

WSU PUYALLUP HIGHLIGHT

May 19, 2006

Acreage, plants, and a campus guide are all in a day's work

In every corner of WSU Puyallup, there are spring flowers and colorful trees. In his job as groundskeeper in the Facilities, Maintenance and Operations group, **Rick Olexick** has been keeping the campus looking great for 12 years. Rick received his education at Ohio State University where he studied in the Ag Tech School in Landscape and Construction. He has many years of experience in nursery and landscape work and is the author of the WSU Puyallup Campus Plant Identification and Locator Map, which is available for viewing by the front desk in the Administration Building. He has also put plant signs around the campus, "because I thought this is a research center and it would be good for people to see what we have."



Groundskeeping is a year-round business that



(Wintered over geraniums outside the Admin building)

starts in the wintertime with plant propagation in the greenhouse and winter pruning, weed control and clean-up outside. Rick winters over geraniums in the greenhouse. "That's why they're so big when I plant them," he explains. Spring is the busiest season on the grounds at WSU Puyallup with lawn and garden work, planting, fertilizing and general upkeep as things are growing out and up so quickly.



(Plant identification outside Allmendinger)

As the summer days heat up, lawns go dormant. Drip systems water flowers, rhododendrons, and all other seasonal plants. The only watered lawn is outside the Allmendinger Center. In the fall, it's time for bulbs to be planted and to show off a host of cool season annuals for spot color.

WSU Puyallup: Solutions for the Region- Programs for Its People.

Weekly Highlights is provided by the people and programs of WSU Puyallup. To include a highlight in an upcoming announcement, please contact either Tanyalee Erwin, terwin@wsu.edu, 253-445-4504, or Jon Newkirk, jnewkirk@wsu.edu, 253-445-4568. If your email is set to text messages only and you wish to see the graphical version of this Highlight, please email Tanyalee and she will send this Highlight as an attachment.