

What are Noxious Weeds?

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that have been introduced accidentally or as ornamentals in peoples' gardens. Some weeds are poisonous to humans and livestock. Many weeds grow rapidly and are extremely difficult to control. They can reduce crop yields, displace desirable plant species, destroy beneficial native habitat, damage recreational opportunities, clog waterways and diminish land values.

Weed Classifications

Class A Noxious Weeds: are defined as non-native species limited in distribution in Washington State. State law requires that these weeds be eradicated.

Class B Noxious Weeds: are defined as non-native species either absent from or limited in distribution in some portions of the state, but very abundant in other areas. The goal is to contain the plants where they are already widespread and prevent their spread into new areas.

Class C Noxious Weeds: are defined as non-native plants already widespread in Washington State. Counties can choose to enforce control or educate residents about controlling these noxious weeds or they can do both.

The Douglas County Commissioners activated the Douglas County Weed Management Task Force in October 2004. Nine individuals, who geographically represent Douglas County agriculture and urban areas serve as volunteer members. Ex-Officio members on the Task Force include representatives from the Douglas County Commissioners, Douglas County Transportation and Land Services, Foster Creek Conservation District and WSU - Douglas County Extension.

The purpose of this Task Force is to:

- Increase public awareness of noxious weeds in Douglas County
- Promote an integrated weed management program to control weeds
- Educate private landowners about weed control methods
- Encourage a cooperative weed management program between city, county, state and federal entities

The task force meets quarterly and the meetings are open to the public.



Douglas County Weed Management Task Force Cooperating agencies:

Douglas County Commissioners

Phone: 509.745.8537 www.douglascountywa.net

Douglas County Transportation and Land Services

Phone: 509.884.7173 www.douglascountywa.net

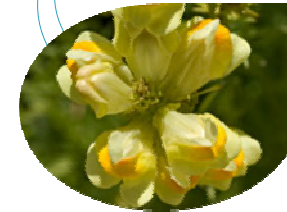
Foster Creek Conservation District

Phone: 509.745.8362 www.fostercreek.net

WSU - Douglas County Extension

Phone: 509.745.8531 www.ncw.wsu.edu

Help Stop the Spread of Noxious Weeds in Douglas County



Dalmatian Toadflax



Purple Loosetrife



Diffuse Knapweed



Scotch Thistle



Rush Skelton



Canada Thistle

Noxious Weeds are Everyone's Problem

STOP THE SPREAD OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

- Learn to identify the plants in your area.
- Do not pick “flowers” you can’t identify to plant in another area. You may be unknowingly spreading noxious weeds.
- Clean ATV’s and off-road vehicles of any plant or seed materials.
- Do not drive on roadways, fields and other areas not intended for motor vehicle use.

Weed Identification

If you need assistance with weed identification, weed control and chemical recommendations contact:

Dale Whaley
WSU - Douglas County Extension
PO Box 550
Waterville, WA 98858
509.745.8531
dwhaley@wsu.edu

Resources

Weeds Gone Wild - www.nps.gov
Plants Database - www.plants.usda.gov
Invasive Species Program - www.fs.fed.us
Biological Control - www.nysals.cornell.edu
The Center for Invasive Plant Management - www.weedcenter.org
Western Integrated Pest Management Center - www.wrpmc.ucdavis.edu
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board - www.nwcb.wa.gov

Noxious Weeds Identified in Douglas County WANTED: DEAD, NOT ALIVE

CONTROL METHODS

Using an integrated approach to controlling weeds is generally most successful. This approach includes: **manual**, **chemical**, **cultural** and **biological** methods.



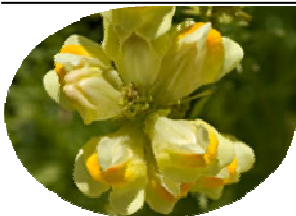
Diffuse Knapweed

Manual control - hand pulling is effective only if done 2-3 times during the growing season and used with another control method.

Chemical control - extremely effective if applied early in the spring, eliminates both spring and fall seedlings.

Cultural control - planting perennial grasses competes with the weed for space, light and nutrients. Mowing should be done just before bud formation. Mowing too early causes plants to produce seed heads 2-3 inches off the ground.

Biological control - seed head weevil, *Larinus minutus*, reduces the amount of seeds produced by the plant and adult feeding will weaken and kill the plant.



Dalmatian Toadflax

Manual control - hand pulling is only effective if done repeatedly during the season and repeated yearly.

Chemical control - effective if a silicone surfactant is applied with a herbicide in the summer/fall at full bloom.

Cultural control - spring cultivation is effective if repeated several times in the spring so the plant does not have time to grow.

Biological control - the stem-mining weevil, *Mecinus janthinus*, stunts plant growth and impacts the number of seeds produced.



Kochia

Manual control - hand pulling can be successful. Mowing the plant before flowering will reduce seed production, but must be done repeatedly.

Chemical control - herbicides should be applied post-emergence.

Cultural control - early tillage in the spring controls seedling growth.

Biological control - none available.



Canada Thistle

Manual control - 21 day repeated tillage for 4 months can reduce minor infestations. Mowing repeatedly can also weaken stems and prevent/reduce seed production.

Chemical control - multiple applications of a broad-leaf herbicide must be used to control weed. Surfactant must be used for best results.

Cultural control - competitive crops (alfalfa or forage grasses) can control infestation.

Biological control - stem gall forming fly and 2 seed head weevils available. A stem-mining weevil is currently being tested.