

Okanogon County's 2014 Winter Noxious Weed Bulletin

Coming Events

January Events

January 8: Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting. (For more information about Ferry County's Weed Board meetings, please contact the Ferry County Noxious Weed Office at (509) 775-5235.)

January 22: Okanogon County Noxious Weed 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. (Note: You will receive one pesticide license recertification credit for every board meeting that you attend.)

February Events

February 5: Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting.

February 4: Mark your calendars: the Horticulture Show will be held in the Agriplex building at the Okanogon County Fairgrounds. This years show will be worth three credits toward your pesticide license recertification (the trade show starts at 8:00 a.m.).

February 19: Chelan County Noxious Weed Board is holding a seven credit pesticide license recertification workshop at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee. (For more information please contact the Chelan County Noxious Weed Office at (509) 667-6550.)

February 26: Okanogon County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room.

March Events

March 5: Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting.

March 6: Okanogon County Noxious Weed Boards Spring Pesticide License Recertification class will be held in the Commissioners Hearing Room of the Virginia Grainger Building. The class will be worth four credits for five dollars and attendance will be limited to the first 75 people who pre-register for the class.

March 26: Okanogon County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Calibration Workshop

The Okanogon County Noxious Weed Board is tentatively scheduling a hands-on Calibration Workshop for the beginning of April. If we have enough people interested in calibrating their spray equipment, we will have Bob Stewart from DOW AgriSciences up to teach the class. We are asking that anyone who is interested in the workshop please contact the weed office to pre-register for the class ASAP.

Policy/Procedure Changes Coming For 2014

Due to limited time, personnel, and the reduced availability of grant funding, the Weed Office may be implementing some major changes in 2014.

Office Hours

During the 2014 field season (April 1 to November 30), the Noxious Weed Office will reduce the number of hours the office is open to the public. Field season office hours will be Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Class A Noxious Weed Control

Starting in 2014, the Noxious Weed Office may only pay for up to 50 percent of the cost for herbicide control of Class A Noxious Weeds for landowners. Landowner contracts will be mailed out in February and must be returned no later than the end of March. Landowners with Class A weeds who do not return their contract by March 31, will be sent a posting notice, and will be responsible for all costs associated with control.



Mirabilis

New Invader Noxious Weed Control

In 2014, the Noxious Weed Office may no longer offer the New Invader Weed Control Program. Rather, all noxious weeds that were previously listed as New Invader Weeds would become Class B Designate weeds. It is mandatory for landowners who have Class B Designate Noxious Weeds on their property to stop propagation of the species.



Orange Hawkweed

Class B Designate Noxious Weed Control Options

Starting in 2014, landowners (who have had Class B Designate Noxious Weeds on their property in past years) will receive a contract from the Noxious Weed Office to hire a local licensed Commercial Pesticide Applicator to treat any Class B Designate noxious weeds on their property in 2014 (landowners will be responsible for the cost of the treatment). Landowners who do not wish to sign the contract will be responsible for controlling any Class B Designate Noxious Weeds on their property. Landowners with mandatory control weeds on their property will receive a "notice to control" by a specific date. If the weeds aren't controlled by that date, a posting letter will be sent. Enforcements will follow as needed.



Musk Thistle

Okanogon County's 2014 Class B Designate Noxious Weeds include:

Hawkweed, Rush skeletonweed, Leafy spurge, Common buckhorn, Yellow starthistle, Tansy ragwort, Musk thistle, Scotch thistle, and Hoary alyssum.

2013 Weed Control Projects

Weed Control Accomplishments Of 2013



Okanogan Noxious Weed Office coordinated several noxious weed control projects in 2013, as well as our New Invader and Class A noxious weed programs. Pictured left; an infestation of Meadow clary (a Class A noxious weed) was detected and treated in the Similkameen River corridor in 2013.

In 2013, the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Office was able to treat all of our Class A, and Priority Control Weed species, as well as, most of our New Invader Noxious Weed species. We were also able to treat noxious weeds in several project areas throughout Okanogan County. And, we were able to purchase herbicide to give out to landowners who hold a pesticide applicators license to help them control Hoary Alyssum on their property.

The Noxious Weed Office was able to pay for the treatment of: 16 acres of Wild 4 o'clock, 38 acres of Leafy spurge, 3 acres of Rush skeletonweed, 77 acres of Scotch thistle, 3 acres of Musk thistle, 9 acres of Hawkweed, 1 acre of Yellow starthistle, 1.75 acres of Garlic mustard, approximately 80 acres of Spurge flax, 0.75 acres of Common buggloss, 1 acre of Meadow clary, 6 acres of Purple loosestrife and 2 acres of Hoary alyssum. We were also able to treat 2,041.5 acres of various other noxious weeds located on US Forest Service and Washington State Department of Natural Resources managed lands.

Almost all of these projects were paid for with grant dollars, and were provided at little or no cost to the landowner. In total, the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board spent \$158,388 worth of grant and other outside funding sources to help combat noxious weeds in Okanogan County during the 2013 field season (a small portion of the funds that were received in 2013 will carry over into our 2014 budget).

Spring Recertification Class Changes

Less Credits Available At Spring Class

Starting this Spring, the Noxious Weed Control Board will be reducing the number of credits that are available at our Spring Pesticide License Recertification Classes from eight credits down to four credits. We will also be changing the location of our Spring Class. Our Spring Class will now be held in the Commissioner's Hearing Room of the Virginia Grainger Building. The cost of the class will remain five dollars, but, due to limited space, we will require that people pre-register for the class.

These changes have become necessary because we have not been making enough money at our classes to cover the costs of providing them (this is due to reduced attendance at our Spring and Fall Classes over the past few years).

Hoary Alyssum Buffer Area May Be Removed

Control May Be Required County Wide



Currently, Hoary Alyssum is a Class B Designate Noxious Weed in most of Okanogan County, with the only exception being in a small buffer area located in the Northeastern portion of the county (as a Class B Designate Weed, landowners are required to stop seed production).

In 2014, the Okanogan Noxious Weed Board will begin the process of removing the Hoary alyssum Buffer Area. This means that, depending how long the process takes, it could be mandatory for landowners to control Hoary alyssum throughout Okanogan County as early as 2015. Landowners are encouraged to begin control now, to reduce the financial impact that they may experience when Hoary alyssum becomes mandatory control county wide.

Start Planning For 2014

What Needs To Get Done This Winter?

Make an Outline of the Things that You Want to Accomplish During this coming Weed Control Season! Make a list of the weed infestations on your property that you can realistically expect to control/eliminate during the upcoming weed control season, and make a plan for getting it done. Be sure to determine the importance of each area to be controlled/eliminated first, second, third, and so on.

Renew Your Pesticide License! If you plan to use any restricted use pesticides this year, you will need to make sure that your pesticide applicator license is current. To check on the status of your pesticide applicator license, please visit the Washington State Department of Agriculture pesticide website at agr.wa.gov/pestfert/licensing/search or contact the Noxious Weed Office at (509) 422-7165.

Order Biological Control Agents! If you plan to order biological control agents in 2014, now is the time to get your order forms in. Please visit the Weed Office web site at okanogancounty.org/nw to download an order form, or stop by the Noxious Weed Office in room 102 of the Okanogan County Courthouse to pick up your order form.

Inventory Pesticides for the Upcoming Spray Season! Winter is a great time to go through your herbicides to make sure that you have sufficient quantities on hand for the upcoming spray season.

Check and Calibrate Your Equipment! Before Spring, you should thoroughly inspect your pesticide application equipment to ensure that it is in good working order; make sure to replace any damaged, faulty, or worn components. You should also calibrate your equipment to ensure you are applying pesticides at the proper labeled rate.