



## Hyslop Field Day Slated for May 23

Oregon State University Extension Weed Management Specialist Andy Hulting will provide growers insight into how to optimize use of Fierce herbicide at the 2018 Hyslop Farm Field Day on May 23.

With registration of the herbicide expected in time for fall application this year, the field day offers one more chance to see how Fierce has performed in plots. To date, Hulting said, after several years of research, all looks good.

Containing a combination of pyroxasulfone and flumioxazin, Fierce provides excellent pre-emergence control of annual ryegrass, including biotypes with multiple resistance, and is strong on annual bluegrass, roughstalk bluegrass and rattail fescue, Hulting said.

Hulting’s presentation is among ten scheduled at the annual field day. Among other reports, field day participants will hear reports on:

- Slug biology and management from OSU Extension slug management specialist Rory McDonnell;
- Stem rust resistance in perennial ryegrass from USDA ARS National Forage Seed Production Research Center Leader Ryan Hayes;
- Grass seed yield responses to plant growth regulators from OSU Extension agent Nicole Anderson and OSU seed crop physiologist Tom Chastain;
- Controlling wheat diseases through varietal selections and fungicidal applications from OSU plant pathologist Chris Mundt;
- Wheat breeding and genetics from OSU wheat breeder Bob Zemetra;
- Choke and barley yellow dwarf virus research updates from USDA ARS’s Ruth Martin;
- And on Soil Fertility and Health from OSU Extension soil scientist Amber Moore.

Hulting also will provide an update on his work with Alion herbicide, another promising pre-emergence product in the



*OSU Extension Weed Management Specialist Andy Hulting will be providing Hyslop Farm Field Day participants updates on research into weed management in grasses grown for seed May 23 at Hyslop Farm.*

pipeline that is showing great promise in grass seed production systems. Alion is strong on several grass and broadleaf weeds, including some resistant species, Hulting said.

The field day starts at 8 a.m. with announcements from Crop and Soil Science Department Head Jay Noller and ends at noon with a catered lunch, instead of the usual barbecue.

Hyslop Farm is located on Highway 20 about halfway between Corvallis and Albany at 3455 N.E. Granger, Corvallis.

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## New Extension Wheat Scientist Focusing on Variety Trials

Because he is transitioning from potato research to wheat and barley, Ryan Graebner is taking a clean slate into his new position as Oregon State University Extension cereals scientist. And his first order of business? Maintain the existing variety trials.

“My role, especially for the first and second year, is just going to be to make sure the (OSU Extension) variety trials are conducted on the same level of rigor that Mike Flowers was able to accomplish,” Graebner said. Flowers, Graebner’s predecessor, left OSU last September for a position with Limagrain Cereal Seeds after a dozen years as Extension cereals specialist.

“If that is the only thing I accomplish my first two years, I will be pretty happy,” Graebner said.

OSU announced it had hired Graebner on April 18, less than a week after the 28-year-old had obtained his Ph.D. from OSU’s Department of Crop and Soil Science. He is working out of the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center in Pendleton, a change from Flowers, who worked on campus.

Mary Corp, director of CBARC, said she is delighted with the change in location of the cereal variety program from Corvallis to Pendleton, and in having Graebner take over leadership of the program.

“I think he has the skills and training to do a great job, and I know he is committed to the region and to the growers,” Corp said.

OSU consulted with wheat growers before deciding to move the position to Pendleton. “We talked to the wheat growers about if it made more sense to move the program to where we grow the most wheat in the state, and they were very supportive of the idea,” she said. “I think it is going to be a great fit.”

Jay Noller, head of the Department of Crop and Soil Science, said the move to Pendleton in no way signals the university is discontinuing working on issues affecting Willamette Valley wheat production.

“We are not abandoning Willamette Valley wheat growers,” Noller said. “We are going to be able to maintain that work with our campus wheat breeder and the faculty research assistants that



*New OSU Extension Cereals Scientist Ryan Graebner, pictured at the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center in Pendleton, said his first order of business is managing the wheat variety trials with “the same level of rigor that (former Extension Cereals Specialist) Mike Flowers was able to accomplish.”*

are here. Also, Nicole Anderson, who has moved to the Willamette Valley Research and Extension Center in Aurora, adopted one of Mike’s (Flowers) faculty research assistants, so she and he will continue to work on wheat.”

OSU plant pathologist Chris Mundt continues to work in wheat from on campus, Noller said. And Graebner said he will continue to maintain the North Valley and South Valley variety trials that have provided valuable information to Willamette Valley growers for more than a decade.

With the help of two faculty research assistants, which he plans to bring on board in the near future, and a team of student workers that he plans to hire this summer, Graebner is looking to release data from the variety trials in August, in time for growers to make fall planting decisions.

“Particularly on the newer varieties, every single additional year of data is valuable, so we hope to have data from this year’s variety trials available for growers by mid-August,” Graebner said.

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### THE E-NEWSLETTER

The goal of this e-newsletter is to provide timely updates to Oregon seed producers and field reps. It includes a snapshot of what’s happening currently with respect to weather, pest and disease outbreaks, harvest, label updates, and other management activities. Growers or field reps can provide input anytime at [mitchlies@comcast.net](mailto:mitchlies@comcast.net).



## Revision of Willamette Basin TMDL Concerns Ag

Triggered by a revision of rules regulating the maximum amount of mercury allowed in Willamette Basin waterways, Oregon farm interests are becoming concerned that the state may be heading toward more prescriptive-based agricultural water quality regulations.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is revising the Willamette Basin Total Maximum Daily Loads for mercury in response to a court order requiring EPA to ratchet down the TMDL by April 2019. The April 2017 U.S. District Court ruling, which sprang out of a lawsuit brought by environmental organizations, was tied to a 2011 revised water-quality standard for mercury that decreased the acceptable levels of mercury in fish from 0.3 milligrams per kilogram of fish tissue to 0.040 milligrams per kilogram, a level eight times more stringent than the level in place when the original 2006 mercury TMDL was established.

Particularly disconcerting among farm interests is that DEQ has identified agricultural erosion as contributing over forty percent of the mercury in the Willamette Basin from a combination of natural soil, plus air deposited mercury in agricultural runoff. This is well above the projected contribution of other nonpoint sources, such as forestry, mining and road construction. Global air deposition of mercury, which DEQ estimates is spread among the land uses, makes up over thirty percent of the mercury in Oregon streams, according to DEQ.

In a presentation at a Willamette Basin TMDL Advisory Committee meeting at the Linn County Extension Office in Tangent March 21, Mike Powers, an Oregon Department of Agriculture Water Quality specialist, said existing rules require farmers to keep pollutants out of all waters, and that farmers are doing a good job of meeting that requirement. Powers said revising the nine-

existing agricultural water quality management plans to a more prescriptive approach would be impractical in the Willamette Basin, given that more than 170 different crops are produced in the basin on many different types of soils.

He said the department regularly works with natural resource organizations to assess environmental practices in place on farms and identify and help implement additional practices and conservation measures that farmers can take to further improve their water quality practices.

“The Oregon approach to agricultural water quality is a team effort that includes Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Oregon State University Extension Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and private organizations, such as The Freshwater Trust.

“Then we have our landowners,” he said. “There is a lot of work done on the ground that never gets reported. Folks are doing a great job.”

Powers said the department has no plans to scrap its existing outcomes-based approach to water quality, an approach that has been in place since 1993, when then Gov. John Kitzhaber signed Oregon Senate Bill 1010, the Oregon Agricultural Water Quality Management Act, into law. Still, farm interests are concerned that the department, which regulates agricultural water quality in Oregon, may be pressured to alter its approach.

Paula Calvert, Willamette Basin Mercury TMDL project manager, said that as of press deadline DEQ was still in the process of developing the TMDL. She said the agency plans to make it available for public comment in early October for approximately sixty days.



## OSU Expands Ergot Spore Trapping

Oregon State University has expanded ergot spore trapping efforts this year in hopes of refining and validating regional models that Oregon grass seed growers use to time fungicide treatments.

OSU this year has seven spore traps in three grass seed production areas, including two in Umatilla County, two in the Grande Ronde Valley, two in the Columbia Basin of Washington and a site in Jefferson County. Different this year, Extension has pushed trapping farther north, trapping for spores in a Kentucky bluegrass field east of Eltopia, Washington. The researchers also are using a recently developed DNA-based assay to identify spores from the spore traps, replacing more tedious microscopic methods.

Now in its eleventh year, historical trap counts have shown highest spore production occurs on average between May 14 and June 6, with the model showing spore counts can start to occur as early as May 1 or as late as May 25 and continue until as late as June 17.

A predictive model for ergot ascospores was recently developed for the Lower Columbia Basin of Oregon that uses accumulated degree-days (beginning January 1, with a base temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit and an upper threshold temperature of 77 degrees) to forecast when ascospores are likely to be present.

According to the model, most ascospores are produced in the Columbia Basin when accumulate degree-days are between 414 and 727. This year, accumulated degree-days as of May 8 were 366 in Hermiston, Oregon. As of May 8 in 2017, accumulated degree-days were 276.

OSU plant pathologist Jeremiah Dung said growers should be prepared to treat their flowering grass seed crops during the window of greatest inoculum pressure.

Also new this year, OSU is pushing their Ergot Alerts via a blog, which can easily be viewed on PCs, tablets and mobile devices. The new blog format will allow researchers to provide growers and fieldmen with timely, focused updates throughout the season, according to Dung.

This research is funded by the Oregon Seed Council, the Washington Turfgrass Seed Commission, the Columbia Basin Grass Seed Growers, the Jefferson County Seed Growers Association and the Union County Grass Seed Growers Association.

To subscribe to the newsletter and obtain information on how to access the blog, contact Dr. Dung at 541-475-7107 or at [jeremiah.dung@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jeremiah.dung@oregonstate.edu).

## CALENDAR

- May 15** Ryegrass Commission meeting, 6 p.m., Cascade Grill, Albany
- May 22** Oregon Seed Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., Cascade Grill, Albany
- May 23** OSU Hyslop Field Day, Corvallis, 8 a.m., Lunch (free lunch following morning field day)  
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- May 24** Tall Fescue Commission meeting, 6 p.m., Cascade Grill, Albany
- June 26** Oregon Seed Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., Cascade Grill, Albany

