

Oregon

Meteorologist predicts variation on El Nino pattern: A wet PNW winter

By MITCH LIES
For the Capital Press

Eastern Washington University meteorologist Robert Quinn said he believes that, contrary to most El Nino weather patterns, the Pacific Northwest will see excessive rain this winter.

Speaking at the 75th annual convention of the Oregon Seed Growers League in Salem in December, Quinn noted that an El Nino weather system typically will split into two storm tracks: a southern half, which brings warm, wet conditions to California; and a northern track, which brings with it drought-like conditions to the Pacific Northwest.

Quinn said the southern half will stay true to form and produce “a good, strong flow of warm, wet Pacific storms coming in off the ocean, which is good news for drought-ridden California.”

The northern half, however, will see a deviation from the norm, he said.

“The end result normally in the Pacific Northwest is we end up under a ridge of high pressure and end up with a winter drought. But there is



Submitted photo

Eastern Washington University meteorologist Robert Quinn tells participants in the Oregon Seed Grower League's 75th annual convention in Salem that he believes the northern part of El Nino's track will bring wet conditions to the Pacific Northwest this winter.

“Variation B.” Sometimes the southern branch of the storm track is so powerful that we (in the Pacific Northwest) get clipped by the northern part of the southern branch. So the end result is ... we end up with a warm, wet winter.

“My prediction is we're going to see the northern part of that California-storm track sweep into Oregon and parts of Washington,” Quinn said, “and we're actually going to end up with a warm, wet winter.”

The strongest El Nino in modern history was in 1982-83, Quinn said. “It turns out

that '82-'83 was a warm, wet winter in the whole West,” he said. “And this El Nino is as strong probably as the '82-'83 El Nino.”

Quinn said El Nino starts as “a warming of the Eastern Equatorial Pacific off the coast of Southern Ecuador and Northern Peru” that occurs every five to seven years.

In concert with the warming, trade winds weaken and, as such, do not drive a typical level of cold water toward the Western Pacific. “So water piles up in the Western Pacific ... and it is like a dam,” he said.

Oregon officials plan to spray 8,000 acres in Portland to stop Asian gypsy moths

Bt aerial spraying will take place next spring against pest

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

PORTLAND — Oregon farm regulators plan to spray more than 8,000 acres in Portland next spring to prevent the establishment of the Asian gypsy moth, a destructive pest found in the area this year.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture plans to first conduct extensive outreach before applying *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a biological pesticide that destroys the insect's ability to digest.

“This is a pretty significant deal for us, especially since we will have to apply the Bt aerially around Portland,” said Katy Coba, ODA's director, during a Dec. 16 meeting of the Oregon Board of Agriculture in Portland.

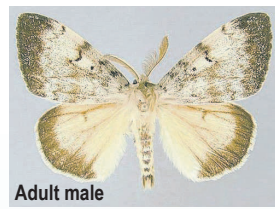
The treatment is sensitive as it could provoke a negative public reaction in the populated urban area that would interfere with the ability to fight the pest, said Clint Burfitt, manager of ODA's insect pest prevention program.

“There's a short opportunity to mitigate the AGM threat before it spreads,” he said.

The cost of spraying will likely involve several aircraft and the Oregon portion of the project is expected to cost \$2.5 million, Burfitt said.

Spraying will also occur in southwest Washington at a cost of \$3 million, he said.

Asian gypsy moth



Adult male
Courtesy of en.wikipedia.org

Binomial name: *Lymantria dispar asiatica*

Appearance: Adult males have grayish-brown wings with darker bands and a wingspan of 1 1/2 inches. Adult females are white and much larger with a wingspan of 3 1/2 inches.

Diet: More than 600 species of trees and shrubs, including larch, oak, poplar, alder, willow and some evergreens.

Life cycle: Four stages; egg, larva, pupa and moth. Eggs are laid between June-September and remain dormant through winter to hatch the following spring.

Origin: Far East countries such as China, Russia and Japan.

First observed in N. America: 1991 near Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Source: USDAAPHIS

Capital Press graphic

don't cover the entire expense, said Coba.

The eradication project is the third largest in Oregon's history, said Helmuth Rogg, director of Oregon's plant program area.

Asian gypsy moths have previously been intercepted in Oregon in 1992, 2000 and 2006 along the Columbia River, likely due to Asian imports at the nearby Port of Vancouver, he said.

The Asian gypsy moth is more of a danger to agriculture and the environment than the European gypsy moth, whose females are incapable of flight, Burfitt said.

Asian gypsy moth females can fly and produce up to 1,000 eggs each, so the species can become established more rapidly, he said.

With about 600 host plants, the Asian gypsy moth also has more habitat available, he said.

The pest can greatly defoliate wild-growing plants, negatively affecting stream temperatures, Burfitt said.

For agricultural products, such as nursery stock, the pest's establishment would cause increased pesticide use and may impede shipments to other states and countries, he said.

In 2000, the Washington State Department of Agriculture sprayed for the insects on 725 acres in the Ballard and Magnolia neighborhoods of Seattle.

In 1992, WSDA sprayed 116,457 acres for the Asian gypsy moths in Pierce and King counties.

Benefit planned for Adel woman

By LEE JUILLERAT
For the Capital Press

ADEL, Ore. — The tiny Eastern Oregon ranching community of Adel will come alive New Year's Eve when Western Music Hall of Fame singer-songwriter Michael Martin Murphey performs at a New Year's Eve fundraising dinner-concert at the Adel Store to raise money for Andrea “Andy” Rieber, who is in Germany being treated for chronic Lyme disease.

The concert will be held in Adel, 33 miles east of Lakeview.

The pre-concert dinner is sold out. For information on the concert call 541-947-3851. Murphey is tentatively planning a Feb. 3 fund-raising concert in Bend and another at a to-be-announced date in Lakeview.

Rieber, 43, has been in Schwabisch Hall, Germany, since late September undergoing treatment for Lyme disease. She has lived in the Adel area for 6 1/2 years working as a journalist, public lands consultant and, until her illness intensified, cowgirl doing day work for Warner Valley area ranchers. Her articles have appeared in a variety of publications, including the Wall Street Journal, Jefferson Monthly and American Cowboy.

“I've had so many ups and downs. It's been such a long road,” Rieber said of the ozone treatment during a telephone interview from Germany. “There are no conventional treatments for advanced Lyme disease.”

She recently decided to participate in a second 11-week round of treatment and said Murphey's offer to perform at a benefit will help cover some costs, noting, “It's extremely expensive, not the kind of thing health insurance pays for.” A portion of her treatment in Germany, which is being done after trying other treatments in the U.S., was provided through a GoFundMe Facebook fund-raising source.

“It was extremely moving and humbling thing,” she said of support, largely from Warner Valley ranchers. “I've been blown away by people's support.”

Rieber said Lyme disease is a little known, not well funded epidemic that affects hundreds of thousands of people, a thought echoed by Murphey.

“It's probably the most covered up health problem in our country,” Murphey believes, citing statistics from the U.S. Center for Disease Control saying Lyme disease is the fifth most common nationally notifiable disease, with 300,000 new cases re-

ported annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC also says Lyme disease research receives less than 2 percent of the funding for West Nile virus and .02

percent for HIV, even though the number of Lyme disease cases dwarfs both West Nile and HIV.

Most people, he believes, are unaware of the extent and severity of Lyme disease.

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MEET THE SPEAKERS

Corey works primarily with farm families and farm related businesses in meeting their transition and business goals. Corey has significant experience particularly with respect to LLCs, buyouts and buy-sell agreements in corporations and LLCs, structuring estate planning for the non-farm child(ren) vs. the children on the farm, mergers and acquisitions, real estate matters leases, and all general and complex estate planning/probate. Corey enjoys working with families in designing a transition plan that meets the families' desire. Corey also assists in structuring entities for Bureau water concerns and general water law matters.

Norm brings over 40 years of experience in representing hundreds of farm families throughout Eastern Washington, Idaho and Eastern Oregon. He is licensed to practice in Washington, Idaho and Oregon and primarily deals with sophisticated estate planning, farm program limitation issues for DCP / CRP and/or CSP limitations.



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