

# WSU PUYALLUP HIGHLIGHT

February 28, 2005

## *Small Farms and Soil Management Teams Receive Organic Food Producer Certification*

Following a multi-year process, transitioning over 3 years, the Soil Management Team and Small Farms Team were issued a certification for 6 acres of organic ground at WSU Puyallup's Main Campus Farm. The new certification provides a certified area for research in organic food production.

The Soil Management Team's organic research is focused in 4 areas, using local sources of organic nutrients, cover crops, soil quality and organic farming systems for vegetable crop productions. The team designed a long-term organic systems experiment, consisting solely of organic treatments, comparing the effects of organic amendments, cover crops, and tillage on crop yield and quality, pest pressure, economics, and soil quality in an organic vegetable rotation. Treatments included two types of amendments, three cover crop strategies, and two tillage regimes. These treatments were based on discussions with farmers in interactive workshops, focus group sessions and farm visits.

A field day is scheduled for this coming August and we encourage your attendance. For more information on the field day, contact Andy Bary, [bary@wsu.edu](mailto:bary@wsu.edu).



Weekly Highlights provided by the people and programs of WSU Puyallup. To include a highlight in an upcoming announcement, please contact either Heather Schriver, [hschriver@wsu.edu](mailto:hschriver@wsu.edu), 253-445-4504, or Jon Newkirk, [jnewkirk@wsu.edu](mailto:jnewkirk@wsu.edu), 253-445-4568

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