

**SUMMER
2019**

Native Plant Spotlight:



Cascade Columbine
(*Aquilegia formosa*)

Flower season: May to August
A great plant for pollinators!

Photo By/More info: www.nwplants.com

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The Columbia SWCD presents: “The Dirt”

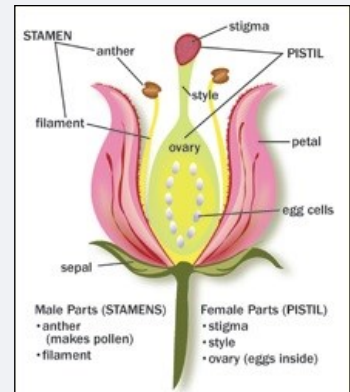
POLLINATOR WEEK JUNE 17-23, 2019!

National Pollinator Week is a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what you can do to protect them.

Twelve years ago the U.S. Senate’s unanimous approval and designation of a week in June as “National Pollinator Week” marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations.

What is pollination?

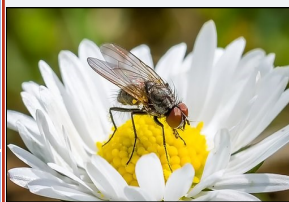
Pollination is a vital stage in the life cycle of all flowering plants. When a pollen grain moves from the anther (male part) of a flower to the stigma (female part), pollination happens. This is the first step in a process that produces seeds, fruits, and the next generation of plants. This can happen through self-pollination, wind and water pollination, or through the work of vectors that move pollen within the flower and from bloom to bloom. This transfer of pollen is necessary for healthy and productive native & agricultural ecosystems.



- About 75% of all flowering plant species need the help of animals to move their heavy pollen grains from plant to plant for fertilization.
- About 1,000 of all pollinators are vertebrates such as birds, bats, and small mammals.
- Most pollinators (about 200,000 species) are beneficial insects such as flies, beetles, wasps, ants, butterflies, moths, and bees.

Why are pollinators important?

Somewhere between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants on the earth need help with pollination – they need pollinators. Pollinators provide pollination services to over 180,000 different plant species and more than 1200 crops. Pollinators are often keystone species, meaning that they are critical to an ecosystem. Birds, bats, bees, beetles, and other small mammals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food. They also sustain our ecosystems and produce our natural resources by helping plants reproduce.



If we want to talk dollars and cents, pollinators add 217 billion dollars to the global economy, and honey bees alone are responsible for between 1.2 and 5.4 billion dollars in agricultural productivity in the United States. In addition to the food that we eat, pollinators support healthy ecosystems that clean the air, stabilize soils, protect from severe weather, and support other wildlife.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **Reduce your impact**
Reduce or eliminate your pesticide use, increase green spaces, and minimize urbanization. Pollution and climate change affect pollinators, too!
- **Plant for pollinators**
Create pollinator-friendly habitat with native flowering plants that supply pollinators with nectar, pollen, and homes. For information on what to plant in your area, download a free eco-regional guide online at www.pollinator.org.
- **Tell a friend**
Educate your neighbors, schools, and community groups about the importance of pollinators. Host a dinner, a pollinated food cook-off or other event and invite your friends.

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

Assistant District Manager
Malysa Legg

Senior Resource Conservationist
Nathan Herr

Resource Conservationist
Selene Keeney

Riparian Specialist
Crystalyn Bush

Office and Outreach Coordinator
Jennifer Steinke

CSWCD BOARD

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UPCOMING EVENTS

06/22/19 8:00 am - 12:00 pm: Household Hazardous Waste Collections; St. Helens
 Dispose of assorted hazardous waste items for free at the Columbia County Transfer Station. For questions or a list of accepted items, please contact Kathy Boutin-Pasterz, Solid Waste Program Coordinator for Columbia County, at 503-397-7259 or by email at Kathleen.Boutin-Pasterz@co.columbia.or.us

06/29/19 9:00 am—4:00 pm: Vernonia Garden Tour; Vernonia
 Vernonia Improvement Project is hosting a garden tour to benefit the Vernonia City Parks. 8-10 local gardens will be on display with educators on site to answer your questions. Free classes will be provided throughout the day on pruning, pollinators, eco-lawns and more! Contact Rachael Organ for more info: (503) 830-6919, vernoniagardentour@gmail.com

07/12/19—07/14/19: Rainier Days in the Park
 Voted Best Fireworks on the Columbia River 2011-2018, come enjoy a carnival, vendors, food and crafts! More information can be found here: <http://www.rainierdaysinthepark.com>

07/17/19—07/21/19: Columbia County Fair, St. Helens Fairgrounds
 Come out to the 104th Columbia County Fair & Rodeo where there's "Fun For The Whole Herd"! The Fair includes a two day NPRA Rodeo, Jr. Rodeo, Car Show, Demolition Derby, Entertainment Stage, Vendor Booths, Carnival, Exhibits and other misc. entertainment.

07/20/19: Rainier Columbia County Small Woodlands Association Summer Picnic
 Stay tuned! Time and location to be determined.

NRCS STAFF

District Conservationist
Don Mehlhoff

Program Support Tech
Dee Robinson



Do you have questions regarding agriculture? I can help!

Call our office or email me at:

nathan.herr@columbiaswcd.com

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

@Columbiaswcd



BEES in the Weeds?!

Do bees like the weeds? It can sometimes seem like removing noxious weeds and supporting pollinators are opposing goals. However, with a little bit of forethought and understanding about what pollinators really need, we can see that these two missions are actually aligned.

Some noxious weeds like Knotweed are unarguably good food sources for pollinators. There is even a market for Knotweed honey. However, when noxious weeds move in they can quickly create a plant monoculture. This is a problem because there is no diversity of food sources, flowering times, or structure in the plant community. So replacing noxious weeds with a well thought out variety of native plants creates a more sustaining long-term environment for pollinators.

What You Can Do: Take pollinators into account when planning to use herbicides:

- * Choose herbicides that are effective, but have low toxicity to pollinators.
- * Treat during times when pollinators are less active like morning or evening.
- * If possible, don't apply herbicides while plants are in bloom.
- * Replace weeds with appropriate native plants that flower throughout the spring, summer and fall.



A bee on a snowberry plant.
Photo by: Holly Erickson

Local Farmer's Markets

Handcrafted goods and local flavors are back for the season! Here's where you can find them:



Scappoose Farmer's Market

33568 E Columbia Ave, Scappoose, OR
Every Saturday through September 28
9:00 am—2:00 pm most weekends.

St. Helens Farmer's Market

Strand Street, St. Helens, OR
Every Saturday through September 28

Clatskanie Farmer's Market

Corner of Conyers & Lillich Street @ Cope's Park Clatskanie, OR
Every Saturday through September 28
10:00 am—2:00 pm

Vernonia Open Air Market

510 Bridge St. Vernonia, OR
Every Saturday through September 28
10:00 am—2:00 pm

Garden Gab: Pollination invitation

Gardening tip from the SWCD: "Bring in the Pollinators": There are many things you can do if your garden is in need of a greater pollinator presence. Here are a couple quick tips that should **BEE** appreciated: 1) Add flowering native plants and wildflowers in or around your garden; 2) Choose a variety of plants that flower at different times; 3) Plant in clumps instead of rows; 4) Leave out a little water; and 5) Provide shelter in the form of open soil, dead trees or limbs, bee houses or bat boxes.

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

Seed Outdoors

June: Basil*, Beans*, Bruss. sprouts*, Cabbage*, Carrots*, Corn*, Cucumbers*, Dill, Endive, Kohlrabi*, Melons*, Parsnips, Pumpkins*, Rutabaga*, Scallions, Squash (all) *
July: Asian greens**, Beets**, Broccoli**, Carrots*, Cauliflower**, Cilantro**, Collards, Fennel (bulbing)*, Kale**, Parsnips, Peas, Radish, Scallions, Spinach, Turnips**
August: Arugula**, Broccoli raab, Cabbage (early)*, Chard**, Lettuce**, Mustard greens, Peas, Radish, Salad greens, Spinach*, Swiss chard

Starts

June: Artichoke**, Basil**, Beans, Broccoli**, Brussels sprouts*, Celery, Corn*, Cucumbers, Eggplant*, Leeks**, Melons, Peppers*, Pumpkins, Squash (all) *, Swiss chard, Tomatoes*
July: Bruss. sprouts*, Cabbage*, Carrots*, Cauliflower**, Collards*, Cucumbers, Kale*, Lettuce,
August: Early August- Cabbage, Dill, Fennel (bulbing)
Through August- Asian greens, Cilantro, Kale*, Lettuce, Mustard greens*, Salad greens, Scallions, Spinach*



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

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

Flowers for the Bees



If you have spent any time watching the bees in your flowers, you may have asked yourself, is there a ‘best’ flower for bees? There are many good lists available, but luckily, a group of researchers at the Oregon State University Garden Ecology Lab is investigating the relationships between bees and the flowers they seem to prefer. What have we learned so far? It’s complicated. Some of what makes a flower attractive to a bee may have to do with the amount of water the plant gets, or the other flowers in its vicinity. Also, bees have different needs based on the time of year, their nest cycle, or the length of their tongues and ability to get to the hidden treasures of the flower.

Flowers that seem to be most popular with a wide variety of native bees tend to have simple blooms with exposed stamen and easily accessed nectaries while bumble bees are able to get into the more complex flowers such as the lupins. When honey bees were included in the counts, herbs such as oregano and lavender were more popular.

While it is complicated, one of the native flowers that has been noted to attract a wide variety of native bees is *Aster subspicatus*, Douglas aster. This perennial blooms from July through September, adapts to many soil types, and can handle a little drought. It is also of particular importance to bumble bee queens and some of the sweat bees who need to build up their fat reserves so they can survive the winter hiding from the cold. *Gilia capitata*, globe gilia, is an annual usually planted by seed, that blooms earlier, beginning in May, but also supports a wide variety of native bees and can take a little drought. Early season blooms are necessary so the bees are able to get their nests off to a healthy start. Some of the other natives that are putting in a good show in the studies are goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), common madia (*Madia elegans*), pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), and the *Phacelias*.

-Deb Brimacombe
CSWCD Director
Bee Atlas Project Volunteer

For More Information

Visit the OSU Garden Ecology Lab’s Blog: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardenecologylab/>
or email us at information@columbiaswcd.com

Did You Know...

The Oregon Bee Atlas brought an image of the grumpiest-looking native bee in Oregon, the “Grumpbee”. Deb caught one of two specimens of this *Andrena* species. The Atlas is the state’s initiative to seek out and show Oregonians the amazing endowment of bees we have. It is organized by volunteers (like Deb) with the support of Oregon State University Extension Service, Oregon State Arthropod Collection, Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Forestry. Grumpbee was determined and photographed by Linc Beestein.

Learn more about the Oregon Bee Atlas:

<https://www.oregonbeeproject.org/bee-atlas>



Partnering for Success

Q & A's with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)

- **Basic History of ODF in Columbia County:**

"In 1910, there were numerous large fires across many states in the west, including Oregon. The largest fire was in Idaho that year, burning 3 million acres, towns, and causing 26 firefighter deaths. On May 27th, 1912 the Constitution and Bylaws were adopted for the Columbia County Fire Patrol Association (CCFPA), in the Yeon Building in Portland, Oregon. \$100 was the maximum salary for any regular patrol man and they were required to provide their own horse and cover all of their own expenses. Due to the onset of fall rains, the 1912 fire season ended on August 31, 1912 and the patrol men were released of their duties. On April 18, 1933 the CCFPA voted to consolidate with the Clatsop and Tillamook Fire patrol Associations. The CCFPA requested that the Tillamook Fire Patrol Association accept the application of the CCFPA for membership in the Tillamook Association, which they did, ending the Columbia County Association and marking the beginning of the current Northwest Oregon Fire Patrol Association (NWOFFPA). The current NWOFFPA contracts with the state of Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to provide fire patrols in Columbia County. In 1971, the Oregon Legislature passed the first Forest Practices Act in the Nation and when it was first implemented in 1972, provided requirements for reforestation after harvesting along with other requirements."

- **What is ODF's Mission?** "ODF's Mission is 'To serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon's forests to enhance environmental, economic, and community sustainability.' Both ODF and Columbia SWCD have a mission to offer assistance to Columbia County citizens to help them sustain and enhance the natural resources of Columbia County."

- **In what way does ODF and the Columbia SWCD partner?** "ODF partners with the SWCD on permitting for large wood placements, and timing of cable logging operations to facilitate stream enhancements. In addition, ODF refers customers to the SWCD for fish passage structures, sediment delivery mitigation, erosion control and other related problems outside the jurisdiction of ODF. An example of a positive outcome of the partnership was achieved with the coordinated effort of SWCD, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and ODF in obtaining and placing large logs with attached root wads within a fish stream for habitat enhancement. Another example was utilizing the ODF permitting process to streamline the installation of a fish passable culvert, thereby preventing a delay of at least a year."

- **How do residents, or the environment, benefit from our two agencies partnering?**

"The main benefit of the ODF and SWCD partnership is that the customer has to deal with less of the bureaucratic run around, and can complete their project in a more timely manner. The environment benefits because the problem can most likely be remedied within a much shorter time period without the jurisdictional delays. In addition, with the open lines of communication, ideas can flow freely back and forth, and current or future problems can and have been identified."



The Columbia City ODF Agency can be contacted at: (503) 397-2636

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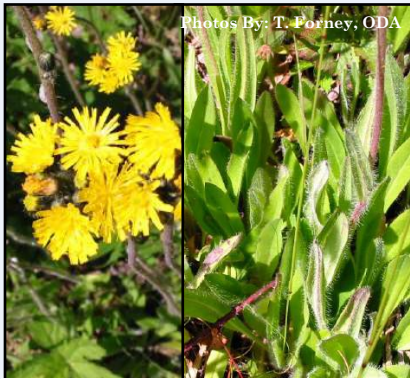
If you would prefer to receive our newsletter electronically, please send a request to jennifer.steinke@columbiaswcd.com.

Contact us:

Address: 35285 Millard Rd., St. Helens, OR 97051
Phone: 503-433-3205 **Email:** information@columbiaswcd.com
www.columbiaswcd.com



ID YOUR WEED



Meadow hawkweed



Orange hawkweed



Common dandelion

Several species of hawkweed are on the State of Oregon’s Noxious Weed List. Orange hawkweed is easily spotted by its bright orange flowers. All the rest have yellow flowers usually born in clusters at the top of a dark stem. Hawkweeds typically grow 10—36” tall, have smooth, narrow and hairy leaves, and have hairy, leafless, hollow stems. Flowering typically occurs June—July. They spread by seed and stolons and prefer full sun. In comparison, native hawkweeds have numerous stem leaves, lack stolons, and generally have solitary flowers. Please report possible hawkweed sites to us at 1-800-741-6105.

Another plant hawkweeds are often confused with is dandelions. Dandelions have deeply serrated leaves, solitary flower heads, and hollow stems. If you think you might have found hawkweed, please email photos to us at weeds@columbiaswcd.com.

* 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.*