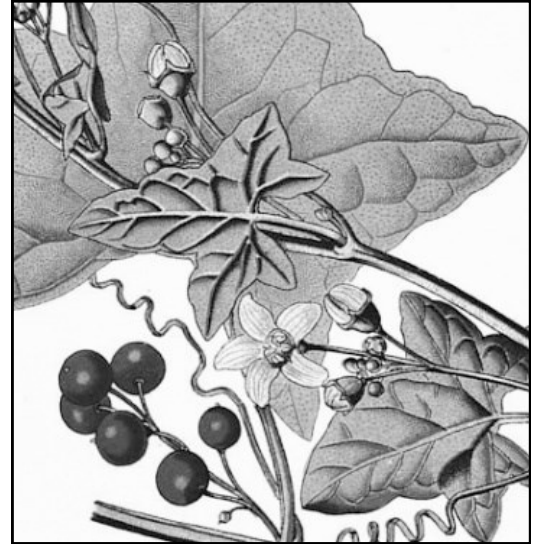
**\*\*All parts of this plant are considered toxic, especially the roots and berries. Some people experience skin rashes after just handling this plant. Caution should be exercised.**

It is said to be the kudzu of the Northwest, this weed is wreaking havoc here on the Palouse. Used in traditional herbal remedies in Europe, bryony was brought into the United States in the 1975 for medicinal purposes. Bryony roots were even formed into people like forms and touted as Mandrakes.

Hailing from the cucumber tribe, white bryony is a perennial herbaceous plant that grows as a vine, forming dense mats over the canopies of trees and shrubs. It has palmate, grape-like leaves up to 5" in length, each with an accompanying tendril. Vines grow vigorously to 150' in length, at a rate of up to 6" per day. The plant sprouts each spring from a large tuberous root weighing up to 5 pounds. Small clusters of whitish flowers bear pea sized green berries that darken as they ripen. The berries are eaten by birds that disseminate the seeds beneath other trees and shrubs that they visit and nest in.

This plant is known to be particularly troublesome on the Palouse. The plants form large dense mats over the tops of native species such as hawthorn, blocking sunlight and effectively smothering the tree. The dead vines can accumulate snow loads in winter causing limbs of the host plants to break. This opens the trees up to disease and kills off whole thickets and eyebrows, ruining important wildlife habitat.

Bryony is listed in Washington as a class B noxious weed. Bryony can be difficult to control due to its large root and perennial nature. All parts of this plant are known to be poisonous to people so wear protective gear to be safe. Cutting and pulling the vines will help stop the production of seed but won't kill the plant. Digging up the root is effective method of removal but is time consuming and laborious. In some instances a shovel can be used to slice up the root below the soil surface. As new shoots sprout they need to be cut off under the soil level as well. Eventually the root will use up its sugar reserves and die. If herbicides are used they should be systemic and translocate to the roots. Contact herbicides and those that do not readily move through the plant will not give good control. If herbicides are used care should be taken not to spray desirable vegetation that the bryony may be growing on. Many of the herbicides that are effective on controlling bryony will also kill the host plant. It may be helpful to pull the vines off the host plant and apply herbicide to the vines on the ground. Be sure to follow all herbicide use labels.



## Election Update

The Palouse Conservation District Board of Supervisors hereby informs the voting public that the incumbent has been re-elected to the currently open seat by reason of being the only person filing for the position by the filing deadline. Therefore, no poll site, absentee balloting or mail balloting will be performed pursuant to WAC 135-110-370.

For further information, please contact the District at 509-332-4101.

## What is AmeriCorps?

The Palouse Conservation District has offered positions for AmeriCorps members for over a decade! For those of you who may not know, the AmeriCorps program provides service opportunities for individuals all over the United States. AmeriCorps, both statewide and nationwide, support a wide range of local service programs that engage thousands of Americans in community service every year. AmeriCorps provides grants to local and national agencies that demonstrate their commitment to addressing critical community needs in education, public safety, health and the environment. As an AmeriCorps member, individuals receive monthly stipends to cover basic living expenses along with, an education award of \$5,500 after the completion of 1,700 hours (approximately one year of fulltime service). If you would like to know about AmeriCorps please visit their website: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps>. If you are interested in serving as an AmeriCorps member please contact the Palouse Conservation District to apply for our 2014-2015 AmeriCorps member positions.



## Winter AmeriCorps Accomplishments

Mikaela, Palouse Conservation District's AmeriCorps member, has been busy this past winter! She's helped Drew Schuldt (our district's Natural Resource Coordinator) plant native species throughout the Palouse CD. Thanks to the Washington Conservation Corps, Mikaela, and Drew, over 3,000 trees and shrubs were planted in two weeks! Mikaela has also been assisting Drew with monthly water monitoring of the North Fork of the Palouse.

Mikaela has been doing a great job of managing our volunteers! She has coordinated and managed over 77 volunteers, amounting to 297 hours of volunteer service. Mikaela has created and implemented three new ways to recruit, manage, and coordinate volunteers, but Mikaela needs your help! She is looking for dedicated citizens willing to volunteer on local projects. If you are interested please email her at [palousecd@palousecd.org](mailto:palousecd@palousecd.org).



Thanks to the new partnership between Franklin Conservation District and Palouse Conservation District, Mikaela has launched Water on Wheels, an elementary science curriculum for k-6 students, in Whitman and Asotin Counties. Water on Wheels is a free hands-on science based curriculum with an emphasis on water conservation, soil science, geology, watersheds, trees, energy, and pollution. Additionally, Mikaela has been expanding the delivery of the Wheat Week program, a series of five lessons educating students in 4th and 5th grade about water, soil, watersheds, energy, systems, salmon, and wheat, and how they impact our lives.

# Share Your Thoughts

Please use this card to share your thoughts with us regarding the services and programs that Palouse Conservation District should focus on this year.

What can YOUR Conservation District do for you? \_\_\_\_\_

What programs or services would you like to see Palouse CD continue to offer or develop? \_\_\_\_\_

The Palouse Conservation District is already thinking about the 2015 Annual Listening Session!

Please return this card to share your thoughts about what topics you would like us to include.

Topics I would like to hear about at the Listening Session include:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Succession Planning for Farmers and Ranchers

**Do you have a plan for passing the family farm on to the next generation?**



This question was the focus of the recent succession planning workshop for farmers and ranchers. Palouse CD partnered with Waddell and Reed and the Washington State Conservation Commission Office of Farmland Preservation to help landowners think about this important question. Succession planning specialists shared strategies and tools to help landowners preserve the family farm, make a sound financial transition, and choose the proper estate planning tools.

The take away messages from the workshop:

**It is important to start planning now!**

and

**Any planning is better than no planning!**


If you were not able to attend the workshop or if you have additional questions, please contact the Palouse Conservation District for more information. The Palouse CD can provide you with resources or put you in touch with entities in our community who can help you make a plan to start your succession planning process.



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

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



Conservation Workshop  
 Monday, March 24, 6pm-8pm  
 Annual Surplus Plant Sale  
 Friday and Saturday, April 4-5  
 SE Washington Envirothon  
 Tuesday, April 29  
 Precision Ag Series-Sprayer Workshop  
 May, Date TBD  
 Details Inside

**Meet our New Interns**



Palouse Conservation District welcomes three new spring interns. This spring our three interns come to us from the Washington State University College of Engineering & Architecture. Intern Anna Vandermeer is currently a junior and is pursuing a degree in Environmental Engineering. Some of the tasks she will be working on this spring include tree sorting, planting, volunteer events and conservation education. Intern Chad Brittle (on the left) is currently a senior and is pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering. Chad is working on creating a bioengineering design that the Palouse Conservation District may use and implement at future sites. Intern Jarrod Miller (on the right) is also a senior, pursuing a Civil Engineering degree. This spring Jarrod will be working on creating a bioengineering design that may be implemented in future projects. Both Chad and Jarrod will be working on their projects with mentoring from the District engineer.

The Board of Supervisors meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at the District Office (call for meeting time)  
 There is no meeting in August.

- Board of Supervisors  
 Larry Cochran, Chair (1990)  
 Chris Heitstuman (1998)  
 Keith Kopf (1997)  
 Mark Whitmore (1998)  
 Joan Folwell (2010)

- Associate Board Members  
 Greg Jones (1992)  
 Dave Stout (2010)  
 Al Bruns (2011)  
 Kim Weerts (2012)  
 Ben Moehrle (2012)

District Staff  
 Jennifer Boie, District Manager  
 Pam Furchtenicht, Administrative Coordinator  
 Drew Schuldt, Natural Resource Coordinator

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