



September 2011

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE:

SEPTEMBER TREE PLANNING

It seems that we just said hello to summer, but here it is September and time to bid it farewell. With the hot, dry part of the year behind us, it is time to look forward to fall; arguably the best time of the year to plant trees. Have you started planning for fall planting?



In order for trees to grow to maturity and provide the many benefits we expect from them, they need to be well matched to site conditions. Once site conditions have been assessed for 1) above and below ground conflicts, 2) any site potential for necessary site modifications, and 3) the level of expected maintenance and care necessary, it is then time to select the right tree for the site.

List the tree attributes you are looking for that fit the limitations of the site. Attributes may include crown shape, flower color, or will address specific site-related needs like shade tolerance or wet soils. Consider species appropriate for your area, including those that are listed on community tree lists, if available.

Now comes the fun part for 'tree geeks.' It is time to pull out the nursery catalogs, or search the web for availability lists and look for the perfect tree for your site.

A red oak in Snoqualmie Dr. Ed Gilman of the University of Florida Agricultural Sciences has created a [site evaluation form](#) that can serve to guide you through the evaluation process. [Visit Dr. Gilman's web site](#) to find a great volume of information about tree selection, planting, care, maintenance, and management.

Keep in mind that October is "Urban & Community Forestry Month." If your community has volunteer events or fun celebrations planned, we are happy to list them in the Calendar of Events; just contact us.

Here's what you will find this month's edition of Tree Link:

- [Coordinator's Corner](#)
- [Free Trees for Tree Cities!](#)
- [Community Forestry Assistance Grant Project Success: Snoqualmie's Tree Inventory](#)
- [Tree City USA Applications now available](#)
- [Oak Pit Scales Damaging Native Oaks](#)
- [Urban Initiative Grant - University of Washington Canopy Study in Tacoma](#)
- [Spokane's Heritage Tree Program](#)
- [Announcing 2012 Community Forestry Assistance Grants](#)
- [Web-ucation: Links that Help you Learn](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

Correction: In the August Tree Link Jose Rizal Orchard Restoration project report, we incorrectly named the project's lead forest steward. Apologies to Craig Thompson. His efforts definitely deserve recognition.

Do you have a story to share in Tree Link? [Contact us!](#)

There is always Music amongst the trees in the Garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it. ~Minnie Aumonier



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

How is it September already? It seems like our summer is just getting started. We are looking forward to the fall here at the Urban and Community Forestry Program. We have many events and opportunities coming up. October is Urban and Community Forestry Month, so get out there and plant some trees to celebrate. If your community is a Tree City USA recipient, we have free trees available for Arbor Day celebrations (which can be either in the fall or the spring...or both!) through a grant from the USDA Forest

Service. Contact Linden Mead for more information. If your community is not a Tree City USA yet, give us a call and we can help you enroll for 2011.

We are also very excited to announce grants are available for 2012. More information, and the link to the grant resources page, can be found below. If you have project ideas, need more information, or would like any assistance, don't hesitate to call. Applications are due November 10th, so start planning now. There are also some great conferences and workshop opportunities this fall, so check out the calendar.

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FREE TREES FOR TREE CITIES

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY MONTH - OCTOBER



Thanks to funding assistance from the US Forest Service, UCF will once again provide grants for Arbor Day tree planting. That's right, Arbor Day. Did you know that a community can proclaim and celebrate the tree planter's holiday at any time of the year? Many cities select fall for their celebrations because it is a great time of the year to plant trees.

The \$200 grant is offered to help cities purchase a nice landscape-sized tree for their celebration. A 25% match (that is \$50 worth of donated or purchased materials, or volunteer or staff time) is required.

If your community is a designated Tree City, or will qualify as a Tree City in 2011, you are eligible to apply for the grant. For more information, take a look at the [Arbor Day 2011 Accomplishment Report and Reimbursement Request form](#) on our web page.

Not a Tree City? [Give us a call](#) or visit [Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA webpage](#) for more information.

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COMMUNITY FORESTRY ASSISTANCE GRANT - SNOQUALMIE'S TREE INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT

As part of this new Tree City USA's commitment to effective and sustainable management of the urban forest, the City of Snoqualmie recently completed a tree inventory and assessment of trees in parks, and along arterials and neighborhood collectors. The intent of the inventory was to inform city managers of the safety, health, and value of publicly owned trees. A 2010 Community Forestry Assistance Grant, in partnership with the US Forest Service, provided the funding that allowed the city to



contract with an arboriculture consulting firm to accomplish the inventory and provide a summary assessment report.

Data collected included tree species, diameter, site description, problems associated with long-term tree health, condition rating, and maintenance priority. Trees were all [appraised](#) using the Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers [Guide for Plant Appraisal](#) standards and assigned a monetary value. The total value of the 2,801 trees in the project area was \$649,735 or an average of \$188 per tree.

The data, collected electronically, was downloaded into the City's GIS data set which includes tree data from a 2007 inventory. The City of Snoqualmie plans to build on and routinely update the data set. Managing the community forest as city infrastructure, trees will be integrated into the planning process and right of way maintenance priorities.

For more information about Snoqualmie's successful inventory project, contact [Gwen Voelpel](#), Parks & Recreation Director, City of Snoqualmie, 425-831-5784

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TREE CITY USA ONLINE APPLICATIONS



Every year Tree Cities must report on the great things they have accomplished during the past year, and provide a work plan for the year to come. This is the second year that communities have the option to post their reports through [Arbor Day Foundation's \(ADF\) online reporting system](#). The deadline for reports is December 1, 2011. This allows time for UCF staff and the State Forester to look over and approve applications before sending them to ADF for final approval. Visit ADF's [online reporting page](#) to sign in or sign up for a password. If you have questions, feel free to give us a call.

If this is your first year applying for the Tree City designation, you will need to request a password. Visit the [online reporting page](#) for a link.

By the way, Arbor Day Foundation will still accept [hardcopy \(paper\) applications](#), if you are unable to report online.

Not a Tree City USA? We can help! [Contact us](#).

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OAK PIT SCALES DAMAGING OREGON WHITE OAKS IN WASHINGTON

Glenn Kohler, DNR Forest Entomologist; Todd Murray, WSU Extension

In spring 2011, landowners spanning the Columbia River Gorge, from Lyle to Stevenson to Washougal, Washington, reported damage and some mortality in Oregon white oaks. The culprit is oak pit scales (OPS), which are sucking insects that cause branch tip dieback, delayed leaf expansion in spring, and clumping of foliage in oaks. Dead leaves on OPS-infested oaks may persist on branches in the fall. Heavy infestations over several years may kill some oaks, especially



Oak pit scale, James Solomon,
U.S. Forest Service, Bugwood.org

those that are stressed by other factors, such as drought. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington State University (WSU) Extension found OPS to be the primary cause of oak damage in Skamania and

Klickitat counties. Damage has been recorded as far north as Tenino and Roy in the South Puget Sound area.

Oak pit scales are among several species of scale insects in the *Asterolecanium* genus (family Asterolecaniidae) that feed on numerous species of oaks. To be certain that OPS are present on a symptomatic oak, look closely at twig bark for evidence of the scale insects (magnification may be needed). The adults are no larger than the head of a pin, green to brown in color, circular, flattened, and usually surrounded by a ring of abnormal bark swelling. On heavy infestations, the previous year's growth will appear pimply in texture.

Often dieback of the branch will occur during heavy infestations. Adult females produce live young called crawlers in spring and summer. The tiny crawlers are the only mobile life stage that can colonize new growth. The crawlers usually do not move far from the parent. Young OPS settle to feed on fluids under twig and branch bark. Once settled, they do not move for the rest of their lives, causing the namesake 'pit' of swollen bark to grow around them. There is one generation per year. Unlike many other sucking pests, like aphids, OPS do not produce honeydew. Thus, infestations are only noticed by the damage itself.

It is uncertain what factors have led to the recent increase in OPS-caused damage in Washington. It is possible wet springs in 2010 and 2011 led to an increase in OPS because sucking insects often become more abundant when host trees have increased access to water. Drought conditions in preceding years may have stressed some trees, predisposing them to more severe damage and mortality. The majority of oak mortality associated with OPS has occurred in Klickitat County, where past drought conditions have been more prevalent. In Skamania County, where rainfall is significantly higher, the oak trees that expressed significant damage were trees that had other stresses such as recent construction, pavement over driplines, or steep inclines. In the relatively moist South Puget Sound area, infested oak stands have little or no mortality associated with OPS.



Clumping foliage indicates oak
pit scale

Based on landowner reports and observations by DNR and USDA Forest Service aerial surveyors, it appears damage is more severe on the edges of stands and in open grown oaks. Damage may be more evident in edge trees because they are more exposed to desiccating wind and heat that can wilt and dry leaves on OPS-infested twigs.

It is unknown if OPS damage will increase or decline in 2012. A change from environmental conditions favorable to OPS may lead to a decrease in their population. Natural enemies, such as parasitic wasps that kill scales, may increase their population and contribute to an eventual decline of OPS. While waiting for nature to take its course, landowners can protect high-value oaks by applying insecticide. Proper timing and selection of insecticide are critical for effective OPS control. Please refer to Washington State University (WSU) Extension's [Hortsense website](#) for more information on [managing OPS](#). Contact [Glenn Kohler](#), forest entomologist with DNR at 360-902-1342, or your county's [Washington State University](#)

[Extension](#) office for more information on proper timing and use of insecticides. For more information on other pest and disease concerns in Washington, visit the DNR Resource Protection Division's [Forest Health webpage](#)

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URBAN INITIATIVE GRANT - NEW UW TREE CANOPY STUDY - TACOMA CLOSER TO 30 PERCENT GOAL

The City of Tacoma's goal of 30 percent tree coverage isn't as far away



as originally thought. According to a City of Tacoma news release, a recent University of Washington (UW) study using 2009 photo imagery showed 19 percent of Tacoma covered with tree canopy. A previous study by the U.S. Forest Service using 2001 data had Tacoma's tree coverage at 12.9 percent.

The study was funded by an Urban Initiative grant from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry program in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

While the news is good, City of Tacoma Urban Forester Ramie Pierce notes that part of the increase is likely due to the UW study being more accurate and detailed. The UW study considered factors such as the Northwest's highly varied terrain and abundance of evergreen trees. The previous U.S. Forest Service study was part of a national inventory that looked at data on a broader level and often didn't take into account street trees or wetlands, Pierce said.

"We still have a lot of work ahead of us, but achieving the goal is worth it," Pierce said. "Trees are a valuable asset to our community. They give us cleaner air, higher property values, energy savings, flood prevention, healthier waterways, stronger business districts and more enjoyable neighborhoods. It pays to save trees."

For more information about Tacoma's Urban Forestry program or to learn about how plant and maintain trees in Tacoma, go to www.cityoftacoma.org/evergreentacoma.

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SPOKANE'S HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM IS UP AND RUNNING



Heritage horsechestnut in Spokane

It has been years in the making, but through the hard work of a few dedicated volunteers, Spokane's Heritage Tree Program is now a reality. The program, established in 1998, was created so that citizens of Spokane could officially recognize trees because of their size or historical significance. Procedures for determining what makes a heritage tree were created and implemented in 2009.

The main intention of the [Spokane Heritage Tree Program](#) is to increase public awareness of trees, the urban forest, and the [Spokane Urban Forestry Program](#). Other benefits of the program include increased awareness of significant heritage trees and citizen participation to identify and help preserve heritage trees throughout the City.

In order to be considered for the Heritage Tree Program a tree or group of trees needs to possess unique characteristics. The following criteria are used:

- The tree has historical significance to a person, place, or event
- The tree has attained significant size for its age or species
- The tree has special aesthetic qualities for its species
- The tree is prominently visible to the public
- The tree possesses rare horticultural value
- The tree is not a hazard or obstruction
- The owner of the tree agrees in writing to the heritage designation of the tree

Susan Traver, who at the time was representing the Spokane Preservation Advocates on the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Spokane Urban Forestry Program, spearheaded the effort to implement official procedures to nominate trees. When asked why she took on the project she said:

"I just plain love trees and I particularly love Spokane's trees. Working to initiate the Heritage Tree Program, for me, was a perfect blend of my interests in preserving Spokane's 'bricks and mortar' historic heritage through my volunteer work with Spokane Preservation Advocates, and my volunteer work to preserve Spokane's wonderful and historic urban forest.

The ordinance establishing The Heritage Tree Program was already 'on the books.' There weren't any instructions-administrative stuff-to run the program. I researched how other cities managed their heritage tree programs and took bits and pieces from successful programs, put it into Spokane-ordinance-format and started working for its adoption by briefing the Park Board and City Council members.

The Citizens Advisory Committee to the Urban Forest Tree Committee and Spokane Parks and Recreation staff were vital in advocating for this great urban forest and heritage program. The advisory committee shows time and time again how a group of committed individuals can get work done that others have neglected or don't have the time to work on."

To learn more about the Spokane Heritage Tree Program you can [visit the website](#). You will find nomination forms, property owner agreement forms and the actual ordinance language that was used to implement the process. If your community is considering a heritage tree program there are lots of examples and information on the website to assist you in creating your own program.

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ANNOUNCING THE 2012 COMMUNITY FORESTRY ASSISTANCE GRANT

Grant season is now in session!

You can find information about the 2012 Community Forestry Assistance Grant on our new [Grant Resources Web page](#). Grants are from \$3,000 to \$10,000 and can be used for educational and planning projects, including inventories, canopy assessments, and management plans. A small portion of available funds can be used for planting projects that demonstrate proactive mitigation of climate change or that improve water quality within the Puget Sound watershed.

Find more ideas and sample projects on our [Grant Resources Web page](#). Please contact us or call 800-523-8733, if you have questions. **Applications are due November 10, 2011.**

Thanks to our partner, the U.S. Forest Service for making this funding possible. We look forward to your application!

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WEB-UCATION - LINKS TO HELP YOU LEARN

[Carbon Gobbling Trees](#): The *Oregonian* recently published an article detailing a new study by the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon State University showing that if left alone the ability of a forest to absorb carbon dioxide could help slow the pace of climate change.

Online learning opportunity: Arbor Pods by [International Society of Arboriculture](#) Detective Dendro®, the Diagnostic Sleuth, uses his professional knowledge of tree science, his expert diagnostic skills, and the gut instinct of a "hard-boiled detective" to investigate and identify his clients' biotic and abiotic tree disorders. A highly popular printed series in the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) *Arborist News* magazine, this educational and entertaining series is now available in [podcast form](#).

[Science of Arboriculture podcasts](#): These in-depth, 40-minute presentations are by prominent industry professionals in tree care business and research.

[The Pitfalls of Topping by Dr. Tree - YouTube](#): Learn from [Friends of Trees'](#) resident expert, Dr. Tree, why trees should not be topped.

[Tree Protection Guidelines](#): A guide for protecting, conserving, selecting, maintaining, removing, and replacing trees on development sites in the Pacific Northwest.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY IN KENT

Saturday, September 24, 9 a.m.-noon, [Lake Fenwick Park in Kent](#)

Registration is required by September 21. Contact: [Victoria Andrews](#), 253-856-5113

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE

[Annual Training Conference: Common Roots To Community Benefits](#)

October 2-5, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Events include: Tree Climbing Championship, Sunday on October 2;
Field Day and Conference Monday - Wednesday, October 3-5.

[More information on the web](#) or email the [chapter office](#) or call 503-874-8263

MUNICIPAL TREE CARE WORKSHOPS

October 13 in Yakima; October 19 in Camas; October 25 in Montesano

Attend one of these full-day municipal tree care workshops. The workshops will teach basic tree biology, tree selection, planting, pruning, and general maintenance those that care for trees in communities. The workshops are low or no cost thanks to several generous sponsors. For more information or to sign up for one of the workshops, contact [Linden Mead](#) or call 360-902-1703. DNR's UCF office offers education opportunities statewide. If you would like to schedule a workshop for communities in your area, [please contact us](#).

2011 PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

November 15-17, 2011, at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Florida

This annual event serves as a gathering of leaders in the field of urban forestry. The conference promotes sustainable partnership models, connecting diverse organizations that impact the health of community trees and encouraging innovation in programs and projects through traditional and non-traditional partners.

Visit the [conference webpage](#) for more information, or contact [Kyrsten Mottl](#), 402-473-9553

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The Washington Urban and Community Forestry Program is made possible with assistance from the [USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program](#). The program's purpose is to educate citizens and decision-makers about the economic, environmental, psychological, and aesthetic benefits of trees and to assist local governments, citizen groups and volunteers in planting and sustaining healthy trees and vegetation wherever people live and work in Washington State. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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