

People & Places

Researcher targets toughest weeds

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

ONTARIO, Ore. — Weed scientist Joel Felix says onion growers are making progress in their continuing battle against yellow nutsedge.

Extensive roots, sizable foliage and efficient seed spreading make the weed a formidable foe. Yellow nutsedge started causing problems in the southeastern Oregon-southwestern Idaho onion-growing region some 15 years ago.

“And it’s not the easiest weed to control,” said Felix, who is based at Oregon State University’s Malheur Experiment Station near Ontario. “We’ve been trying to develop strategies to manage the weed, mainly by adapting crop rotations and emphasizing yellow nutsedge control in each crop grown in the rotation.”

Onions are sensitive to the herbicides that are effective in controlling the weed, he said.

But choosing the right crops to plant ahead of onions in the rotation can pay dividends.

“We have seen the acreage of corn increase, and we think it is a response to try to clean up their fields of yellow nutsedge,” Felix said.

A wide selection of herbicides can be used on fields planted to corn, allowing farmers to target yellow nutsedge, he said. Farmers seeking to control it tend to grow corn two years in a row.

Dry beans, which also have a good selection of herbicides that effectively man-



Brad Carlson/Capital Press

Joel Felix with weed control studies at the Oregon State University Malheur Experiment Station near Ontario.

age yellow nutsedge, can be planted following corn, Felix said. So can sugar beets.

Wheat can also be planted the year before onions — a twist since wheat herbicides do not control yellow nutsedge, he said.

“But because yellow nutsedge is susceptible to shading, the wheat provides the full ground cover, which does not allow the yellow nutsedge to grow,” Felix said.

Wheat also leaves less residue, an advantage when small onion seeds are planted about an inch deep the following spring, he said.

The field should be worked as soon as possible following wheat harvest to

discourage the yellow nutsedge from re-establishing, Felix said. That fall, the field can be sprayed with an approved herbicide before onions are planted in spring.

When onions are growing, an approved herbicide applied through drip irrigation can also help control yellow nutsedge.

Felix said more growers are using this herbicide, which must be applied after the onions reach the two-leaf stage. “It’s really effective. It’s much better than the conventional way of broadcasting it over the top.”

An earlier labeled pesticide, applied by sprayer, was not effective, he said. “We

started looking at alternative ways to make this product work better.”

The current product, labeled under a special local need, does not drift, so it is more efficient and safe, Felix said.

Besides nutsedge, he has been testing herbicides for use in managing various weeds in onions and sugar beets.

Glyphosate-resistant beets have been planted for years in the Northwest. Glyphosate-resistant kochia was found in Treasure Valley beet fields in 2014, initially in western Canyon County, Idaho, and Malheur County, Ore.



Western Innovator

JOEL FELIX

Occupation: Associate professor, weed ecology and management, Oregon State University Malheur Experiment Station, Ontario, since 2006.

Education: B.S. and M.S., crop physiology, Purdue University; Ph.D., crop physiology with an emphasis on weed science, Iowa State University; post-doctoral work, weed management in vegetable crops, Ohio State University.

Home: Star, Idaho. Grew up in Tanzania.

Family: Wife Elizabeth, two adult sons

Hobby: Photographing landscapes, vegetation and plants

Rotating into corn can control Kochia because of the wide selection of herbicides available for corn, Felix said. But Kochia can still pose a risk along the field edges and fence lines, and as it dislodges and tumbles.

Felix and his colleagues have also been working on controlling common lambsquarters in various crops, he said.

Mistaken identity: Cicada killer wasps aren’t Asian giant hornets

By MIA RYDER-MARKS
Capital Press

In her 17 years working as an extension entomologist in Eastern Oregon, Silvia Rondon has never received more reports, emails, phone calls and texts with questions asking what type of wasp they just saw.

After the Asian giant hornet showed up in Washington last year, many Oregonians have been on alert. However, experts such as Rondon want you to know the wasp you come across is more than likely a cicada killer wasp — which is fairly harmless to humans and pets.

“This insect, unless you’re messing with them and trying to touch them, they shouldn’t be a bother. They are a nuisance, and they’re impressive, because they’re very large,” said Rondon.

Cicada killer wasps are native to Oregon and emerge during summer. They live 60 to 75 days before they migrate back underground until the next year. Oregonians can



Tracy Wilson

Cicada killer wasp specimens at the Central Oregon Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

expect to see the insect until September.

Hot spots for the wasps are primarily in Central and Eastern Oregon. Rondon said about 70% of her calls come from the Pendleton area.

Jim LaBonte, a retired entomologist from the state Department of Agriculture’s insect pest prevention and management program, said Eastern Oregon makes a suitable habitat for the wasps as the area is blanketed with sandy soil and trees — an environment in which the

wasps can dig their underground nests with ease.

But for the most part, the cicada killer wasp is harmless toward humans, he said. Their prey is another insect — the cicada.

The female wasp paralyzes a cicada with one sting and then drags the insect back to its hole, which is dug 10 inches below the surface of the soil. Sometimes, this can be an all-day endeavor.

Once inside the nest, the wasp will dump the cicada into a side chamber and lay

WHAT’S THAT INSECT?

For insect identification: plant-entomologists@oda.state.or.us

eggs. As the eggs hatch, starved larvae eat the cicada alive — which could take weeks, LaBonte said.

The male wasps keep themselves busy by fighting for a mate and vomiting on their own heads to stay cool in the summer heat.

They may sting humans or pets if they feel threatened, such as if they are stepped on or their underground burrow is disturbed.

“If you disturb their nest, they’ll get a little agitated,” said Tracy Wilson, agricultural literacy coordinator at Oregon State University, but the wasps are solitary by nature, so you probably will not see a swarm of them, decreasing the risk factor.

People in agriculture or who have home gardens

shouldn’t worry either; they only cause minimal landscaping damage as the wasp digs into the ground to create a nest for its eggs.

There are a few differences between the two wasps. Asian giant hornets are larger, about 2 inches long, and have unbroken bands of yellow and brown across their abdomen.

The cicada killer wasp has three large stripes of yellow and black around it, and are about 1 to 1½ inches long and have a long stinger.

There have been no traces of the Asian giant hornet in Oregon.

Wilson said people can send samples or photographs their way if they can’t tell the difference. This will help ease the worry and help the ODA track the wasps.

Though Asian giant hornets are not a worry for Oregonians, Rondon, the entomologist, does have one bit of advice for anyone who comes across a cicada killer wasp: “In general, stay away from them.”

Former state lawmaker named OFIC president

By GEORGE PAVEN
Capital Press

SALEM — The Oregon Forest and Industries Council has hired former state legislator-turned-lobbyist Chris Edwards as the group’s next president.

Edwards, who served 10 years in the Oregon Legislature as a Democrat, takes over for Kristina McNitt, who is retiring after nine years leading OFIC, which represents more than 50 pri-



Chris Edwards

vate forestland owners and timber companies.

In a statement, Todd Payne, OFIC board chairman and CEO of

Seneca Jones Timber Co., said Edwards is “truly one of us.” A native of Eugene, Edwards worked several years at his family’s mill in Goshen, Ore. and later ran a

small timber import-export company before going into politics.

“We are extremely fortunate to have secured Chris to lead OFIC’s high-functioning team of professionals,” Payne said. “We are confident his track record of finding common ground through a solutions-oriented, forward-looking approach will continue the industry’s momentum into the next generation.”

As a lawmaker, Edwards

served in the Oregon House from 2006 to 2009, representing District 14, which includes West Eugene and Junction City. He was appointed to the Senate in 2009, representing District 7, which also includes parts of Eugene and Junction City.

While in the Senate, Edwards served as chairman of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee and co-chairman of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcom-

mittee on Natural Resources.

In 2016, Edwards stepped down to become assistant vice president for strategic initiatives at the University of Oregon. After two years, he left the university to start his own government relations firm, Tivaci Group LLC, and has lobbied for OFIC at the State Capitol.

Edwards said he is honored and excited to take on the role, adding now is an exciting time to be involved in forest policy.

CALENDAR

Submit upcoming ag-related events on www.capitalpress.com or by email to newsroom@capitalpress.com.

THROUGH SATURDAY JULY 17

Linn County Fair: 11 a.m. Linn County Fair & Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road E, Albany, Ore. Giant elephant ears, fluffy colorful clouds of cotton candy, live music nightly, carnival rides from mild to wild and of course, cattle, pigs and chickens galore will fill the Linn County Fair & Expo Center July 15-17 as the Linn County Fair returns live. Website: <https://linn-countyfair.com/>

countyfair.com/

SATURDAY, JULY 17

Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association Summer Fair
Tour: 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The farm tour will be held at Furrow Farm and Windy Acres Tree Farm. For more information, visit our website at <https://bit.ly/3gAXIVy> or contact Kari Puffer, 503-364-2942, pnwchristmastree@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY JULY 28-AUG. 1

Deschutes County Fair and Rodeo: Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, 3800 SW Airport Way,

THURSDAY, AUG. 5

Internal Auditing for Food Processors (live online): 1 p.m. Internal audits allow you to audit your facility for gaps and compli-

ance. They are an important tool in the on-going food safety toolbox for any food manufacturer, packager, and warehouse and distribution company. This course is for those who are new to internal auditing and those that could use a refresher course. Cost: \$595 Contact Bill Mullane, 208-426-2266, william-mullane@techhelp.org. Website: <https://bit.ly/3xt9APY>

TUESDAY-THURSDAY AUG. 10-12

2021 Cattle Industry Convention & Trade Show: Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, Tenn. The convention will include educational

seminars, exhibits and networking. Website: <http://convention.ncba.org>

TUESDAY AUG. 17

Intro to Experimental Statistics. 8:30 a.m. This course will teach statistical thinking concepts that are essential to learning from data and communicating key insights to your organization, clients, or suppliers. Join Catherine Cantley, extension professor at the University of Idaho and TechHelp processing specialist, as we explore the fundamentals of “storytelling with data” in a practical industry-based approach. Website: <https://bit.ly/3AF17f3>



Capital Press
EMPOWERING PRODUCERS OF FOOD & FIBER
Established 1928

Capital Press Managers

Joe Beach Editor & Publisher
Anne Long Advertising Director
Carl Sampson Managing Editor
Samantha McLaren Circulation Manager

Entire contents copyright © 2021
EO Media Group
dba Capital Press

An independent newspaper
published every Friday.

Capital Press (ISSN 0740-3704) is
published weekly by EO Media Group,
2870 Broadway NE, Salem OR 97303.

Periodicals postage paid at Portland, OR,
and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to
Capital Press, P.O. Box 2048 Salem, OR
97308-2048.

To Reach Us

Circulation 800-781-3214
Email Circulation@capitalpress.com
Main line 503-364-4431

News Staff

Idaho

Carol Ryan Dumas 208-860-3898

Boise

Brad Carlson 208-914-8264

Western Washington

Don Jenkins 360-722-6975

Eastern Washington

Matthew Weaver 509-688-9923

Oregon

George Plaven 406-560-1655

Mateusz Perkowski 800-882-6789

Sierra Dawn McClain 503-506-8011

Designer

Randy Wriughthouse 800-882-6789

To Place Classified Ads

Telephone (toll free) 800-882-6789
Online CapitalPress.com/classifieds

Subscriptions

Mail rates paid in advance
Easy Pay U.S. \$4 /month
(direct withdrawal from bank
or credit card account)

1 year U.S. \$55

2 years U.S. \$100

1 year Canada \$275

1 year other countries call for quote

1 year Internet only \$49.99

1 year 4-H, FFA students/teachers \$30

9 months 4-H, FFA students/teachers \$25

Visa and Mastercard accepted

To get information published

Mailing address:

Capital Press
P.O. Box 2048
Salem, OR 97308-2048

News: Contact the main office
or news staff member closest to you,
send the information to
newsroom@capitalpress.com
or mail it to “Newsroom,” c/o Capital Press.
Include a contact telephone number.

Letters to the Editor: Send your
comments on agriculture-related public
issues to opinions@capitalpress.com, or
mail your letter to “Opinion,” c/o Capital
Press. Letters should be limited to
300 words. Deadline: Noon Monday.

Capital Press ag media

CapitalPress.com
FarmSeller.com
MarketPlace.capitalpress.com
facebook.com/CapitalPress
facebook.com/FarmSeller
twitter.com/CapitalPress
youtube.com/CapitalPressvideo

Index

Markets 10
Opinion 6

Correction policy

Accuracy is important to Capital Press
staff and to our readers.
If you see a misstatement, omission or
factual error in a headline, story or photo
caption, please call the Capital Press news
department at 503-364-4431, or send
email to newsroom@capitalpress.com.
We want to publish corrections
to set the record straight.