Weeder's Digest

All the dirt that's fit to print

Newsletter of the Whatcom County Master Gardeners **August 2002**

Those of you who are volunteering at the Fair will receive a special mailing containing a letter detailing instructions, duties, parking, and your admission tickets. You will also get a copy of the entire fair schedule, so you will know with whom you will be working, and who will relieve you. Our booth is in the Agricultural Building, which is to the right of the main pedestrian entrance from Main Street. This Building also has the Granges, Master Composters, Weed Board, Flower Competition, Vegetable & Fruit Judging, and the Beekeepers. This is a fun time! And you are guaranteed to see everyone you have ever met in Whatcom County.

We will again have a computer at the Fair. For Fair volunteers we will conduct two computer classes, one very basic for beginners, and one refresher course. They will be held on August 6 at the Extension Office. If you wish to attend please call the office to reserve a spot in one of the classes (360) 676-6736.

Some of you are planning on entering exhibits at the Fair. We have some great tips for entering and winning with your vegetables on our website at <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/homehort/home_gardening.htm#facts>. So, check it out and good luck.

Remember, we still need to staff the office and Hovander during the Fair, so please keep on volunteering for those activities as well.

See you at the Fair.

Al McHenry

2003 Plant Sale

It seems a bit premature to be talking about the 2003 plant sale, but without a large greenhouse and Dick Steele's expertise we all need to be thinking about what we can donate to the sale. It has been suggested that if each of us donate at least 2 flats of plants we would have the sale that our community has come to expect from us.

Realizing that 2 flats might be hard to come by for some of us, we have a few suggestions. First, Karen Gilliam will again generously let people pot up perennials from her yard. You can count these as your 2 flats -if you do the work. Watch for Karen's work parties next spring.

Second, Reg Allen says that he donated ten flats last year, because he divided plants in the fall and heeled them in pots in his garden. We have space outside at Hovander to hold plants over. We also have clean pots and Smit's Compost ready for those of you who need these supplies to do this.

Third, it has been suggested that there are Master Gardeners who have the plants to donate but need help to dig and pot the plants. If you fall into this category call us (see phone numbers below), and we will try to hook you up with people who need the plants.

Please realize that we are only seriously suggesting, pleading, begging and whining that we need two flats from everyone. -We are NOT REQUIRING two flats.

If you need pots, compost, and labels, or need help to dig your plants, or would like to assist someone who needs help in digging plants, call Diane Rapoza (360) 676-9563 or r.rapoza@attbi.com, Becky Falacy (360) 733-6719 or falaacz @aol.com, Teri Booth (360) 738-0800 or tlbooth@earthlink.net, or Cherie Mansfield (360) 671-0909 or scmansfield@earthlink.net.

P.S: Please do NOT leave unpotted plants or 4" pots at the greenhouse.

MASTER GARDENER

INSIDE:

Newsletter Deadline:

Third Wednesday of every month.

Tis the Season

By Faye Agner

For many, August is a popular time to go on vacation; however, the chores of watering, weeding, staking and tying must go on. Who takes care of the outdoor plants and lawn while you are on your well deserved vacation? Many homeowners have invested hundreds - possibly thousands - of dollars in their landscaping. You should protect that investment with some planning ahead. If you are lucky enough to get a long vacation, arrangements should be made for outside help to keep your plants and lawn in good condition. If you are really fortunate, you might have a nearby neighbor who will trade vacation chores with you. Be sure that you, and they, are on the same wavelength with regard to watering, not too much and yet enough.

Mow the lawn just before you leave home. An uncut lawn is a sure sign that the owners are not at home, and is an invitation for thieves and vandals to explore possibilities. Water the home grounds deeply and thoroughly just before leaving. A good slow soaking will keep most lawns and plants healthy for over ten days.

Check once more for slugs and snails about half an hour after the water is turned off. Mulching around plants keeps the moisture in the ground near the roots. The installation of a drip system could solve many of the watering problems.

If you are not fortunate enough to have a lengthy summer vacation, and enjoy yard work, don't try to do it all in one day. Seeing the plants looking refreshed, and you feeling the same way, may evidence a good day in the garden. To accomplish this pleasant state of mind, a rough interpretation of the Buddhist idea of a large mind and a small mind, the yin and yang of the garden may be adopted.

Begin by taking an overall, expansive view: this is the macro mind. Tell yourself firmly that you'll never, ever finish all you'd like to, so you're just going to fluff and buff right now. Allow yourself to skim over most tasks, doing the minimum and leaving the real work for another day. Do the obvious chores, such as pulling the morning glory that has climbed your lily. The object here is to do just enough so no plant is left to suffer, cleaning up the garden so it doesn't offend the eye. Now you can zoom in on one area of the garden that is most important to you that day and concentrate on it. You can add some creativity, pull weeds or do whatever it is to make that section satisfying to you.

Cut flowering annual and perennial flowers before leaving. Removing these flowers will help lower their water demands and will encourage new growth and consequently new flowers.

An effective method of worry-free houseplant care is to cover and seal the houseplant in a clear plastic bag, after watering the plant first thoroughly. Let any excess water drain through the soil and, if necessary, pour it off. Set the plant somewhere where it will receive indirect sunlight. Direct sunlight could scorch and kill the plant.

If you are inclined to take cuttings of your evergreens or flowering shrubs, the best time to get the best result is at the end of August and first part of September. Consult publication PNW 152.

Thin out trees and shrubbery only as necessary. It's too late to prune spring flowering shrubs. If you prune these now you will lose next year's bloom! Train espaliers, topiaries, check ties to be sure they are not strangling branches. Cut back and deadhead annuals, perennials, and the roses. Lightly shear overgrown hedges, and foundation plantings. Give your heather a haircut after their bloom is gone. This will keep the plants tidy and encourage bloom for next year.

In August, mildew on roses, apples, grapes, lilacs, zinnias and other annuals and perennials is a common fact Using the watering hose with a smaller nozzle will remove lots of the mildew from the leaves.

Fertilize annuals, container plants, houseplants, and perennials with a 10-10-10-ratio fertilizer. Apply iron chelates if necessary. Feed chrysanthemums with 5-10-5 every 2 weeks till buds show color. Dahlias will respond to a fertilizing application. This will enable them to continue blooming until well into the fall.

Lawn care: Fertilize lawns with a 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer, and check out the new lawn fertilizer just put on the market that is much lower in phosphorus, which there is usually enough of in the soil here in Whatcom County. Continue to mow your lawn and, if you water, do it correctly to a depth of 2 inches. A frequent light watering is wasting water without benefiting the lawn.

Now is a good time for cutting herbs and flowers to dry.

Evaluate the garden, and make plans for improvements in seasonal and permanent plantings: prepare beds for fall planting, clean up rose and flower beds, remove fallen foliage, yellowed leaves, and dead wood; mulch trees and shrubs.

In the vegetable garden: sow most cool season vegetables now, including lettuce and spinach. Transplant cool season vegetables, including seed potatoes, leeks and garlic.

Watch for aphids, blackspot, caterpillars, lacebugs, mealy bugs, nematodes, powdery mildew, rust, scale, spider mites, thrips, whitefly and treat accordingly. Often a good blast of water will do the job.

President's Message

August—and the summer is flying by! But—didn't we have a beautiful July?! We enjoyed two lovely gardens on the Southside. The first was the Martina Elenbaas garden which won a well deserved 'Whatcom in Bloom' award last year. She is an artist, and you can see it in her garden. The next stop was at JoAnne Roose's garden which had garden art gracing meticulously well designed beds, I looked hard for a weed but never found one. A short meeting and refreshments finished off a beautiful evening.

The greenhouse committee had their class with Craig in July. They felt that it was very informative. Craig gave them the 'ideal' ways to manage a greenhouse—leaving it up to them as to how 'ideal' they can be and where to start.

The NWW fair is this month and always something to look forward to. If you are working the booth—enjoy!! I sure enjoyed it last year and am looking forward to it again. If not, do stop by and visit.

Be sure to mark your calendars for August 8. That will be our potluck at Hovander Park. It will start at 6 p.m. in the picnic area. Barbecued chicken, hot dogs, and roasted corn will be provided. Beverages will be available, or you can bring your own. Please, please don't forget to bring your own plates, napkins, cups, utensils and your favorite side dish. Sooo Master Gardeners, young and old, one and all, join us for food and fun!

Pat Nelson,
MGF President

Reminders—
Board meeting will be August 2 at the Extension Office at 10:00 a.m.
The 2002 M.G. Advanced Training "Days of Wine and Roses" Oct. 3, 4, 5—More information soon.
Graduation/potluck will be November 7

Hope to see you all at the potluck—Pat

Zip Codes

Bellingham has added a new zip code. If you are one of the lucky ones to be in the new 98229 area, please contact the office at (360) 676-6736 or whatcom@wsu.edu and let us know so we can update our database.

Annual Summer Potluck!

~Kathy Mitchell

Next month's meeting will be the annual summer potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 8, at Hovander Park. The main dishes (meat and corn on the cob) will be provided.

Please bring a tasty side dish or dessert and your own table service and beverage. Some beverages will be provided. Don't forget a serving utensil for your dish! See you there for the festivities!

Getting to Know...

Cheryll Greenwood Kinsley, Master Gardener since 1997.

Cheryll is well known to us for her informative and insightful monthly article, Plant of the Month. In addition to her contributions to the Weeder's Digest, Cheryll enjoys helping others tell their stories with her business CGK Wordsmith. She is currently working on a commemorative history of a government agency and has clients internationally. The mother of 2 sons, 32 year-old Peter and 16 year-old Leon, Cheryll is married to Dale, a school district superintendent. When not in her garden, Cheryll loves cooking, reading, and watching movies.

Cheryll's garden passion is crystomeria, and she has been a collector of these unusual plants for 10 years. She calls her garden a "work in progress" and gardens not only for her own enjoyment but also for the benefit of all who pass by. Cheryll's garden is entirely chemical free. She hopes to move into a lower maintenance gardening but admits that, so far, that's not been entirely successful!

Cheryll's totem: the Ladybug

By Jill Cotton

Plant of the Month..... By Cheryll Greenwood Kinsley

Gaura, known in the Midwest and South as “Bee Blossom”

Family: Onagraceae (Evening primrose family)
Genus: *Gaura*
Species: *lindheimeri*

If you’re looking to add a spot of color and some lively breeziness to your border, consider a *Gaura*. This genus, a North American native, has 21 species at last count. *G. lindheimeri* and several others hail from the southeast and south central parts of our continent, although several wildflower forms are found in the Dakotas and throughout the northern Midwest. At least two *Gaura* species have become naturalized in southern Africa. No, I haven’t gotten to the bottom of that particular migration. Nor have I checked Lewis & Clark’s journals, but it’s not unlikely that they spotted a specimen or two on their westward treks.

Gaura lindheimeri ‘Siskiyou Pink’

The *Gaura* genus was left to its wild forms and considered unremarkable by plant collectors even into the 1980s; but a few passionate horticulturalists saw its potential and began to watch for sports on which to base new cultivars. Now these named varieties are widely available for our planting and viewing pleasure. Most of this breeding and propagation has been based on *G. lindheimeri* ‘Siskiyou Pink’, introduced by the talented folks at the Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery in Medford, Oregon, in 1994. Dan Hinkley and his Heronistas picked up on it quite soon after; and where Heronswood leads, plant aficionados are sure to follow. So today, most nurseries offer at least a limited selection of *Gaura lindheimeri* cultivars. Many of these are tagged as Northwest natives. More are being released every year from breeders in North America and others in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. And a quick survey of recent gardening magazines shows that *Gaura* is becoming a very popular plant indeed.

‘Siskiyou Pink’ is still my personal favorite. In my garden, the many stems that comprise this vase-shaped herbaceous perennial grow to a height of about three feet. Its leaves attach directly to the stems and are dark blue-green, tinged with deep red. The flowers open over a long season from mid-summer to first frost, one at a time, from red buds to white blossoms tinged with pink that deepen in color as they age. They move nicely in the breeze, so it’s easy to understand why one of the first *G. lindheimeri* cultivars was named ‘Whirling Butterflies’. The entire plant is light and airy, reminiscent of *Boltonia asteroides* in its ability to leaven the look of an entire border. But the individual blossoms aren’t at all daisy-like. And they don’t resemble the cup-shaped flowers of the evening primroses, either. They remind me more of the stars of the Camas that appear every spring in these parts.

Gauras don’t seem to be susceptible to diseases, and they’re bothered by few pests. Aphids may congregate near the buds, but they can easily be dislodged by a blast of water from the hose. In fact, you may have to uncoil the hose *only* for aphid control, since once they are established, Gauras need very little extra water. They form long taproots and are quite tolerant of drought, even when they’re placed in their favorite full sun. Their flowers will be most profuse if the plants are not given much fertilizer. Easy care, all around!

They are often featured in xeriscapes, although it must be mentioned that they do best in those gardens, and in mine, in well-prepared soil that’s been enriched and loosened with a good deal of organic material. Just sticking them in a straight-sided, cylindrical hole cut through the clay will make them dead in short order, water or no water. In our climate, they die back to their roots in the winter, no matter what soil they’re in. Some won’t reappear, while others-often those right next to the casualties-will. I’ve learned to cut them back to ground level in late February, mark their spots, and be patient. By mid-April, a few leaves will unfurl on a few short stems, and I’ll know that those season-long flowers aren’t far off.

Good things often have downsides, however, and the *Gaura* genus is no different. Some of the Gaura cousins, treasured as native wildflowers and prairie plants in the middle part of the country-and often associated with legends and healing practices among Native people-have turned out to like other areas all too well. Several species, including *G. coccinea, G. odorata,* and *G. glabra* have invaded their way onto noxious weed lists in several states. *Gaura lindheimeri* shows no such tendencies to spread, either by rhizome or by seed. It is remarkably well behaved, and will reward the slightest bit of care with lovely flowers on graceful stems that sway gently in the late summer breeze. While they are not the showiest flowers in the garden, they calm those that strive to be. These ideal companion plants will enhance any perennial border from July through September. They won’t give up until the chill of autumn forces them to.

Garden Friends and Foes ..... By Todd Murray

Eriophyid Mites

Order: Acari
Family: Eriophyidae

Description and Life History:

These mites are small. Eriophyid mites are about 1/100 inch long. Unless you have a microscope or a powerful hand-lens handy, seeing them is nearly impossible. These mites have sausage-shaped, elongate bodies. Unlike their eight-legged relatives (spiders, scorpions and spidermites), Eriophyid mites have 2 pairs of legs.

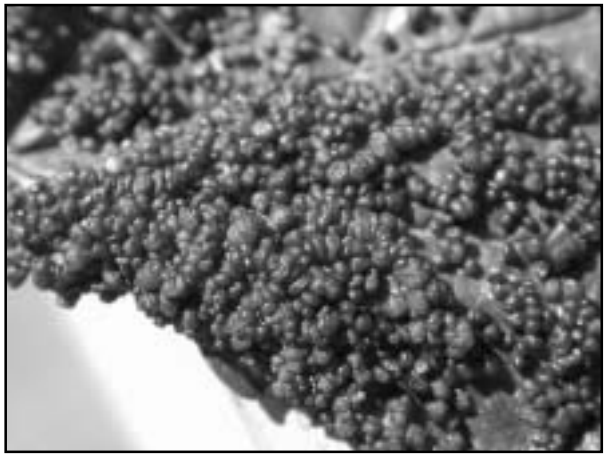

Figure 1. Maple bladder gall mite damage.

Eriophyid mites overwinter as adult females, called a deutogyne. This is a special kind of female mite that is able to go dormant and wait out bad weather and conditions, like winter or extreme heat. Females seek protection in cracks and crevices in the bark, buds or down in leaf litter. Once spring comes and foliage starts to develop, females begin feeding and laying eggs. A female can lay about 80 eggs over a month's time producing both male and female mites. Mites hatch and need to pass through two developmental stages. The time of development from egg to adult can take one to two weeks depending on conditions. Mites do not mate with each other; sacs that the male leaves lying around on the leaf surface fertilize the females as she walks around. No wining, dining or song in an Eriophyid's lifestyle.

While Eriophyid mites are small, they are mobile and can move around on a plant just fine. However if you are 1/100 of an inch long, how the heck do you get from plant to plant or tree to tree? Eriophyid mites rely on wind, birds, and flying insects to disperse. Eriophyids, along with other arthropods, have been collected blowing in air currents hundreds and hundreds of feet above the ground. For the home landscape, people are also an important mode of transportation for mites. Many introductions into your landscapes are from movement of infected plant material.

Damage:

All Eriophyid mites are plant parasites. They are considered parasites because they rarely kill plants, much like animal parasites. Eriophyid mites penetrate plant cells and suck up the cellular contents. This feeding causes plants to deform their tissue. This type of deformation is usually called a 'gall.' Galls are specific responses to plant parasite feeding. Plants respond by forming a tissue barrier around the feeding animal. This contains the animal from spreading and the animal in turn gets a custom-made food supply. The plant's response is specific to the species of mite feeding on it, causing predictable symptoms. Instead of having to identify the mite species, we usually identify the mite by the plant's response to the feeding damage.

Bud mites are specific to infesting the developing buds and fruits of certain plants. Common bud mites found in Whatcom County are the redberry and dryberry mites. Both these mites cause the developing fruit of black berries to be deformed and stunted. Next time you pop a Himalayan blackberry with an undeveloped druplet in your mouth, you probably just ate a world of mites!

Gall mites cause abnormal tissue growth of the plant's hairs and leaf cells. The gall forms a pocket that provides a protective area for the small mites to feed and reproduce. These galls can be quite apparent like we see in the Maple bladder gall mite. Galls can also appear as hairy mats called "erinea" like we see on walnuts infested by the walnut blister mite.

True blister mites cause plant deformations very similar to those of gall mites. The difference is that the pocket is formed in the mesophyll (internal leaf tissue) instead of the outer surfaces of the leaf. Pears in Whatcom County can have infestations of the pear blister mite.

Rust mites are common on apples and pear leaves. Rust mites generally do not cause any extreme deformation of the leaf surface like the other Eriophyid mites. Rust mites feed on the cellular contents of the leaf, which results in a bronzing or silvering effect. Very high populations can cause early defoliation.

Figure 2. Maple bladder gall mite. Size is about 100 microns (or about 0.004 inches).

Monitoring & Management:

Since these mites are so small, most detection of Eriophyid mites is through diagnosing plant symptoms. Look for leaf symptoms such as galls and blisters or leaf bronzing. Plants can tolerate large populations of mites; we find that it is the gardener that can't tolerate the damage. With a pimply, blistery maple tree, the damage looks much worse than it actually is. Based on your perception, these deformations can cause very pleasing, unusual colors and shapes.

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Weed of the Month ..... By Laurel Shiner

Blackberries

Himalayan Blackberry ***Rubus discolor*;**
Evergreen Blackberry ***Rubus laciniatus*;**
Trailing Blackberry ***Rubus ursinus***

Himalyan Blackberries

Himalayan blackberry, evergreen (or cut-leaf) blackberry and trailing (or wild) blackberry are the three common blackberries in Whatcom County. Of these, only one, trailing blackberry, is native. The other two are both introduced plants which have become aggressive weeds here. Despite being troublesome weeds, neither Himalayan nor evergreen blackberry is on the Washington State Noxious Weed List. The weed list addresses plants for which there is a realistic chance of state or countywide control, and both these plants are so abundant that such control is unrealistic.

HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY

THREAT: Himalayan blackberry is the most visible blackberry of Whatcom County, growing along roadsides, over fences and other vegetation, and invading many open areas. It is native to Western Europe and was probably first introduced into North America in 1885 as a cultivated crop. Himalayan blackberry is very aggressive, reproducing both vegetatively and through seed production and can displace native vegetation. Seeds can be spread by birds, humans and other mammals. Blackberries can form suckers off roots, and canes will root when they touch the ground, forming new plants. New plants will also readily grow from pieces of root or cane. Himalayan blackberry quickly forms impenetrable thickets, consisting of both dead and live canes.

DESCRIPTION: Himalayan blackberry is a robust, sprawling, weak-stemmed shrub. The stems, called canes, grow upright at first, then cascade onto surrounding vegetation, forming large mounds or thickets of the blackberry. While some canes stay more erect, growing up to 9 feet high, others are more trailing, growing 20-40 feet long. The canes can take root at the tip when they hit the ground, further expanding the infestation. Thorns grow along the stems, as well as on the leaves and leaf stalks. The leaves are palmate, usually with 5 large, oval, toothed leaflets. The leaflets are dark green on the upper surface and grayish-green below. Himalayan blackberry has white to light pink flowers, which produce a large, juicy, blackberry. The berries, which ripen between midsummer and autumn, are used as food by birds, humans and other mammals. Canes start producing berries in their second year. Individual canes may live only 2 to 3 years, with new stalks sprouting from the root crown. Himalayan blackberry can be evergreen, depending on the site.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Himalayan blackberry can be controlled through mechanical and chemical means. Seedlings can be hand pulled, especially in loose soil. Plants can also be hand dug. Care should be taken to remove as much of the root as possible to prevent resprouting. Mowing can be used to control blackberries, but it must be repeated throughout the growing season. Cutting and removing canes is a very short-term solution, as more canes will sprout from the root crown. However, these new sprouts could subsequently be treated with herbicide. If canes can only be removed once in a season, the best time is when the plant starts to flower, since much of the root reserves have gone into flowering. Himalayan blackberry can also be controlled through chemical means, although some herbicides can promote vegetative growth from lateral roots. Contact the weed control board for site-specific chemical recommendations. If herbicides are used during berry production, care should be taken to prevent people from using berries.

EVERGREEN BLACKBERRY

THREAT: Evergreen blackberry is a semi-erect shrub, introduced from Eurasia as a cultivated plant. Although not as invasive as Himalayan blackberry, evergreen blackberry does take over native vegetation. It spreads both vegetatively and by seed, spreading in the same manner as does Himalayan Blackberry. The seeds remain viable for a long period of time and are spread primarily by animals. It grows in a wide variety of habitats and soil types and does especially well in disturbed sites.

Evergreen Blackberries

DESCRIPTION: Evergreen blackberry is a semi-erect shrub, growing to 10 feet in height. The stems are generally biennial, bear fruit in their second year and grow from perennial rootstock. As the name implies, the leaves are evergreen. Each leaf has five leaflets, which have very divided edges, quite different than the leaves of the other blackberries. The leaves are green on both sides, hairy on the underside, and the plant is well armed with thorns. The flowers are white to pink and the berries are black. As with Himalayan blackberry, evergreen blackberry reproduces both vegetatively and by seed. It produces numerous sucke, and the stems will root upon touching the ground. After disturbance, evergreen blackberry usually sprouts vigorously.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Same as for Himalayan blackberry.

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Hovander Happenings

By David Simonson

Midsummer harvests are going on weekly at the demonstration garden. Produce goes to "Project Concern," Ferndale's food bank.

Part of volunteers education includes trying veggies and fruits from the garden. July 17 was the infamous "Fava bean day." In case you have never tried them—they really are quite tasty! Volunteers have also had beet greens and edible pod pea trials. We've also had black currant tarts, gooseberry pie and kim chi made from radishes.

Many thanks to all who have pitched in to rescue the Weed Identification Garden. It is almost up to Dick Steele's standard (well, not quite)!

Garden Friends & Foes - Eriophyid Mites

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If you don't feel this way, prune off infected leaves and use a dormant oil to smother the overwintering females.

It is only under rare circumstances that a pesticide application is recommended. Eriophyid mites do very little damage to plants and most plants can tolerate huge populations. Apple growers don't even get a little trigger-happy when rust mites build up to over 300 per leaf. In fact, Washington State apple growers enjoy having established populations of rust mites. WSU's own Dr. Stan Hoyt was one of the world's pioneers in Integrated Pest Management during the 1960's. He found that if growers could tolerate populations of rust mites, spidermites out-breaks happened less frequently. Why? Because rust mites offer a great alternative food source for our friends, the predatory mites. Broad-spectrum insecticides used for controlling codling moth, killed off the predatory mites. This, along with pesticide resistance, caused uncontrollable spidermite out-breaks. Learning this, Dr. Hoyt developed a program to conserve predatory mites by using selective pesticides for codling moth and tolerating rust mite populations. This program allowed predatory mites to build up enough to control spidermite populations as they appeared. Dr. Hoyt's efforts paved the way to changing Washington State grower's attitudes and contributed to the worldwide adoption of Integrated Pest Management.

So don't be ashamed of your red, pimply maple; this type of tolerance was key to changing pest management practices.

Weed of the Month - Blackberries

Continued from page 6

TRAILING BLACKBERRY

THREAT: As a native plant, trailing blackberry is part of the natural flora of Whatcom County. It can be a nuisance to landowners but is not as aggressive as the introduced species and is not a threat to other native plants.

DESCRIPTION: Trailing blackberry is a low-growing, trailing or climbing shrub, often found in wooded areas. It is an evergreen plant, which can grow 15 to 20 feet in length and form mounds. The stems are green when young, turn brown as they mature, and are densely covered with thorns. It is a much less robust plant than the two introduced species, with much thinner stems. The leaves are composed of three leaflets, which are generally more elongate than those of the Himalayan blackberry. They are green in color, lighter green on the underside, and alternate. The flowers are white to pink and the berries are black, although smaller in size than the two introduced blackberries. Trailing blackberry reproduces by seed, by suckers and by rooting at nodes on the trailing stems. The seeds are spread by animals. This plant tolerates a wide range of site conditions and sprouts readily after fire. Trailing blackberry quickly established on mudflows and other harsh sites after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens.

Trailing Blackberries

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: As trailing blackberry is a native, there should not be too much need to control this plant in natural situations. If control is desired, management options are the same as for Himalayan blackberry.

Master Gardener

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Courthouse Annex 1000 N. Forest St.
Bellingham, WA 98225 360/676-6736

Weeder's Digest is the monthly newsletter for the Whatcom County Master Gardener Program. Guest articles are encouraged. Please submit typewritten articles by the third Wednesday of each month to Karri at the Master Gardener Office. Articles can also be submitted by e-mail to: karrimac@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu. Editor uses MS Word for Windows and PageMaker 6.5. Any articles prepared on other programs or platforms should be saved as Text Files or Rich Text Files. Editor reserves the right to edit for space considerations, grammar, spelling and syntax.

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Master Gardener

Dates to Remember:

August 8	6 to 9 p.m.	**MG Potluck & Meeting** Hovander Park
August 6	9 a.m. to Noon	**NWW Fair Volunteer's Computer Training** Extension Office
August 12-17	All Day	**Northwest Washington Fair** Lynden
Wednesdays	8 to 9 a.m.	**Master Gardener breakfasts** Babe's in Ferndale
Wednesdays	1 to 4 p.m.	**Bellingham Public Library Clinic**
Wed. & Sat.	9 a.m. to noon	**Hovander Work Parties**