This $20 tip could save you hundreds on lawn care!

**BY RICH GUGGENHEIM**

Lawn aeration is an inexpensive way to reduce soil compaction and thatch, increase oxygen and water penetration in the soil and improve overall lawn health. When done in the spring and fall, aerating your lawn, increases rooting depth; reducing the need for water, fertilizer, and other chemicals to be applied to your lawn as it promotes a healthier lawn which is more resistant to disease and pest.

Meet our New Educator!

**New Horticulture Educator in Canyon County**

**BY RICH GUGGENHEIM**

Hello and thank you to everyone who has welcomed me into your community. For those who have not yet met me, I look forward to meeting and working with you!

For those who do not know me yet, my name is Rich, and I am the new Horticulture Extension Educator for the University of Idaho in Canyon County. I started in January and am excited to be here. Prior to working here, I worked in Colorado as a 4-H Horticulture Extension Coordinator. It was a fun job that kept me very busy and a job where I learned a lot. While I was there I had the opportunity to work with youth and adults in a variety of extension programs including 4-H and the Master Gardener programs. I also enjoyed having a weekly radio program and writing for the newspapers.

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I still am an avid Disney fan, and go back each spring for the EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival. Before I worked for Disney, I attended Brigham Young University - Idaho where I earned a bachelor’s degree in horticulture. I look forward to working with you and if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to stop in or email me at richg@uidaho.edu.

Pest Alert Network

**Sign up for free alerts on when pests need to be controlled**

**BY DIAN ROBERSON**

Canyon County Horticulture Program Assistant

We all have those garden pests that need our attention every year. Maybe it is the Codling Moth in your Apples or when that first frost will appear in the fall.

If you are like me, you forget when to spray and what to spray from year to year. Wouldn’t it be nice if someone would just send you an e-mail or a text that says “Hey! It’s time to spray for Codling Moth!” or “Cover your tomatoes. You might get frost tonight!”?

(Cont’d on the next page)
Well, for many years, this service has been available to the agricultural community throughout Idaho in the form of the Pacific Northwest Pest Alert Network. Over the last year, the website has been overhauled and improved to include homeowners! Now you can go to www.pnwestalert.net and sign up as a homeowner to receive local lawn & garden information and pest alerts. They will be sent FREE directly to your phone or email! It is as easy as that! These alerts will be generated by a dedicated group of Canyon County Master Gardeners in cooperation with University of Idaho Extension Educators from all over the state. Master Gardeners will be scouting tirelessly to spot anything in the landscape that might be of interest to you and report it on the Pest Alert Network to you. You can be involved as a Citizen Scientist. If you notice something arise in your area that you think is alert you and report it on the Pest Alert Network to you. You can be involved as a Citizen Scientist. If you notice something arise in your area that you think is alert worthy, we would like to know! You can e-mail us at cccmg@uidaho.edu and we will get the word out with research based information on the subject.

CALENDAR
Spring/Summer Calendar 2016

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Stop by and visit our beautiful, blooming demonstration garden in West Park (Lone Star and Midland) in Nampa this summer. Always open, always free.
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Tuna Can Sprinkler Calibration

SAMANTHA GRAF, M.S.
Canyon County Extension Educator - Livestock

As we begin our irrigation season, many of us are curious how much and how often we should be watering our pastures to attain optimal growth. However, before you can answer this question you need to know how much water your sprinklers are actually putting out.

The first step is to determine which type of sprinkler system you have in your pasture. Is it a solid-set system, where the delivery pipes are buried under the ground and the sprinkler heads rise above the ground surface? Is your sprinkler system mobile, such as wheel or hand lines, traveling large gun-type, or an end-tow system (something similar to a K-line style)?

The steps to calibrate actual sprinkler application rate vary slightly depending on which irrigation system you have in place. For this scenario we are going to use a solid-set sprinkler system to determine real application rate in inches applied per hour.

The supplies you will need include: eight (8) straight-sided cans of equal size and height such as used and clean tuna-fish cans; one large can to pour all the water collected into such as a used, clean soup can; stopwatch or timer; ruler or tape measure; calculator; pencil and paper.

Place your eight (8) tuna-fish cans between two sprinklers as shown below, and turn on your sprinklers for 45 minutes.

When the 45 minutes is up, take the water from each tuna-fish can and pour it into the large soup-type can. Measure the total amount of water in the large can with your ruler.

Now comes the math. Let’s use 2.5 inches total in the large can as an example.

2.5 inches (total inches) ÷ 8 cans (number of cans) = 0.313 inches per can

We also need to know our time frame to help us complete the calculation.

45 minutes (sprinkler run time) ÷ 60 minutes per hour = 0.75 hours (time measured)

Now we can figure the actual sprinkler application rate in inches per hour.

0.313 inches (inches per can) ÷ 0.75 hours (time measured) = 0.417 inches per hour

If you need to know how long to run your sprinklers to deliver a set amount of water the formula is below.

2 inches (desired application amount) ÷ 0.417 inches per hour = 4.79 hours

During your irrigation cycle, be sure to monitor run-off. You may have to stop irrigating for a while to allow for the water to seep into the soil, and then begin irrigating again until the desired application amount has been achieved.
You will want to get water to this depth, but you do not want extract soil water from a uniform well drained soil. Crops have different rooting depths (see chart at right).

Another thing you would want to know is the rate which your plant is using water. This is called $E_v$. Average $E_v$ values for the Treasure Valley range from .25 to .35 inches/day.

Here’s an example for grapes, if you have a silt loam soil, which will hold 2 inches water/foot of soil and the rooting depth for grapes is 5 feet, you will have 10 inches of water in the root zone. Most plants can only use 50% (or half) of the water available, so you can use 5 inches of the water. Grapes’ $E_v$ value is .33 inches/day.

Taking the water available and dividing by $E_v$ you know how often to irrigate. (5 inches water/ .33 inches per day = 15 days)

Knowing this information will let you apply the right amount of water at the right time.

Want to Learn More? Check out these publications:
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### Idaho Sustainable Land Management

**SAMANTHA GRAF, M.S.**
**Canyon County Extension Educator - Livestock**

What does the word “tree” trigger in your mind? Drinking lemonade on a hot summer’s day under a tree in the cool shade? Do you think about trees and shrubs helping you conserve energy and water? How about using trees and shrubs to help you attract wildlife?

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The “Idaho Sustainable Land Management” program will focus on designing windbreaks, attractive and functional landscaping for conservation endeavors, as well as landscaping to attract wildlife and pollinators to your property.

Additionally, it will cover how introducing trees and shrubs into your landscape can aid in conservation efforts, and getting your small acreage ready for your conservation efforts. Attendees can purchase an optional soil test prior to the course beginning to aid in determining soil preparation needs.

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### Conservation Plantings Provide Many Benefits

An Example of the Effects of a Windbreak on Wind Speed.

[Image of windbreak effectiveness]

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**BY LINDA PHILLIPS**
**University of Idaho Advanced Master Gardener**

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One of the most common issues we see in Plant Clinic is sick or dead plants from improper watering. No matter what type of irrigation system you are using, Irrigation Water Management (IWM) will help you attain the most benefit from your water resource. Your soil type and condition, your crop's rooting depth and $E_v$ (how much water the soil can hold. Compaction layers that effectively lessen your rooting depth, you will also affect your irrigation. If you have compaction soil the more water the soil will hold. Compaction layers water it can hold. The higher the organic matter in the soil, which will hold 2 inches water/foot of soil and the root zone. Most plants can only use 50% (or half) of the water available, so you can use 5 inches of the water. Grapes’ $E_v$ value is .33 inches/day.

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Pinteresting Garden you have there!

What I learned about gardening off social media, and the way it underscored the importance of research based gardening information!

BY RICH GUGGENHEIM

How many of you have checked out the gardening section of Pinterest? I’ll admit I use Pinterest, and I am a guy. There are some really great ideas I have gotten off there.

However, Pinterest is plumb full of old wives tales on how to do, well, just about anything. I want to tackle just a few of the best gardening things I have seen there, and remind readers of the importance of getting your information from a known, reputable source. Your local Land Grant University provides you with research based solutions for your life. The University of Idaho Extension is your “go to” source for answers about gardening in Idaho.

So, here is a list of the top 5 wives tales I see on Pinterest, which you should avoid:

1. Use Epsom salts for a bumper tomato crop.

While this may sound like a good idea, the simple fact of the matter is any time you begin a gardening project you should start with a soil test. It is also a good idea to have your soil tested every few years just so that you know what is going on and what, if any, amendments may be needed. Your Extension office can provide you with information about performing a soil test. As a general rule Epsom Salts, Magnesium Sulfate, are not needed in Idaho soils because our soils generally have adequate amounts of Magnesium and due to our soil’s pH, is readily available to be taken up by our plants.

2. Adding sugar or baking soda to your garden’s soil makes your strawberries sweeter.

The sweetness of your fruit or veggies is not determined by the amount of sugar in the soil. Plants do not acquire their sweetness from the soil. If you really want sweeter fruits, add the sugar to them in the kitchen.

3. Add eggshells.

I have seen many uses for eggshells in the garden. They are purported to keep slugs and snails away, add calcium to your soil, keep rabbits from eating your plants and more. Again, the best place to start is with a soil test. Usually, most Idaho soils have adequate levels of calcium. To keep slugs, and snails away, you may want to consider using diatomaceous earth. I’ve tried the eggshells to keep rabbits away, with little to no luck. They will eat what they want, and eggshells really aren’t going to stop them. If you choose to use eggshells in your garden, the best thing to do is crush them up and place them in your compost bin.

4. Pennies or copper which repels slugs and snails.

If I had a penny for every time I saw this…

Taking a moment to think about this, yeah, it does work to a limited degree. But if it actually does effectively repel slugs and snails, all you are going to do is repel the slugs and snails from your collection of pennies and onto your collection of peonies. Try using copper sulfate or beer as an alternative. I hear slugs really like Miller.

5. Adding sand to help loosen up clay soils.

This one is perhaps my all time favorite. Have you ever made concrete?

If you want to build soil tilth, add organic matter. Organic matter aids in soil drainage, improves the nutrient holding capacity and helps break up heavy clay soils.

So while you may be prone to seeing these wonderful things that tell you how easily you can have amazing gardens on Pinterest, the reality is that any garden worth having is going to require work. If you want to find out what shortcuts you can take and actually do work in your area, the best place to start would be from a trusted, reliable source. The local Extension Office is your source for reliable and accurate information, and, we are on social media too!

Lumpy Lawns?

Worms may be to blame.

BY RICH GUGGENHEIM

Lumpy lawns can be caused by worms. Worms are great decomposers of organic matter, which increases the availability of nutrients to your plants. The worms in your soil are also great at de-compacting your clayey. They are efficient little creatures so if you have worms, aside from lumpy lawns, you probably also have good soil tilth too! (Meaning it has good water and air penetration.)

Despite all the good they do for your soil, they can be a nuisance because of the lumpy lawn situation they cause. The lumps are caused by the tunneling action and by the castings (poop) worms cast upon the soil surface.

The bad news is for those who do not like worms making their lawns lumpy. There really isn’t much you can do to effectively control worms. You can try reducing water, and you can use a roller drum, but these have their drawbacks as well.
Pinning the Garden You Have There!

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Are You Ready For Irrigation Season?

BY LINDA PHILLIPS
University of Idaho Advanced Master Gardener

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Idaho Sustainable Land Management

SAMANTHA GRAF, M.S.
Canyon County Extension Educator - Livestock

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Idaho Seedling Sale

SAMANTHA GRAF, M.S.
Canyon County Extension Educator - Livestock

The Idaho Sustainable Land Management short-course will coincide with the Canyon County seedling tree sale. Numerous varieties of seedling trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses recommended for Southwestern Idaho will be available for purchase. A list of available varieties and pricing will be available from the Canyon County Extension Office in September, 2016. Pre-orders are highly recommended to ensure the availability of variety, size and pricing.

Seedlings will be available for pick up in spring of 2017. Attending the Idaho Sustainable Land Management course is recommended for those purchasing seedlings.

For more information contact Rich Guggenheim at the Canyon County Extension Office at 459-6003
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Join our "growing" Conversation!

http://www.facebook.com/UIExtGrowVandals

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For those who do not know me yet, my name is Rich, and I am the new Horticulture Extension Educator for the University of Idaho in Canyon County. I started in January and am excited to be here. Prior to working here, I worked in Colorado as a 4-H/ Horticulture Extension Coordinator. It was a fun job that kept me very busy and a job where I learned a lot. While I was there I had the opportunity to work with youth and adults in a variety of extension programs including 4-H and the Master Gardener programs. I also enjoyed having a weekly radio program and writing for the newspapers.

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