

Okanogon County's 2014 Summer News Bulletin

Coming Events

July Events

July 9th: Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting. **(For more information please contact Ferry County Noxious Weed Office (509) 775-5225 ext. 1111.)**

July 23rd: Okanogon County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at the Virginia Grainger Building in Okanogon at 4:00 p.m. If the Commissioners' meeting goes over, you will find us in the back Conference Room; just enter through the left rear door of the Grainger Bldg. **(Note: You will receive 1 pesticide license recertification credit for every board meeting that you attend.)**

August Events

August 6th: Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting. **(For more information please contact Ferry County Noxious Weed Office (509) 775-5225 ext. 1111.)**

August 27th: Okanogon County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. If the Commissioners' meeting goes over, you will find us in the back Conference Room; just enter through the left rear door of the Grainger Bldg. **(Note: You will receive 1 pesticide license recertification credit for every board meeting that you attend.)**

September Events

September 10th: Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting. **(For more information please contact Ferry County Noxious Weed Office (509) 775-5225 ext. 1111.)**

September 4th-7th: Stop in and see us at the Okanogon County Fair.

September 24th: Okanogon County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. **(Note: You will receive 1 pesticide license recertification credit for every board meeting that you attend.)**

**Have a wonderful summer,
and remember to give us a call with
your noxious weed questions!**

**We can help you find the best control
options, for your species of concern,
that fits the goals you have established
for your property.**

Announcements

Limited Time & Staff Have Forced Changes

New Hours

During the 2014 field season, the Noxious Weed Office will be reducing the number of hours the office is open to the public. Field season office hours will be Monday through Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will allow Thursday and Friday to be dedicated field days and allow for adequate follow up on landowner concerns, while reducing staff overtime hours. Please do not hesitate to leave us a voice mail or send us an email.

Field work will continue as normal, with inspections and notifications preceding any enforcement actions.

Notification for Mandatory Control Noxious Weeds

In order to reduce costs and time, we are limiting repeat inspections on mandatory control species. Landowners with mandatory control noxious weeds on their property may receive a "notice to control" by a specific date. If the weeds are not controlled to prevent seed production, a posting letter will be sent. Enforcements will follow as needed. Mandatory control species will include all Class A species, and all B-Designate species.

A list of designated species is available on our website at www.okanogancounty.org/nw.

Noxious Weeds of the Season

Mirabilis (Wild 4 O'clock)



This is a Class A noxious weed which means that the State requires mandatory eradication!

The name refers to the flowers, which open late in the day and wither early the following morning. Flowers are in clusters of 3 to 5. This plant can reach 3 to 4 feet tall. It reproduces by seed and root fragments.



It is a very showy plant and is in fact an escaped ornamental.

Contact us for control recommendations and possible assistance.

Hawkweed (Non-native species)

We have both Orange and Yellow hawkweeds in Okanogon County. The non-native species are B-designated and control is required.

Hawkweed flowers in clusters at the top of a leafless stem which is covered in dark bristles. The leaves, which form a basal rosette are also covered in dense hairs.

Both the stem and leaves produce a white milky sap. This plant is also an escaped ornamental.

Contact us for control options.



Plants to Be Aware Of !!

Toxic Plants in Okanogan County

Puncturevine

Puncturevine (aka Goathead) is toxic to livestock if eaten in large amounts. Livestock, mainly goats, can become very sick. Goats can have their head swell which will cause death. This is not toxic to people but will hurt if you step on it or get one of the seeds in your shoe.



Yellow Starthistle

Yellow starthistle is only known to be toxic to horses; those that eat it get what's known as chewing disease. The chewing disease makes it impossible for the horse to swallow food as it softens the tissues of the brain. There is no effective treatment that can be used at this time.



Hoary Alyssum

Hoary Alyssum is very toxic to horses. After eaten, signs or symptoms can show up immediately, or up to a few days later. Death can happen if eaten in large enough amounts, and it can cause premature births, fever, or swollen limbs. It does not appear to affect other livestock.



Poison Hemlock

All parts of this plant are toxic to people and animals. It is common on roadsides and open fields and is often mistaken for a wild carrot. Symptoms will appear 20 minutes to 3 hours after ingestion. All parts of the plant are toxic, and can affect the skin and respiratory system as well. Canes can remain toxic for up to 3 years.



Remember that not all weeds are toxic, but those that are can pose a possible threat to your well being and that of your livestock and pets.

We do have a brochure about toxic plants found locally and can easily distribute it through email.

Noxious Weeds on the Move

Meadow Clary

Meadow Clary is a perennial, ranging from 1 to 2 feet tall. Leaves are mostly basal with a long stem. The plant is aromatic and covered with small hairs, with the upper plant parts being glandular. Meadow Clary reproduces by seed. It thrives in dry and well drained areas. The flowers are blue-violet to a dark purple.



Spurge Flax

Spurge Flax is known as a common weed in its native habitat. In Okanogan county, it covered 600 acres before it was noticed and identified. This annual plant ranges from 2 to 24 inches tall and is difficult to spot with an untrained eye. This plant can turn red in the fall, after seed production, making it easier to see. It grows in rangelands and dry pastures.



Garlic Mustard

This plant is very hard to control; this is a short lived perennial that is garlic scented and it can grow up to 3 feet tall. Garlic mustard reproduces by seed. This plant can cross-pollinate as well as self-pollinate. It is found in urban parks, on roadsides, as well as trails, railroad tracks, stream banks and fields.



Hoary Alyssum

Hoary Alyssum is noted to invade pastures, and sandy or gravelly soils. This plant will grow 1 to 3 feet tall. A member of the mustard family, this plant will produce a lot of seeds, its only method of reproduction, rapidly increasing the size of the infestation. This will spread fast throughout drought stressed areas and move readily into irrigated alfalfa fields.



If you should happen to come across some strange new plants on your property that you can't identify, we strongly encourage you to contact the Noxious Weed Office for identification assistance. If we can't identify your plant, we will send it off to WSU for identification.

We offer a variety of programs, and can assist in identifying plants/weeds on your property, developing weed management plans, and possibly even some assistance in your control efforts, depending on your weed species of concern.

Who knows, you may just be the one who prevents the next big noxious weed invasion into Okanogan County!!

As always, we appreciate your assistance in finding and reporting noxious weeds.