



Department of
Agriculture and Food



Small landholder news

Small Landholder Information Service



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With Jodie Whitfield, Manager



June...halfway through the year and the start of winter. With the cooler temperatures you may notice a decline in pasture growth rates. It may be necessary to move stock from paddocks with low levels of food on offer (FOO), to protect these from overgrazing and ensure good growth rates in spring. In some cases supplementary feeding may be required.

Stock with young will also need to be monitored to ensure they have access to plenty of shelter during inclement weather, this will reduce the risk of animals getting hypothermia. If stock are in an area prone to flooding, waterlogging or without natural or manmade shelter consider moving them if severe weather is forecast.

Now is a great time to clean up your orchard. As the last of the apples are harvested, ensure you pick up any unwanted fruit and start spray programs to reduce carryover of fungal, bacterial and mite issues. Start pruning stone and pome fruit once the last of the leaves have fallen. Leaf fall can be hastened by use of appropriate nutrient foliage sprays.

Damper weather might lead to food spoiling quicker, if you are finding that food is spoiling before you get to use it consider preserving, drying, freezing, cooking or juicing your fresh produce. This will help you save money, reduce throwing out food and enable you to take advantage of seasonal fruit and vegetables.

The best time to plant deciduous fruit trees, like apples, pears and stone fruit, is when they are dormant, in winter. Evergreen fruit trees, like citrus, avocados and olives, establish well when planted in autumn, so they have three seasons to develop their root system before the heat of summer.

Slaters are a beneficial creature in the garden however when their numbers explode they can cause damage to your plants. To keep slater numbers to a reasonable level use minimal compost and remove objects which give shelter, such as empty pots and stacks of timber. You may also want to consider putting traps out near vulnerable plants, by hollowing out an orange halve or filling a pot with potato peeling this can lure slaters away from young plants. Or provide a protective barrier by making a collar out of the empty pots.

Our seasonal e-newsletter keeping you on top of what you need to know for the coming season will be emailed out in May. Sign up now at agric.wa.gov.au/small-landholder-information-service-e-newsletter to start receiving your copy.

For more information on other small landholder events, visit our SLIS Facebook page (facebook.com/DAFWAsmalllandholders) or website (agric.wa.gov.au/slis).

Until next time, Jodie.