



Palouse Prairie Foundation

Promoting preservation and restoration of the Palouse Prairie ecosystem

PO Box 8952
Moscow, ID 83843



[Facebook](#)



[Email](#)



[Website](#)

Upcoming Events

Idaho Native Plant Society –
White Pine Chapter
Native Plant Sale
May 12–16, 2021
[Online](#)

Weeding Party at John Crock
Pollinator Garden
April 27, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Please park at lot adjacent
to Carmichael Rd.

Annual Weeding Party at
Whelan Cemetery
Information forthcoming

Palouse Prairie Flyer

Newsletter of the Palouse Prairie Foundation Spring 2021



Helping to preserve and learning to restore Palouse Prairie (photo by David Hall)

Enjoying Springtime Prairie

The seasons are critical to Palouse Prairie. Spring is thrilling for prairie lovers because the plants burst forth with new growth and some early flowering native plants such as Creeping Oregon Grape and Golden Currant. Please turn the page to enjoy some beautiful photos of these and other native bloomers in the article provided by guest author Pamela Pavek, Resource Conservationist, USDA-NRCS.

All this talk about blooms reminds us that we have several pollinators to consider. We've included some interesting facts about them.

Along with the flowers and the pollinators, spring also brings weeds. Poison hemlock and how to treat it are discussed. Please help eradicate it if you have it on your property. Let's enjoy spring as much as we can. It doesn't last long!

Here's what's included in this edition of your newsletter:

- [Planting Native Plants for Pollinators: A Win-Win-Win](#)
- [Look Out for Poison Hemlock](#)
- [Soil Sampling of Palouse Prairie](#)

Did You Know...?

- One out of three bites of food exists because of pollinators.
- One native leaf cutter bee can do the pollination work of 20 non-native species.
- The largest pollinator is the black and white ruffled lemur. That's one we won't see on the Palouse!

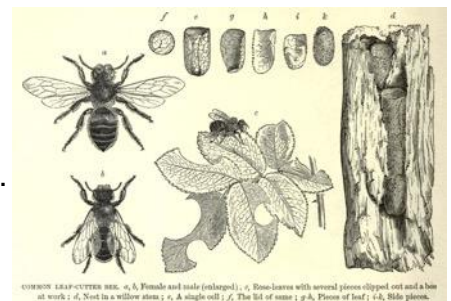


Image courtesy of Richard Lydekker, Wikimedia Commons

Planting Native Plants for Pollinators: A Win-Win-Win

By Pamela Pavek, Resource Conservationist, USDA-NRCS

Would you like to conserve water, enhance landscape beauty, and provide valuable food sources for pollinators? You can achieve all three of these goals at the same time by planting native plants in your yard! Native plants are perfectly adapted to our climate and do not need any supplemental water once they are established. An additional benefit is there are many native plants with attractive characteristics. (See below for descriptions and photos of a few of my favorites.) Most importantly, native plants provide pollen, which is a source of protein for bees, and nectar, which is a source of carbohydrates for many types of pollinators, including bees, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds. Several plants also provide nesting habitat and serve as a larval host for native butterflies.

All types of pollinators are currently in precipitous decline, due to loss of habitat to urban development, lack of diversity in agricultural landscapes, the use of insecticides, and the spread of diseases. We can help slow pollinators' decline by improving plant and habitat diversity wherever possible. Planting native plants in urban settings enhances local native pollinator populations and creates small refuges where pollinators and other wildlife can stop to re-energize themselves when travelling through the area.

To maximize the benefits of a pollinator-friendly landscape, follow these guidelines:

- Include a minimum of nine species with various bloom times (spring, mid-summer, late-summer).
- Include species with various flower shapes, sizes, and colors.
- Group plants of the same species together. This is helpful for bees since they only collect pollen from one type of flower on each foraging trip. This approach also improves aesthetics. Many landscape designers advise to group plants in clusters with odd numbers (in groups of 3, 5, or 7) to enhance the dramatic impact of plants' color and texture.

A few of my favorite native plants (in order of bloom time) for urban landscapes are included on the following pages. I guarantee you will enjoy planting more of your yard to native Palouse Prairie plants and seeing the bees, butterflies, other insects, and birds you will attract. "You build it, and they will come!"

Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*)

Plant Type: Shrub

Pollinator Benefits: One of the first plants to bloom in the spring.

Landscape Benefits: Produces pretty yellow flowers in the spring and black or red berries in the fall for birds. Foliage turns a beautiful red color in the fall.



(photo by Ben Legler)

Creeping Oregon Grape (*Mahonia repens*)

Plant Type: Sub-shrub

Pollinator Benefits: Early-season bloomer.

Landscape Benefits: Produces clusters of yellow flowers, leaves that remain green through winter and blackish-purple berries for birds.



(photo courtesy of Julie Kane, Burke Herbarium)

Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

Plant Type: Sub-shrub

Pollinator Benefits: Attracts a wide variety of bumblebees and other bees.

Landscape Benefits: Has small bell-shaped pink flowers, red berries in the fall, and shiny leaves that remain green through winter. Is an attractive ground cover.



(photo by Ben Legler)

Roundleaf Alumroot (*Heuchera cylindrica*)

Plant Type: Perennial forb

Pollinator Benefits: Attracts a wide variety of small bumblebees and other small bees.

Landscape Benefits: Produces stalks of cream-colored flowers and clusters of round leaves that remain green through winter.



(photo by Ben Legler)

Taperleaf Penstemon (*Penstemon attenuatus*)

Plant Type: Perennial forb

Pollinator Benefits: Attracts large bumblebees.

Landscape Benefits: Produces iridescent blue tubular flowers.



(photo by Pamela Pavek)

Wyeth's Buckwheat (*Eriogonum heracleoides*)

Plant Type: Sub-shrub

Pollinator Benefits: Attracts a wide variety of small insects.

Landscape Benefits: Produces cream-colored, umbel-shaped flowers that turn pink and a mat of silvery-green leaves. Makes a great ground cover.



(photo by Ben Legler)

Nettleleaf Giant Hyssop (*Agastache urticifolia*)

Plant Type: Perennial forb

Pollinator Benefits: Attracts a variety of insects including many butterflies.

Landscape Benefits: Plants have a pleasant odor (in mint family), produce stalks of beautiful pink flowers, and stems remain erect through the winter, providing nice vertical structure.



(photo by Ben Legler)

Missouri Goldenrod (*Solidago missouriensis*)

Plant Type: Perennial forb

Pollinator Benefits: Provides late-season pollen and nectar for queen bees, who are provisioning their winter nests.

Landscape Benefits: One of the few native plants blooming in late summer. Produces stalks of yellow flowers and mats of green, linear leaves. *Plant in a corner of the yard where you don't mind it spreading.*



(photo by Pamela Pavek)

Jessica's Aster (*Symphotrichum jessicae*)

Plant Type: Perennial forb

Pollinator Benefits: Provides late-season pollen and nectar for queen bees, who are provisioning their winter nests.

Landscape Benefits: One of the few native plants blooming in late summer. Produces purple daisy-like flowers on tall stems. *Plant in a corner of the yard where you don't mind it spreading.*



(photo by Gerry Queener)

You can find many of these plants at the following places:

- White Pine Native Plant Sale, May 12-15, 2021 (online)
- Fiddler's Ridge Nursery
- Plants of the Wild

Look Out for Poison Hemlock

by Shelley Chambers-Fox



Young poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) has fern-like leaves that assist in identifying the young plants. (photo by Shelley Chambers-Fox)

Poison hemlock can be seen along roads, bordering pastures, agricultural fields, and streams. The plant is not native to the Americas and can be distinguished from the native (and also toxic) water hemlock by the purple spots on its stems. Poison hemlock grows 6 to 8 feet tall, branching extensively into fern-like leaflets. It develops white flowers in umbrella-shaped clusters. It emerges early in the Palouse spring and is best managed as soon as it can be identified by its characteristic leaves.

The Pacific Northwest Weed Handbook recommends 2, 4-D; the reader is referred to the product label for concentration, application rates, and precautions. The label cautions that the field should not be grazed until the plants have dried up, usually 7 days after application, as

all parts of the plants are toxic to livestock and humans. If the area has been heavily infested with poison hemlock plants in previous seasons, the field should be scouted for emerging plants every 2 to 3 weeks and the treatment applied to these plants before they exceed knee high. Treatment of smaller plants will reduce the amount of spray required and minimize the amount of spray that falls off target. Once plants are larger they may be cut down using a brush cutter or mower before they go to seed.

References

1. Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook, Hemlock, poison, available at <https://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/problem-weeds/hemlock-poison-conium-maculatum> accessed on 4/15/21.
2. 2, 4 D Amine 400 label available at <http://www.cdms.net/ldat/ldEL8000.pdf> accessed on 4/15/21.

Soil Sampling of Palouse Prairie

by Kim Sarff

The Palouse Prairie Foundation has authorized soil sampling at the Whelan Cemetery. The project is led by Assistant Professor Maren Friesen, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Washington State University. Sampling will be done with caution to minimize soil disturbance and native plants. The research will look at the how nitrogen-fixers in the soil are influenced by agricultural systems. The samples will provide a control for comparison to nearby agricultural fields.

We need help weeding! Bring gloves. You can join our efforts in the following locations:

- John Crock Pollinator Garden, April 27, 3:30 p.m. Please park at lot off Carmichael Rd.
- Whelan Cemetery (date to be arranged)



2021 Palouse Prairie Foundation Membership Letter

PRESERVE – PROTECT – PROMOTE

Why should you support the Palouse Prairie Foundation with your 2021 membership?

In 2020, the Palouse Prairie Foundation:

- Managed weeds at Whelan Cemetery near Pullman through volunteer efforts led by Eric Anderson, removed encroaching lilacs with funding from the Washington Native Plant Society, and supported the Palouse Conservation District.
- Continued to develop the John Crock Native Plant and Pollinator Garden site on the Latah Trail near Moscow by controlling weeds through volunteer labor led by Elisabeth Brackney and a contracted mowing service; planted native trees and shrubs and monitored the development of native grasses through efforts of Elisabeth Brackney and Joan Folwell.
- Provided a mini-grant to the Appaloosa Horse Museum for establishing a native plant garden.
- Collaborated with Eastern Washington University to establish their 150-acre Palouse Prairie restoration project, which included the completion of a "Palouse Prairie Needs Assessment" and a study of Palouse Prairie soils.
- Protected Palouse Prairie remnants related to applications for two cell tower sites and one home site through PPF-initiated regulations in the Whitman County Critical Areas Ordinance.

Your support of PPF is a direct benefit to **YOU**:

- Receive invitations to local field trips.
- Get direct access to the expertise and experience of other restorers and protectors of the Prairie.
- Add your effort at the level and in the activity of your choice to help preserve this important ecosystem.

The Palouse Prairie Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations are tax deductible. Email messages are the primary way that members are notified of all events and news. Please provide the membership information requested below and send it with your dues to:

Palouse Prairie Foundation, P.O. Box 8952, Moscow, Idaho 83843-1452

THANK YOU!

Membership Information

Name	_____	Dues:	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10
Street Address	_____		<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$20
City, State, Zip	_____		<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35
E-mail Address	_____		<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$50
			<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100
I would like	<input type="checkbox"/> John Crock Garden		<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$250
updates about	<input type="checkbox"/> Whelan Cemetery		<input type="checkbox"/> Donation	_____
these projects:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			