

# WSU PUYALLUP HIGHLIGHT

September 22, 2006

## Ph.D. Candidate Doug Collins receives Master Gardeners Scholarship



For two years, Doug Collins has worked in the field with Craig Cogger on the organic farming system experiment. Collins has been monitoring changes to soil biology communities with different organic treatments. At the same time, he has spent two semesters in Pullman—finishing 90% of his class work in record time—and worked as a TA with Cathy Perillo in the class, Introduction to Soils. This scholarship and commitment was recently recognized when Collins received this year's Master Gardeners of Pierce County Scholarship Fund of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation Scholarship award.



His educational career started at Colorado College (Biology) and shifted to Montana State

University where he received his Master's degree in Plant Pathology. Wanting to continue to a Ph.D. program, "I looked at two different soils programs and chose WSU

because of the strength of the sustainable agriculture program and the stronger and deeper selection of faculty and soils specialists." His work will continue this year, boosted by a SARE graduate student grant looking at spatial variations in soil biological communities on Full Circle Farm in Carnation, WA.

*(Above: Doug Collins explains a WSU Puyallup soil research project during BIOAg Field Day in July.)*

## 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](mailto:terwin@wsu.edu), 253-445-4504, or Jon Newkirk, [jnewkirk@wsu.edu](mailto: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.*