

SUMMER
2017

Native Plant Spotlight:



Cliff Maids (Lewisia Cotyledon)
Photo By: www.nwplants.com

The Columbia SWCD presents: “The Dirt”

Seeding the Good and Spraying the Bad

After a busy emergency year in 2016, staff has been wrapping up projects by overseeing planting and seeding of several project sites. Installation of native plants is a key element in restoration, prevention of future erosion, promotion of soil stability, and creation of valuable habitat.



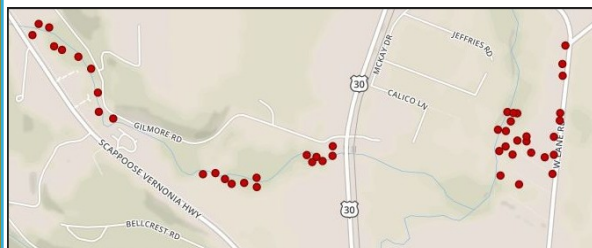
Left: A youth crew plants willow stakes and other wetland species in the floodplain of a project site in Clatskanie. This project entailed the removal of excess deposited sediment from the creek as well as replacement of damaged culverts beneath the landowners’ driveway, improving flow, fish passage and decreasing the risk of flooding to the landowners’ home.

Right: Hydroseeding was used on a landslide repair in Scappoose where the slope of the bank was too steep to plant shrubs and trees. The native grass mix should grow quickly and provide much needed soil stability behind the retaining wall.

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One of the goals of the Columbia SWCD is to identify, prevent, and control the spread of noxious weeds in Columbia County. Due to the pervasiveness of invasive species, controlling and eradicating all noxious weeds is not possible. Consequently, the Columbia SWCD works to identify priority species and to focus on the control and eradication (where possible) of those species within targeted areas. Garlic mustard is a species that has been identified as a priority for control. This is a weed that invades open and disturbed areas, especially areas close to water. It is a prolific reproducer and can quickly create a plant monoculture by outcompeting native plants and emitting a chemical underground that inhibits the growth of other species. The Columbia SWCD has been treating an infestation of this weed along mainstem Scappoose



Garlic mustard treatment sites this year.

Creek and N. Scappoose Creek for several years with funds obtained from a grant from the Oregon State Weed Board. We are making good progress towards eradication with help from cooperating landowners in the area. We need your help to keep Garlic mustard out of Columbia County. If you have it on your property or spot it taking root somewhere else please call our Invasive Species hotline at 1-800-741-6105 to report it .

In case you haven’t heard ... we have a new phone number!
Now you can reach us at **(503) 433-3205.**



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 Columbia SWCD office

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

CSWCD STAFF

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UP-COMING EVENTS

6/2/17 10:00 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.: LCEP Science to Policy Summit; Hilton Vancouver, WA

Learn how to effectively communicate about scientific concepts in ways that are relatable for the average person. Contact Vanessa Bird for questions at 503-226-1565 x 234 or register on Eventbrite.

6/3/17: Garden Tours Hosted by St. Helens and Scappoose Garden Clubs; St. Helens and Scappoose

Four unique, beautiful, and creative residential gardens will be available for tours. Tickets are \$15 each. Please call Margaret at 971-506-7169; Lynn at 503-396-1275; or visit Bertucci's in St. Helens.

7/19/17—7/23/17: Columbia County Fair, Columbia County Fairgrounds Enjoy rides, live music, livestock displays, and tasty food at this classic family-focused event.

7/22/17: Columbia County Small Woodlands Assoc. Summer Tour

Details TBA. Check out their website or newsletter for updated information.

8/12/17 6:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m.: Twilight in the Garden; Joy Creek Nursery, Scappoose

Experience the beautiful garden and nursery at a magical time of day with self-guided tours and locally made treats. This event is free and open to the public.

NRCS STAFF

District Conservationist
 Don Mehlhoff

Program Support Tech
 Dee Robinson

Soil Conservationist
 Angela Reseland

FARMERS MARKETS

Scappoose Farmer's Market:

Every Saturday; May 20 — Sept. 30; 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Heritage Park.

Rainier "Market-in-the-Park" Farmer's Market:

Every Saturday; mid-May—early Sept.; 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Riverfront Park on A Street.

Clatskanie Farmer's Market:

Every Saturday; June—September; 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Copes Park.

U-PICK FARMS

Thorneberry Farm, Rainier, OR: Certified organic blueberries

Crawford Berries 'n' Cream, Rainier, OR: Strawberries, (limited basis: raspberries, marionberries, blueberries)

GROW YOUR OWN

Think you've missed the boat on gardening this year? Think again! The following are plants that can be started later in the growing season—some of them even prefer it.

So what are you waiting for? Let's get growing!

Seed Outdoors

Early to mid-June: Basil, Beans, Cabbage, Carrots, Cucumbers, Melons, Pumpkins, Squash

All of June: Arugula, Asian greens, Beets, Broccoli, Brussel sprouts, Cauliflower, Chard, Cilantro, Corn, Dill, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Parsnips, Rutabaga, Scallions, Turnips

Early to mid-July: Beets, Broccoli, Carrots, Cauliflower, Collards, Corn, Fennel, Kale, Kohlrabi, Summer squash, Turnips

All of July: Arugula, Asian greens, Basil, Beans, Brussel sprouts, Cabbage, Chard, Cilantro, Lettuce, Parsnips, Peas, Radish, Scallions, Spinach

Early August: Cabbage, Chard, Spinach

All of August: Arugula, Asian greens, Beets, Broccoli raab, Cauliflower, Cilantro, Collards, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard greens, Peas, Radish, Salad greens, Swiss chard, Turnips

Transplant Starts

June: Artichokes, Basil, Beans, Broccoli, Brussel sprouts, Cauliflower, Celery, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Leeks, Melons, Peppers, Pumpkins, Squash, Swiss chard, Tomatoes

July: Artichokes, Basil, Broccoli, Brussel sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Collards, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Peppers, Summer Squash

Early August: Basil, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Collards, Dill, Fennel

All of August: Artichokes, Asian greens, Cilantro, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Mustard greens, Salad greens, Scallions, Spinach



(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.)

EDIBLE & TASTY NATIVE BERRIES

Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*): Bushy shrub resembles a raspberry bush. Likes moist, well-drained soil along forest perimeters. Grows from 4' to 6'. Stems are thornless and hairy. Large maple-shaped leaves. White flowers give rise to ruby red berries when ripe in late June to July. Said to be one of the tastiest native berries found in the Pacific NW.



Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*): Bramble bush with thorny vines resembling blackberries. Often found in open forested areas in sun or partial shade. Grows to 6' tall. Blooms in mid-spring. Bright purple-pink flowers ripen to orange berries in summer. Taste varies widely between bushes, but generally has a more mild flavor.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*): A hardy shrub reaching 6' to 10'. Generally found on rocky, dry slopes and well-drained thickets in full sun. Ample white flowers turn into pea-sized, red-purple berries when ripe in late June to July. Said to be sweet and juicy, and similar in taste to an apple.



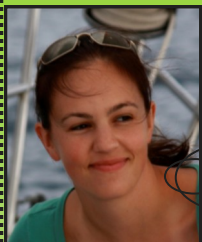
Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*): An evergreen shrub growing from 3' to 6'. It is often found growing as ground-cover in coniferous forests. It is extremely adaptable, growing in sun, shade, and tolerating a wide variety of soil types. Small, white or pink thimble-shaped flowers ripen into dark blue-purple berries that have a very pleasant flavor.

All photos by www.nwplants.com

Always ensure you are properly identifying plants before consuming. Some wild plants are poisonous and can cause illness and even death.

Thoughts from the Staff

Tell us about what you do to live closer to the land.



“We raise chickens and sell eggs to neighbors, friends, and coworkers. Our chickens receive lots of yummy table scraps and spend their days out foraging for greens and insects. We also compost, have a large garden in the summer, and are currently working on adding some more edible native plants on our property. It’s really fun and rewarding to use our land in ways that benefit both our family and the environment.”

- Crystalyn

“I live closer to the land with my vegetable garden. We have been working hard to spruce up our new yard with garden beds, a raspberry patch, and blueberry bushes. I love harvesting food I grow — it somehow just tastes better when it has a little hard work behind it. Gardening also forces you to take stock of the seasonal changes and plan for the future.”

- Monica



“We don’t buy meat from the store. Any meat consumed by my family is raised on our family farms or obtained through hunting and fishing. I use sustainable rotational pasture management, which means that I am using my animals to manage the grass instead of the other way around. Essentially, I am a grass farmer. We also garden and have several mature apple trees.”

- Nathan



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If you would rather receive our newsletter electronically, please send a request to Crystalyn.bush@columbiaswcd.com.

Contact us:

Address: 35285 Millard Rd.; St. Helens, OR 97051

Phone: 503-433-3205 **Email:** information@columbiaswcd.com

www.columbiaswcd.com

ID YOUR WEED



Tansy Ragwort: Invades open areas, pastureland, roadsides. Reproduces by seed only. Diminishes quality forage and is toxic to some livestock.



Knotweed (various forms): Invades disturbed areas close to water. Spreads by seed, roots, and stem fragments. Columbia SWCD monitors and treats Knotweed. If you haven't already reported it to us, please do so by calling our new invasive species hotline at **1-800-741-6105**.



St. Johnswort: Invades disturbed areas, roadsides, pastureland, trails, and especially overgrazed areas. Mildly toxic to livestock.

* It's a good idea to always wear protective clothing when working with plants, ensure you are correctly identifying the species in question, research effective control methods before taking action, and seek advice before using an herbicide treatment.*