

InFARMation

Yukon Agriculture Branch Quarterly Bulletin

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Message From the Agriculture Branch

Season's greetings! The weather has been a bit of a roller coaster ride so far this winter and at times it's been hard to tell if we are going to have a good winter or a bad one. It's a mix of that between extremes.



September Light - Jeff and Sofia Bond in the oats at the Yukon Grain Farm.
Photo taken and submitted by Leyla Weston.

With the end of the year rapidly approaching it is time to reflect on some of the highlights in Yukon agriculture over the past year. First, it was wonderful to see the opening of the Fireweed Community Market in Shipyards Park this spring. Congratulations to all the vendors who supported the market and hats off to the Rudge family for their part in organizing the society and coordinating the Thursday afternoon market. It was also a great milestone seeing Brian Lendrum and Susan Ross develop the first on-farm cheese kitchen that meets environmental health standards in the Yukon. Both of these industry achievements were funded in part through the Canada-Yukon Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) program and it's rewarding to see this funding used to produce such positive results.

Congratulations also to Mike and Sylvia Blumenschein, winners of the farm family of the year for 2005. The Blumenschein contribution to the development of many farms in the southern Yukon was very worthy of this recognition. From

the Agriculture Branch, we miss our Director. Dave's optimism about agriculture in the Yukon was a great source of motivation for his staff and his humour will be missed. Craig passed away this past fall.

As for what's new, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) is now in effect. This act shifts responsibility for the development assessment process on agriculture projects from government to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB). Details on this and contact information is included in this edition of the newsletter.

Overall 2005 has been a good year for agriculture in the territory with positive growth and strides being made to capture more of the local market. On behalf of Marylynn, Edward, Patricia, Matthew, Kevin, David and Denis we wish you a festive close to 2005 and all the best in 2006.

Tony Hill, A/Director, Agriculture Branch

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Northern Agriculture



Haylage for Horses

With the new bale wrapper in the Territory horse owners may come across wrapped white plastic haylage bales for feed.

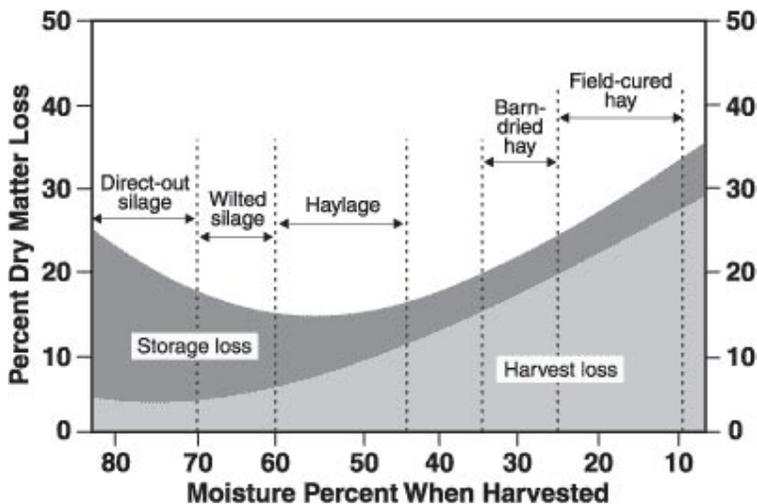
Haylage is a low moisture forage silage. It is the process where young respiring plants are cut, partially wilted and placed in a container such as a plastic bag where exposure to air is eliminated. The hay is baled at about 45-60% moisture and since it is immediately wrapped with plastic the presence of oxygen is reduced. The plants use the remaining oxygen in the bag, fermentation lowers the pH and the forage goes into a suspended state when the pH=5. At this pH the hay is preserved.

As shown on the graph below, the haylage product results in the minimum combined dry matter storage and harvest loss as well as allows for harvest regardless of summer conditions.



Photo: Bale wrapper at Circle 'D' Ranch, August 2005

Should the bag become punctured, then secondary



Adapted from: Hoglund, 1964

Graph: Estimated dry matter loss during harvest and storage of forage crops at various levels.

fermentation will occur and the haylage will become spoiled in those areas where oxygen is present.

Large round bales sometimes have difficulty achieving a stable pH, this present a small risk of botulism. One must keep in mind when considering feeding haylage to horses that improperly harvested and stored bales may develop mold. When properly cured and stored, a horse's dry intake can include up to one third haylage. When feeding individually wrapped haylage bales, it is best to feed a

sufficient number of animals so that an entire bale can be eaten within one or two days.

This product has good potential in the Yukon, look for it in the farm yards.

A GOOFY Meeting

Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GOOFY), a chapter of Canadian Organic Growers, held their annual general meeting in November. Projects for this year include a local food education project, research into bubble-greenhouse technology, and appropriate green manures for northern conditions.

New members are welcome to join other local farmers and gardeners who are interested in using organic growing methods. You don't need to be big and you don't need to be certified. Find out how to get the healthiest, best tasting food from your garden or farm.

If you live in the Yukon (or northern BC), and become a member of Canadian Organic Growers, you automatically become a member of the local chapter - Growers of Organic Food Yukon. Membership includes quarterly publications of Canada's national organic magazine

(Canadian Organic Grower) as well as monthly farm tours, speakers, and workshops on issues of interest to organic growers.

Additional information available at:
<http://users.yknet.yk.ca/goofy/>

Summary of Alaskan Agriculture 2005

Climate conditions in Alaska were similar to those found in the Yukon this summer. Warm, dry conditions allowed fieldwork to begin one week ahead of schedule. June was a warm and dry month, followed by a wet July and August.

Total acreage of barley was 4,600 acres and 2,100 acres for oats. Hay acreage totaled 21,000 acres with the average tonnage to the acre of 1.43 short tons/acre (1.3 tonnes/acre). Potato production is an important crop in Alaska, with 750 acres in potatoes in 2005 and total potato production of 7,650 short tons (6,940 tonnes).

As usual, growing ridiculously big vegetables was an important part of the Alaskan agriculture tradition. These aren't usually items that will occupy a large portion of the entire crop, but they certainly hold a special spot both in the greenhouse and the field, as well as in the gardener's heart. More often than not these fruits and vegetables are not intended for eating, but simply trophy items displayed for bragging rights – "look at the size of this one!"

One of the more popular and somewhat prestigious events at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer is the Giant Cabbage Weigh Off. This event attracts folks from all over; some of which are Guinness World Record holders, like John V.R. Evans, one of the Fair's participant and judge. He currently holds 14 all-time records at the fair. He has also been in Guinness seven times in the Heaviest Fruit and Vegetable category - once for a mind-boggling 8.53 kg carrot. Alaska, like the Yukon, is an ideal place for growing large vegetables because of the long photoperiod. Alaska holds the world record for a 34.1 kg rutabaga, 28.5 kg celery, and a 17.6 kg turnip.

The most the sought after prize at the fair is always the Giant Cabbage, a trophy still maintained by Barb Everingham's 2000 monster which weighed in at 47.5 kg.

This project required much attention and care, constant watering, tarped with plastic to protect it from hail and predators (both birds and moose!), and even requiring a temporary cinderblock wall to shelter the plant from high winds. As impressive as that record is, it is still shadowed by Bernard Lavery's 1989 Guinness World Record of 56.24 kg. This horticulturalist from Wales is regarded as an icon by those in the big-vegetable growing world.

Adapted from Sam Howe Verhovek, Los Angeles Time. 2005 and the Alaska Farm Reporter Nov 17, 2005.

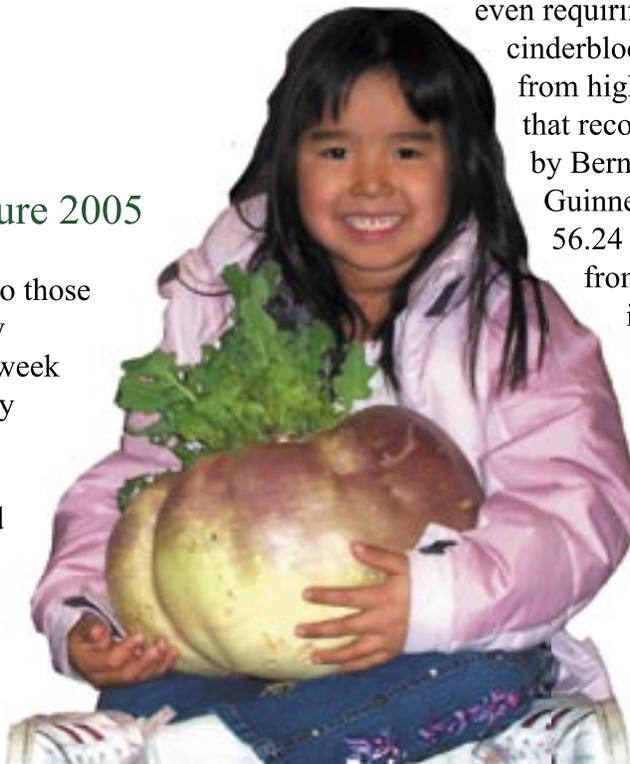


Photo: Kierra, a young Yukon gardener, displays a massive turnip.

18th Annual Yukon Agricultural Banquet

It was a great feast at the Yukon Inn this year. Our compliments to the chef and to the quality of the food. The following Yukon producers supplied foods for the banquet:

- Partridge Creek – Beef and Eggs
- Icy Waters – Fish
- Yukon Grain Farm – Potatoes
- Minto Bridge Farms – Carrots and Beets
- Agriculture Branch – Raspberries

Tony Hill, Acting Director of the Agriculture Branch, was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Tony did a marvelous job keeping everyone fed and smiling, however, Dave Beckman's knee slapping anecdotes were missed.

A stream of articulate speeches from Archie Lang, Valerie Whelan, Larry Bagnell, and Al Falle peppered the entrées and provided an upbeat view of the future agriculture industry. Minister Lang wished Dave Beckman all the best in the future, a sentiment that was echoed throughout the evening. Minister Lang also highlighted work

accomplished through the Agriculture Policy Framework including the newly released Yukon Gardener's Manual.

Other notable moments of the evening included a tribute to the late Doug Craig and an acknowledgement of Jack Cable who is retiring as Commissioner of the Yukon.

4-H Multi-Club set up a silent auction with many great prizes which generated close to \$1200. Thank you to the sponsoring organizations: Rafter A Ranch, Wines by Design, The Feed Store, Yukon Grain Farm, Mac's Fireweed Books, Whitehorse 4-H Multi Club, 4-H Yukon Key Leader, LaPrairie Bison Ranch, Peter & Myrna McPeake, Yukon Agriculture Branch, Eureka Gold Panning Adventures, Alpine Veterinary Medical Centre Ltd, Dawson City Bits 'n' Bridles 4-H Horse Club, Paradise Alley, Gold Originals, Mary Lumbers, Pam Vust, Walmart, Pot of Gold, Super Store, Val Whelan, Moira Davy, Canadian Tire and the Ford Elk Farm.

A tight vote for Farmer of the Year saw Mike and Sylvia Blumenschein win the award. They have been nominated every year since the Yukon Farmer of the Year award was first introduced in 2000. As Archie Lang presented Mike and Sylvia with their award Tony said "well it is about time!".

YESAA now in Effect

The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) is now in effect. It replaces the Yukon Environmental Assessment Act and the application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act in Yukon.

YESAA provides for a single assessment process for projects under federal, territorial or First Nation jurisdiction. This assessment is part of the overall review

and approval process that applications for agriculture land or grazing leases go through.

The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) and its six Designated Offices throughout the Yukon are now in place and staff are preparing to conduct project assessments. The development assessment process will no longer be undertaken by the Yukon government.

YESAB and its Designated Offices will conduct their assessments within specific time lines and provide clear information requirements to the proponent.

If you have questions about the overall process for applying for agricultural land or a grazing lease, please contact the Agriculture Branch at 667-5838 or visit our EMR website: www.emr.gov.yk.ca

For information about the YESAA process, please contact the YESAB at 668-6420 or visit their website: www.yesab.ca



Photo: Energy, Mines & Resources Minister Archie Lang (right) presenting the "Farmer of the Year Award" to Mike and Sylvia Blumenschein.

There's one good thing
about snow, it makes your
lawn look as nice as your
neighbour's.
~ Clyde Moore ~

Science & Research

Elk Nutrition Studies
by Patricia Smith

In early 2005, the Agriculture Branch hired AMBOCA Ecological Services (Manfred Hoefs) to produce a report that summarized available information on elk nutrition and habitat. The report was based on a literature review,

the experience of the report author and consultation with resource people. The report evaluated the potential of Yukon native plant associations to support elk and outlined an experimental design to determine grazing and browsing capacity of Yukon native range for elk.

This report, titled “Nutritional and Habitat Requirements of Elk and the Capacity of Yukon’s native range to provide them,” states that the diet of Yukon elk includes grass, forbs and browse. The important Yukon vegetation communities for elk are grassy south-facing slopes, fire-created areas with aspen regeneration, mature aspen forests, areas of willows, sedge meadows and grass meadows. Different vegetation types are used by elk during different times of the year. Over winter, snow depth and hardness are important factors in determining habitat use. The determination of elk grazing and browsing capacity includes sampling of ground vegetation, sampling of shrubs and trees within reach of elk, and sampling of leaf hay, which is leaves that have fallen to the ground.

In the summer of 2005, the Agriculture Branch contracted AMBOCA Ecological Services to carry out the experimental design outlined in the earlier study to determine the elk grazing and browsing capacity of two Yukon vegetation communities. The contractor determined the elk grazing capacity of a south facing grassland to be 0.56ha/AUM. Animal Unit Month (AUM) is the amount of forage required by an animal for one month. In a regenerating aspen forest, the elk grazing capacity



Photo: Ford Elk Farm 2004

contributed by foliage was 0.75 ha/AUM and the browsing capacity was 2.75 ha/AUM. The complete results of this study are included in a report titled, “Biomass Production

of a Grassland and an Aspen forest in the Takhini River Valley of southwestern Yukon”.

In the autumn of 2005, Agriculture Branch staff determined the elk grazing capacity for leaf hay in an old burn area to be 0.14ha/AUM. These findings are summarized in a report titled, “Elk grazing capacity for leaf hay in a regenerating aspen forest.”

All three of these reports are available at the Agriculture Branch office.



Grain Gaining Steam as Home-Heating Option

CBC News. Oct 14, 2005

www.cbc.ca

With fuel prices on the rise, some Canadians are turning to grain as a cheap, environmentally friendly way to heat their homes. Grain-fuelled stoves, which cost upwards of \$2,500 to buy and install look like a regular wood-burning unit but they burn corn, wheat, rye, wood pellets, or other organic materials such as cherry or olive pits.

Saskatchewan farmer Franck Groeneweg says the savings have been significant by using grain from his fields to heat his home. “We have dropped our fuel costs by four or five times at least,” said Groeneweg. “We will heat our house for about \$900 this year.”

Grain Stoves Inc., an Ontario company, says the spike in oil prices has driven business through the roof. “We’re really, really busy,” said Charles Gulutzen, whose family owns the company. While most customers are farmers with easy access to corn crops, he says word is spreading across the country. The stoves burn the grain pellet’s starch, emitting mostly carbon dioxide. The only waste product is a lava rock-like substance that is mostly potash, which can be used as fertilizer. Gulutzen says right now, the stoves make more sense in rural areas where it’s easier for people to get their hands on grain supplies. However, he envisions a day when people have grains delivered to their homes instead of oil or propane. “There’s endless opportunity sitting there,” he says.

While sales of grain-fuelled stoves are growing, the head of energy conservation in Saskatchewan says people should first focus on energy efficiency in their homes. “The simple things are sealing, caulking and weather stripping and turning down your thermostat at night and when you’re not at home,” said Grant McVicar.

Out Standing in your Field



An Excerpt from The Pleasures of Eating

by Wendell Berry

Many times, after I have finished a lecture on the decline of American farming and rural life, someone in the audience has asked, "What can city people do?"

"Eat responsibly," I have

usually answered. Of course, I have tried to explain what I meant by that, but afterwards I have invariably felt that there was more to be said than I had been able to say. Now I would like to attempt a better explanation.

I begin with the proposition that eating is an agricultural act. Eating ends the annual drama of the food economy that begins with planting and birth. Most eaters, however, are no longer aware that this is true. They think of food as an agricultural product, perhaps, but they do not think of themselves as participants in agriculture. They think of themselves as "consumers." If they think beyond that, they recognize that they are passive consumers. They buy what they want-or what they have been persuaded to want-within the limits of wifery of the old household food economy. But one can be thus liberated only by entering a trap (unless one sees ignorance and helplessness as the signs of privilege, as many people apparently do).

The trap is the ideal of industrialism: a walled city surrounded by valves that let merchandise in but no consciousness out. How does one escape this trap? Only voluntarily, the same way that one went in: by restoring one's consciousness of what is involved in eating; by reclaiming responsibility for one's own part in the food economy. One might begin with the illuminating principle of Sir Albert Howard's *The Soil and Health*, that we should understand "the whole problem of health in soil, plant, animal, and man as one great subject." Eaters, that is, must understand that eating takes place inescapably in the world, that it is inescapably an agricultural act, and that how we eat determines, to a considerable extent, how the world is used. This is a simple way of describing

a relationship that is inexpressibly complex. To eat responsibly is to understand and enact, so far as one can, this complex relationship. What can one do? Here is a list, probably not definitive:

1. Participate in food production to the extent that you can. If you have a yard or even just a porch box or a pot in a sunny window, grow something to eat in it. Make a little compost of your kitchen scraps and use it for fertilizer. Only by growing some food for yourself can you become acquainted with the beautiful energy cycle that revolves from soil to seed to flower to fruit to food to offal to decay, and around again. You will be fully responsible for any food that you grow for yourself, and you will know all about it. You will appreciate it fully, having known it all its life.
2. Prepare your own food. This means reviving in your own mind and life the arts of kitchen and household. This should enable you to eat more cheaply, and it will give you a measure of "quality control": you will have some reliable knowledge of what has been added to the food you eat.
3. Learn the origins of the food you buy, and buy the food that is produced closest to your home. The idea that every locality should be, as much as possible, the source of its own food makes several kinds of sense. The locally produced food supply is the most secure, the freshest, and the easiest for local consumers to know about and to influence,
4. Whenever possible, deal directly with a local farmer, gardener, or orchardist. All the reasons listed for the previous suggestion apply here. In addition, by such dealing you eliminate the whole pack of merchants, transporters, processors, packagers. and advertisers who thrive at the expense of both producers and consumers.
5. Learn, in self-defense, as much as you can of the economy and technology of industrial food production. What is added to food that is not food, and what do you pay for these additions?
6. Learn what is involved in the best farming and gardening.
7. Learn as much as you can, by direct observation and experience if possible, of the life histories of the food species.

Tips and Tricks

Q: How do I protect perennials over the winter?

A: As we sit and watch the protective snow layer melt, there are a number of strategies to keep in mind for next year when overwintering perennials:

- Use hardy plant material - species and cultivars vary in their relative hardiness. Careful consideration must be made prior to selection of varieties or cultivars.
- Ensure excellent plant health throughout the growing season - plants that are healthy and have minimal stress are generally less susceptible to winter injury.
- Ensure plants are healthy and free from disease.
- Ensure adequate moisture throughout the growing season.
- Avoid excess applications of fertilizers, especially late in the summer. An excess or un-timely application of nutrients (particularly nitrogen) may result in a resurgence of growth late in the season or a failure of plants to acclimate.
- Protect and insulate plants. The use of snow fencing and shelterbelts to reduce winds can help build up an insulating snow cover, protecting plants. Use straw or bark mulches to cover whole plants or root systems.
- Prevent physical damage (breakage of limbs, etc) due to being blown over in high winds. This can be accomplished through the use of guy lines, consolidating containers (self-support), burying containers or laying containers on their sides under shelter or in groups.
- Protection of sensitive plant parts from temperature fluctuations - winter damage often occurs when temperatures fluctuate or when there are rapid and extreme changes in temperature. Bright winter sunlight can cause localized warming of plant tissues, triggering water flow, which can later freeze and the ice crystals cause tissue damage. Desiccation of plant tissues in this circumstance is important also – damage would be hard to distinguish in either case but it mostly happens on the south and west sides of plants. Protection of susceptible plant parts can be accomplished using paints or trunk wraps.

Mulches can protect plants by buffering temperature fluctuations. Mulches should be left in place until spring frosts have passed.

Adapted from Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Nov 2003.

Weed Control

The Yukon is in a unique position in Canada, having a cold climate that sees only the hardiest of weed species survive year after year. As any gardener knows, these weeds can spoil the look of a flower bed, rob valuable nutrients from the soil and can be a general time consuming nuisance. Weeds are responsible for reductions in crop yield and quality and they lead to environmental degradation through destruction of native plant and animal habitat. Weeds also harbour insects and diseases of crops, create unsafe conditions, reduce property values and the aesthetics of an enjoyable landscape. Many weeds can also poison humans, livestock and wildlife.

“A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.”

~ Doug Larson ~

Non chemical weed control

Use of a stirrup hoe: The stirrup hoe (also called a scuffle hoe) is the best method I have found for controlling weeds in between flowers and gardens planted in rows. It works best on young weed seedlings. Use a stirrup hoe to cultivate the ground at least once a week. This hoe is like a regular hoe, but instead of the flat surface, there is a round or squared off metal hoop at the end. The side closest to you has a sharp edge, which cuts the weeds roots as you are hoeing through the soil.

It doesn't take long to go out and work your hoe down each row and by doing this, no weeds can grow because seedlings are uprooted or cut off before they have a chance.

You will have to weed by hand up close and in between garden plants because the stirrup hoe can uproot or damage to garden plants if worked too close.

Use of a gardenfork: By using a gardenfork in a new and/or large bed with little or no existing plants, you will be able to get most of the roots of long rooted weeds. It also enables you to cover a large area faster. To use a pitchfork for weed control, push it under a group of weeds and lift them. Shake the soil off the weeds and dispose of them in the compost pile.

Vinegar or boiling water: To control weeds growing in the cracks of your footpath or in your driveway, try pouring boiling water or vinegar over them. Don't do this in your flowerbeds because it could also kill neighboring plants.

Mulch, Weed Barrier Fabric, IRT: As long as mulch is applied thick enough to keep sunlight from reaching the soil, it will keep new weeds from sprouting. You can use grass clippings, shredded and chipped branches, beauty bark, weed free hay, leaves or compost. Weed barrier fabrics are woven polymer barriers that block light for to prevent weed growth yet allow water and air to pass through the barrier. These fabrics can be cut for placement around plants or to prevent weeds growing on greenhouse floors. Remember, our cold soils in Yukon will be made even cooler with the use of thick mulch. Infrared Transmitting (IRT) plastic mulch will allow heat to pass through while blocking the wavelengths of light needed for plant growth. IRT will not allow for water to pass through, so an irrigation system must be used, such as drip emitters or soaker hose beneath the plastic when using IRT mulch.

Hand picking: Take a walk through the yard or greenhouse equipped with a bucket and gloves as often as possible and hand pick weeds. Try to pick them before they flower to prevent them from going to seed and

seeding themselves all over the yard. Also, be sure to get all the roots; if you don't, the weed will more than likely be back in a couple of weeks.



Chrysanthemum leucanthemum

Weed burners: Use a weed burner to destroy surface roots and plant material. A bottled gas weed burner can be inexpensive and effective. The flame only has to be on the plant material briefly to rupture the plant cells and cause tissue death. Flame the soil surface if the garden is already dug, then dig it again to expose those rhizomes that were not touched by the flame and repeat the process until all exposed soil surfaces have been flamed. Newer high tech infrared weed burners are available that focus the heat into a pinpoint allowing for better control, especially close to crops. These IR weed burners are expensive, but offer precise accuracy.

Mowing: Keeping weeds mowed regularly can be an effective method of reducing the vigor and preventing them from going to seed. Mowing must be frequent enough to prevent the weeds from storing enough energy between mowings. Frequent mowing during the growing season will "starve" weeds and eventually kill the roots. This means mowing must be done at least once a week or more during long Yukon summer days.

Corn Gluten: This has gained interest in recent years as a non-toxic alternative to chemical herbicides. The hydralized protein of corn and other grains inhibit root formation of annual grasses and broadleaf weeds at the time of germination. This could be a valuable tool in the weed control arsenal for Yukonners as there are no toxic side effects like chemical herbicides.



Tanacetum vulgare

Biological Control of Weeds

Some weeds can be suppressed by the use of living organisms. Geese, goats, sheep, and even some insects can be used to control weeds in certain situations. “Weeder geese” are certain varieties of domestic geese that can be very effective in keeping weed seedlings from becoming established. Since the geese naturally tend to eat small seedlings, they will remove the weed seedlings while leaving the established plantings alone. Goats, sheep and other grazing animals can be used to keep right-of-ways “mowed”, however since these animals are not discriminating with established plantings, they can not be used in all situations.

The key to getting and staying weed free is persistence. You have to stay on top of it by checking your gardens regularly and maintaining what needs to be done. You should also be aware of plants used in gardens that could potentially become weeds in the environment such as:

- *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* (sometimes referred to as *Leucanthemum vulgare*), commonly known as Oxeye Daisy. This is often mis-named and sold as Shasta Daisy. The Shasta Daisy however is a different plant, with different leaf shape and is not invasive.



Linaria vulgaris



Echium vulgare

- *Symphytum sp.* (Comfrey) and *Cynoglossum officinale* (Hound’s-Tongue) both are attractive and spread rapidly. The first has ethnobotanical properties used by some. The latter is of concern in many parts of B.C. as the fruits catch onto animal fur and transported great distances. Also this plant can cause liver damage in grazing animals.
- *Euphorbia esula* (Leafy Spurge) is an attractive, but very aggressive specie.
- *Linaria vulgaris*, commonly known as Yellow Toadflax and also sold as ‘butter and eggs’ can be seen everywhere in whitehorse. This attractive plant was introduced to the Yukon as an ornamental, which then escaped cultivation.
- *Echium vulgare* (Blueweed). This is sometimes sold in gardening centres throughout the Territory. It is another unpleasant plant for grazing animals.

- *Tanacetum vulgare* (Common Tansy). Many northern gardeners grow this plant, but it can become a serious field crop weed.

Others that have been seen in garden centres further south (ie: northern BC), but have not ‘yet’ been seen here in Whithorse:

- *Lythrum salicaria* (Purple Loosestrife)
- *Hypericum perforatum* (St. John’s Wort)
- *Cichorium intybus* (Chicory)

Adapted from: 1) IPM of Alaska, *Solving Pest Problems Sensibly*, 2005. 2) Notes and comments from Rosamund Pojar.

Photos: William S. Justice @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

“A weed is a plant that is not only in the wrong place, but intends to stay.”

~ Sara Stein ~

Calendar of Events

Fireweed Community Market Society - Annual

General Meeting - January 12, 2006 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Whitehorse Public Library meeting room. Want to know more about the society?
<http://users.yknet.yk.ca/goofy/fcms.htm>

The Master Gardener Course is scheduled to take place in the winter 2006. Those interested should contact the Agriculture Branch to add their name to a sign up list.

Announcements

In Memory of a Friend and Colleague

Doug Craig, a teacher and a mentor, as well as a long time Yukoner, passed away in the fall of 2005. Dr. Craig was an innovator who was devoted to improving the community and was instrumental in many projects throughout the Yukon. Also referred to as "Doc", Doug had a Ph.D. in Geological Engineering and taught science at F.H. Collins for 13 years.

Doug's enthusiasm for conservation and his contributions to society included being president of the Yukon Agriculture Association (YAA), working to form the Recycling Organics Together Society (ROTS), and helping to create the gardens located below the clay cliffs near Ogilvie Street. He also worked to bring wind energy

InFARMation is...

A Yukon Government newsletter published by the Agriculture Branch of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. If you would like to add your name to the newsletter mailing list, comment on an article or contribute a story, then please write to:

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Or call Tony Hill at 867-667-3417, outside of Whitehorse at 1-800-661-0408 local 3417, or stop by the Agriculture Branch. We are located on the third Floor Elijah Smith Building.

Web site: www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture

to Whitehorse and was influential in the introduction of the two wind turbines now located on Haeckel Hill.

His compassion for those around him and his determination to fight for a cause he believed in was greatly admired by every one who knew him. Whether it was through pioneering new technology, supporting the community or passing on his knowledge in the classroom, he will be sincerely missed by all. A memorial scholarship in his name for students studying agriculture and related sciences is being set in place and will be available through the Yukon Foundation.

Classifieds

For Sale: Molly and Fiddles - two Alpine-Saanen cross does. Will be 2 years old this spring. Dam is one of the best commercial dairy does in the Yukon! Already bred so you can start enjoying your own fresh, tasty goatmilk this spring. \$300/pair. Buck also available.

393-GOAT

Elk Meat Available

- 25 or 50 lb assortments. Lean burger, prime rib, t-bone, ribs, etc. low fat, low cholesterol and high protein.
- Velvet Antler - a natural health alternative 30 capsule bottles (\$15.00) and 100 capsule bottles (\$45.00) available.

Ford Elk Farms Ltd. 633-4342

Top quality Yukon grown hay 100% Guaranteed. Buy 10 bales get 1 Free. 800 lb round or 50 lb square. In effect until December 31, 2005 ... "this savings will give you your locally grown hay at the same price as southern hay trucked to the Yukon."

Rafter A Ranch, Ibx Valley 667-7844
raftera@northwestel.net

Yukon Gardener's Manual is now available at the Agriculture Branch for \$20 + tax. This is the text used for the *Master Gardener Course* offered each year by the Agriculture Branch, includes chapters on botany, soils, outdoor vegetable gardening, lawn and ground covers, woody perennials, flowering plants, greenhouse growing, pests and diseases. This is a must for those interested in northern gardening ... also a great gift idea for Christmas. For further info email:

marylynn.drul@gov.yk.ca

We are located in the Elijah Smith Building room 320. Stop by for a visit anytime.