

Wasps studied for control of aphids

Oregon State University entomologists hit the road Thursday with some special cargo—tiny European wasps, no bigger than gnats. The wasps are natural predators of the Russian wheat aphid and are being studied as a possible means of controlling the pest.

According to Jeff Miller, OSU entomologist, the wasps will be released in outdoor cages containing Russian wheat aphid-infested wheat at OSU's Hermiston Agricultural Experiment Station. The aphids and wasps will be observed to see if the wasps control the aphids, said Miller.

"Evolution has developed a predator-prey relationship between species. And the Russian wheat aphid came to this country from Asia without any of the coevolved enemies that would naturally suppress its populations at home," said Miller. He's an expert in biological control—the use of a pest organism's own natural enemies to keep it in check.

"It's our aim to use the aphid's natural enemies to control it," he said. "There is a new awareness that spraying is not the only way to go—it is only a short-term solution. Aphids rapidly develop resistance to pesticides."

Last year, with funding from agricultural experiment stations in 15 wheat-growing states, scientists traveled to Turkey, the home of the Russian wheat aphid, and collected five types of tiny parasitic wasps known to help keep the aphid in control in its homeland.

The researchers hope the wasps will do what they do on their home turf—kill Russian wheat aphids.

Miller and his research assistants are raising offspring of these Turkish wasps in the OSU entomology department.

"As we get population booms in the lab, the wasps will continue to be gathered up and tested on Russian wheat aphid-infested wheat at the Hermiston station," Miller said.

The Russian wheat aphid was first found in the United States in 1986. Within a year, wheat fields on the Great Plains were teeming with the tiny, plant-sucking insects. Yields were reduced by 50 percent in some areas.

The aphids were first seen in Oregon in 1987. Though they have yet to be found in high numbers throughout Pacific Northwest wheat fields, farmers worry about potential effects the pest might have on

their crops.

According to Miller, each female wasp lays an egg in an aphid. Each wasp egg hatches into a larva that grows inside the aphid, eventually killing the aphid.

"We can tell if the wasps are succeeding in killing the aphids if we find 'mummies' on the wheat," explained Miller. Mummies are the bloated, dead, wasp-infected Russian wheat aphids.

The parasitic wasp larva eventually forms a pupa inside the bloated aphid, where it matures into a winged adult. The adult chews a hole through the mummy, emerges, and flies away to lay an egg in another aphid, starting another generation, he said.

If the wasps are successful in killing the aphids in the caged experiments, they will be released in to the Hermiston experiment station fields to see if they are successful out of captivity.

"Eventually we will be looking at the aphid population levels to see if they decline over time. We will also look at wheat yields," he added.

"It's hard to figure out how important these wasps will be in controlling the aphid," said Miller. "In some cases, we have had amazing success with biological control of pest aphids with parasitic wasps."

In California, for instance, the spotted alfalfa aphid was once a bad pest but has become extremely rare after the introduction of three of its natural parasites, all wasps.

"But keeping track of the effectiveness of parasites is very difficult because of the natural wild fluctuations in numbers of both the parasite and the prey," said Miller.

"Weather, disease, other natural enemies, agricultural practices, management and crop type can also affect the system we are studying."

The wasps are also being studied and raised by Agricultural Experiment Station entomologists in about 14 wheat-growing states besides Oregon. This year, said Miller, these stations will fund four more explorations to Europe and Asia to find natural enemies of the Russian wheat aphid.

Ralph Berry and Jack Lattin, two OSU entomologists, are testing wheat varieties for resistance to the aphid and are looking for other predators of the Russian wheat aphid that already reside in Oregon's wheat fields.

Sheriff's Report

The Sheriff's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports dispatching the following business during the past week:

June 5: Morrow County Sheriff's office received a report of a suspicious vehicle in the lone area. Complaint was unfounded.

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner ambulance to a residence outside of Heppner on Hwy 74 in reference to a farming accident. One subject was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a residence at West Glen Estates for a female with unknown illness. No transport was made.

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman Fire Department to report of a fire smoldering in some yard sale furniture across from H Bar W, Boardman and First.

June 6: Morrow County deputy, Oregon State police and Irrigon police department responded to report of a domestic dispute in progress. Investigation is continuing.

Morrow County deputy assisted by Irrigon police department arrested Wade Drury, 32, Irrigon, on two counts of Assault IV. Drury was lodged in Benton County jail.

Morrow County deputy responded to rural Irrigon in regard to a report of some juveniles involved in a disturbance.

June 7: Morrow County deputy responded to five miles North of lone in reference to a civil matter. Problem was resolved without incident.

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to a residence on Faler Road. One female was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital with an unknown illness.

June 8: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington fire department to a vehicle fire, unknown location or outcome.

June 9: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Condon fire department to a grass fire 14 miles west of Condon.

June 11: Morrow County Sheriff's office assisted Boardman police department with the arrest of a subject on a warrant for Negotiating a Bad Check out of Clackamas County and for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. Morrow County Sheriff's deputy cited Michael Kevin Siaw, 26, Umatilla, to appear on a charge of Possession of Less than 1 oz. of Marijuana. He was lodged at Benton County Jail in Kennewick on the warrant.

Morrow County Sheriff's office began the investigation into possible criminal mischief in rural Boardman.

Morrow County Sheriff's office investigated a vehicle accident on Hwy 207, 19 miles south of Heppner. Deceased at the scene was lone occupant, Sammie Pauline Geier, 44 of Haines. No other vehicles involved. Accident is still under investigation.

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to the Boardman Marina in reference to an unknown injury. No transport was made.

Morrow County Sheriff's office assisted by Irrigon police department arrested Richard William Baher, 25, Irrigon, on the charge of Menacing. Baher was lodged in Benton County.

Morrow County deputy responded to Honeywild Estates in Irrigon to investigate report of shots being fired.

Morrow County deputy responded to investigate report of loud music at Wagon Wheel Addition in Irrigon. During the week of June 5-12, Morrow County Sheriff's deputy assisted one disabled motorist.

Homemakers council met in Irrigon

By Delpha Jones

The Homemaker's County Council of the Morrow County Extension met at the city hall in Irrigon on Tuesday with the president, Isabelle Jones presiding. The Mini-College was discussed and Lila Engleman from the lone Study Group is attending. Plans were discussed for a fair booth, and the group will work further on that July 16. A class on "Women's Financial Information

Boardman • Irrigon News

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Rummage sale at Stokes Landing

There will be a rummage sale at Stokes Landing Senior Center in Irrigon on June 15, 16 and 17 from 9 to 5 each day. A lunch will be serv-

ed each day and baked foods will be available including maple bars made by Shirley.

Currin to represent MSU at CNFR

Thirteen outstanding members of the Montana State University Rodeo team will participate in the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) on June 13-17. Bozeman has been the host site for 17 of the last 18 years.

This season the men's and women's teams dominated the Big Sky Region. The men's team finished with 3,845 points with Western Montana a distant second at 2,395. Ken Lensegraff rallied at the end of

the season to capture the region's all-around title and teammate Steve Currin finished second. The MSU women's team finished with 1,980 points, more than doubling second place Western Montana's 835.

Steve Currin will participate in Calf Roping, Steer Wrestling and Team Roping teaming up with Molly McAuliffe, Klamath Falls, OR. For ticket information contact the CNFR ticket office during normal business hours at 406-994-4813.

Gerontology resources available at Extension office

Individual copies of the following publications can be purchased at the Morrow County Extension Service in the Pettyjohn Office Building at Heppner:

Growing Older: Sensory Changes: discusses the sensory changes—vision, hearing, taste, smell and touch—that commonly occur in later life and the implications of these changes for the older person and for those who work with elders.

Aging Parents: Helping When Health Fails: provides information about family relationships and decision making in later life and general guidelines to consider when a person faces the dilemma of what to do about aged relatives.

Coping With Caregiving: How to Manage Stress When Caring for the Elderly Relatives: a guide for helping caregivers to maintain their own well-being while providing care to an older person. Discusses the sources of caregiving stress, warning signals, and ways to manage stress.

Helping Memory-Impaired Elders: A Guide for Caregivers: provides family and professional caregivers with an understanding of dementia in later life and ways to cope more effectively with the changes resulting from a progressive dementing illness. In addition to general care and management guidelines, this publication outlines approaches for handling specific problems—driving, wandering, money management, catastrophic reactions, hallucinations, eating, incontinence, hiding of items, and

Families and Aging: A Guide to Legal Concerns: provides family members who have concerns about older relatives with general legal information.

Living Arrangements in Later Life: discusses the impact a move can have on a person, living arrangement options for older people with different needs, and factors to consider when selecting a living arrangement.

When Death Comes: Funeral and Other After Death Arrangements: Discusses the need for individuals to pre-plan and discuss after-death arrangements with their families; categories of funeral costs; selecting a funeral home, casket, cemetery, grave markers, etc.; and alternatives to a traditional funeral and burial, including cremation, direct disposition of the body, and body donation.

In the Middle Years: a series of four publications. Each examines

concerns and adjustments mid-life adults commonly encounter and provides information helpful in negotiating the developmental challenges of the middle years.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

Heppner Chamber of Commerce receives many letters with a variety of requests. The past month your Chamber Manager has responded to students in Wilsonville, Portland, Coos Bay, Hood River, Fairview, Oregon and Quincy, Washington, who are studying Morrow County. From Wendover, Nevada; Cambria, California; and Gillette, Wyoming were requests from families who would like to move to a small town like Heppner. Folks in San Diego, California were interested in retiring here, a family from San Francisco wanted to vacation here, and Rube Goldberg was looking for antique book stores. Opportunities for promoting our area are endless.

How do we "get all our ducks in a row"? We promote visitors, hold events to attract them, offer top-notch hospitality, job opportunities, support events, activities, Willow Creek RV park, pass our operating levys so we have quality schools, keep our parks open, and "perk up" our community. It takes the entire community working together to keep our town a hub of activity.

Picture this...stand in front of Coast-to-Coast and visualize a tree-lined Main Street. If you have trouble imagining, check out the south end of Pendleton next time you're there. How many reading this, would like to see this become a reality in Heppner? If so, what would you be willing to contribute in manpower, funding, etc. to make this dream a reality? Chamber beautification committee would be interested in hearing from you or your organization.

Next week's Chamber program will feature the Eastern Oregon video shown at the Governor's Tourism Conference. See you there.

Thought for the week: "Bring ideas in and entertain them royally, for one of them may be the king."

Van Doren.

Irrigon Police Report

The Irrigon Police department report handling the following business during the week of May 14-June 2:

May 14: report of Theft II at Irrigon Market. Under investigation.

May 17: report of Assault II at Riverview Trailer Court. Victim was taken to the hospital. Subject was arrested and lodged.

May 18: Transported mental committal subject to Pendleton.

May 20: Warrant arrest Subject was cited and released.

May 23: Assisted Boardman police department—four subjects were arrested on Rape/Kidnap charges and transported; report of loose horses. Horses were returned to owner Don Jorgenson.

May 26: Irrigon police department assisted Pendleton police department in reference to a theft investigation.

June 1: Report of a downed aircraft on 8th street west. Incident was turned over to the Morrow County Sheriff's department.

June 2: Responded to audible alarm at Rod's Market, everything proved to be secure; attempted to locate motorist. Subjects were located in The Dalles.

Garden club welcomes new members

The Heppner Garden Club held their regular meeting at the home of Alan and Debbie Scott, Monday, June 4.

Regular business was discussed and a report was given on the planting of the downtown planters. Plans were made for the observation of Oregon Garden Week the first week in June. Members will be placing bouquets in the Museum and St. Pat's Senior Center.

Several new members present told of their plans and had questions of new and interesting projects.

Refreshments were served by Irene Swanson and Debbie Scott.

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