

Noxious Weed Report for May 24

Last week, I discussed the fifth step of putting together your effective noxious weed control plan, which is making sure to include provisions for conducting follow-up treatments and monitoring within your noxious weed control plan.

This week, I will be discussing the sixth and final step of putting together your effective noxious weed control plan, which covers long term commitments and expectations for your noxious weed control plan. This final step isn't necessarily something that needs to be written into the plan, rather something that you should be thinking about while putting it together, and throughout the process of controlling noxious weeds on your property.

Keep in mind that plants are added to the state noxious weed list because they are highly invasive and very difficult to control. And, many of those plants are capable of producing several thousand seeds which can remain viable in the soil for ten or more years. Unfortunately, this means that landowners should expect a long term commitment when trying to eliminate weeds from their property. If you should happen to feel frustrated while working to control noxious weeds on your property, or feel that you aren't making any progress, it is important to remember that every plant that you stop from producing seeds now potentially means thousands less plants on your property down the road.

This week, I would also like to mention that the Noxious Weed Office has a job opening for a Field Inspector for this (2017) field season. The position will start around June 15, and end around September 15. We are looking for someone who currently holds a Washington State Department of Agriculture Public Consultants Pesticide License, however, we are willing to discuss the job criteria with anyone who holds a Private Applicator Pesticide License who is able to take the AG Weed exam and receive the necessary license endorsement within 30 days of being hired. The pay for this position will be \$12.94 / hour (Once the Public Consultants License is acquired). Applicants for this position must possess a valid Washington State drivers' license, be able to perform in rugged terrain, adverse weather conditions, and be able to communicate well with the public.

If we are unable to find someone qualified to fill the Field Inspector position, then we will also be looking for candidates to fill 1 (or possibly 2) Field Assistant positions. The Field Assistant position will pay the minimum wage of \$11.00 / hour, and does not require a Pesticide License. Applicants for this position must possess a valid Washington State drivers' license, be able to perform in rugged terrain, adverse weather conditions, and be able to communicate well with the public. If you are interested in either of these job openings, please give us a call at (509) 422-7165 or stop in and see us in room 102 of the Okanogan County Courthouse.