

Landscaping with Native Plants Field Walks

Date: September 27 (Saturday)

Time: 11:00am to noon

Place: Dungeness River Festival at Railroad Bridge Park

OR

Dates: September 27 (Saturday) OR October 3 (Friday)

Time: 1:00 to 4:00pm

Place: Dungeness Recreation Area

Participants will learn to identify over 30 native trees and shrubs, as well as their cultural requirements, habitat qualities, and ornamental attributes while walking the trails of the Dungeness Recreation Area. The field trip is free; however, reservations are required due to space limitations. To reserve a space please call (360) 452-1912 ext. 5.

Oceanspray



2009 Native Plant Sale - LARGE Orders

Please contact us immediately if you are interested in ordering **more than 100 native plants of the same species** through Clallam Conservation District's annual plant sale. Call (360) 452-1912 ext. 109 for species availability and discount pricing. The deadline for preordering large orders is November 17, 2008 but plants will not be available for pick-up until March 7. Prepayment is required.

All other orders will be accepted starting January 5, 2009. Order forms will be included in the Winter issue of "Conservation News," which will be in mailboxes the first week of January 2009 and on our website <http://clallam.scc.wa.gov> starting in January.

If you want to start planning your native landscaping now, check out our website for a preview of the species that will be offered through our plant sale.

Fall Tips for Horse & Livestock Owners

Last year's high winds and heavy rains proved to be challenging for horses, livestock and their owners. Be sure you are prepared for bad weather by using our checklist:

- ⇒ Remove animals from pastures during the winter to keep soil from becoming compacted and to prevent overgrazing OR put animals in a smaller pasture that will be re-seeded next spring.
- ⇒ Create mud-free paddocks for animals. (Call us to request a free copy of *A Guide to Creating Heavy Use Areas* for more detailed instructions.)
- ⇒ Be sure gutters and downspouts are functioning properly to keep water out of barns and paddocks.
- ⇒ Ensure fresh water is available for stock watering even during freezing conditions.
- ⇒ Locate your manure storage structure in a high and dry area so it does not contaminate surface or ground water. Also consider a site that you can easily push your wheelbarrow to dump even during dark nights.
- ⇒ If you use electric fencing, be sure to have a battery powered fence charger in case of power failures.
- ⇒ Remove any low hanging branches or dead trees that might fall on fences during high winds.



Clallam Conservation District provides free technical assistance to horse and livestock owners. For more information on our services or to request publications on topics like growing healthier pastures, creating manure storage bins, or reducing on-farm mud please call 452-1912 ext. 109.

PUT THOSE FALLING LEAVES TO USE...

Fall is a wonderful time on the Olympic Peninsula. Sunny days, cool evenings and brilliant leaves of orange, yellow and red make this season the favorite for many residents. The brightly colored leaves have more than just aesthetic value as they drift down from the trees. They are a valuable ingredient for mulch and compost and can help us tuck our garden in for winter.



Making Compost

Compost is decomposed organic material that can greatly improve any soil by enhancing soil structure and increasing the soil's water-holding capacity. Compost is nature's best soil amendment. Compost loosens clay soils and helps sandy soils retain water.

Composting can be as simple as putting materials in a pile and allowing them to rot. Or, if you choose, composting can be a complex operation that involves using a compost tumbler, monitoring the temperature, and balancing the carbon and nitrogen inputs. For simple composting, just make a pile with your yard waste and/or livestock manure, along with any kitchen scraps (no meat or dairy). Your pile should be at least 3'x3'x3' in size in order to generate good heat. Keep your pile as damp as a wrung out sponge. This means adding water may be necessary in the summer, but there might be too much water in the winter. Keeping it covered with a tarp will make it easier to control moisture. Turn the pile frequently to add oxygen and mix in the material on the outer edge of the pile. Your compost is ready when it looks evenly textured and crumbly like soil. Apply several inches of compost to your garden beds and work it in well where you want to grow your plants.

Making Mulch

Mulching is one of the simplest and most beneficial practices you can use in your garden. Mulch is a protective layer of material that is spread on top of the soil. Mulch is created by mixing together materials such as leaves, grass clippings, straw, and wood chips that have not fully decomposed. Mulch can be used around trees, shrubs, and other plants to inhibit weeds and retain soil moisture. As the leaves and other debris slowly decompose, they add valuable nutrients to the soil. When mulching around trees or shrubs, keep the mulch about one inch from the trunk. Refer to the table below for more specific guidelines on applying mulch or check out the Natural Resource Conservation Service webpage dedicated to mulching at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard/mulching.html>

Material	Amount to Apply	Notes
Wood chips	2-4 inches	If using fresh wood chips that are mixed with a lot of leaves, composting may be beneficial.
Leaves	3-4 inches	Best to chop and compost before spreading. If using dry leaves, apply about 6 inches.
Grass clippings	2-3 inches	Thicker layers tend to compact and rot, becoming slimy and smelly. Add additional layers as clippings decompose. Do not use clippings from lawns treated with herbicides.
Newspaper Cardboard	1/4 inch	Apply sheets of newspaper or cardboard. Cover with grass clippings and other mulch material to anchor.
Compost	3-4 inches	Excellent material for enriching soil.

Turning yard waste such as leaves, brush, and grass clippings into mulch and compost is not only good for your garden, it also helps cut down on the amount of waste being put into landfills. About one-third of the space in landfills is taken up by organic waste from our yards and kitchens. By redirecting your time and energy, you can help reduce a community waste problem.

So this fall, rather than fretting about the leaves that are falling in your yard, sit back and watch happily, knowing they are great for the health of your garden!



McComb Gardens

751 McComb Road • Sequim, WA 98382 360•681•2827
www.mccombgardens.com

SEQUIM COUPLE CARING FOR THEIR LAND

George & Jolie Will first learned of the Conservation District's programs and services back in 2001 when they attended a Horse & Land Management workshop hosted by the District. The Wills had purchased six-plus acres along the Dungeness River with plans to retire from Idaho and build a home for themselves and their horses. Over the next six years the Wills periodically consulted with the Conservation District as they developed plans for their property. The Wills stayed connected through the Conservation District's quarterly newsletter, which informed them about local conservation issues and events.



The Wills' thoughtful, environmentally-minded planning was not limited to the horse facility but was also used during the planning and construction of their home. Local building materials and craftsmen were used as much as possible during the construction. For example, the flooring was custom milled from locally grown wood. The Wills have also incorporated numerous native plants into their landscape, most of which were purchased from the District's annual native plant sale.

In 2007, the Wills and their two horses officially moved from Idaho to Sequim. They worked with the District to finalize their farm plan, taking into account the needs of their horses while ensuring that the natural resources of their land were protected. Thoughtful consideration was given to fencing, pasture layouts and the location of the shelters and paddocks. All of the horse facilities were located well outside of the buffer area along the Dungeness River, protecting the health of the riparian area, water quality, and reducing the risk of flood damage.

In the Fall of 2007, the Wills constructed a mud-free heavy use area using crushed basalt rock, approximately eight inches deep, as footing. Rejected concrete curbs were used to define the perimeter of the heavy use area and to help retain the rock footing, which can move as the horses walk along the fence. Jolie designed and constructed a "sand box" at one end of the heavy use area that the horses routinely use to roll and lie on. The location of the heavy use area allows easy access for feeding and cleaning, and is centrally located in relation to the pastures, providing for convenient turnout. The Wills report that the heavy use area was mud-free throughout the first winter and that collecting manure has been very easy. Manure is composted and applied to the pastures and garden areas. In addition to providing a mud-free area, the horses are confined in the heavy use area to limit their intake of rich, spring grass and to allow the pastures to re-grow after grazing.

When asked about their experiences working with the Conservation District the Wills said the following: "District planners made several site visits and demonstrated strong support throughout the process of developing and implementing the farm plan. Their educational outreach is effective, interesting, and presented in a user-friendly manner. The results feel like a community minded approach where we work together for positive outcomes."



The gravel heavy use area is the horses mud-free living area during the wet months. The Wills report that it is easy to clean manure out of the area.

Horse Health Workshop

Hartnagel Building Supply is sponsoring a workshop on September 25 (Thursday) from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. featuring Dr. Erik Splawn DVM, who will be discussing horse hoof health, laminitis and winter care. Rick Boyer from Purina Mills will be on hand to speak about horse nutrition and Sean Reichle, from Farnam, will be providing some door prizes. The workshop will be held at Hartnagel Building Supply at 3111 Highway 101 in Port Angeles. Call Kim Beus at 417-8385 to register.



Cow Owners Workshop

Hartnagel Building Supply is sponsoring another workshop on October 23 (Thursday) from 6:00 to 7:30 featuring Rick Boyer from Purina Mills. He will discuss beef cattle nutrition, brood cow/mother cow nutritional needs for a healthy calf and mineral & vitamin requirements as it applies to cattle. The workshop will be held at Hartnagel Building Supply at 3111 Highway 101 in Port Angeles. Call Kim Beus at 417-8385 to register.

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If you are interested in becoming a newsletter sponsor, for \$50 per year your name or the name of your business will be printed four times in the sponsor section of the newsletter, or for \$100 per year, your company business card will also be printed once a year.

The Conservation News is published quarterly and is currently reaching over 2,000 mailboxes and is available for review on our website. Your support will help us reach more people interested in getting involved in local conservation efforts.

For information on becoming a sponsor, please call (360) 452-1912 ext. 5.

Visit our website at <http://clallam.scc.wa.gov>

Clallam Conservation District is a sub-division of state government created to promote the stewardship and conservation of natural resources in Clallam County. Public meetings are held at 3:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the USDA Service Center, 1601 E. Front St., Bldg/Suite A in Port Angeles.

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Want to help us save a tree???
Our newsletter is available in email format, so if you would like to help us conserve resources give us a call at (360) 452-1912 ext. 5 or send an email to ccd-info@wa.nacdn.net to start receiving the electronic version of our newsletter.



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