

Noxious Weed Report for August 16

Hi, this is the noxious weed report for August 16, 2017.

Fair is almost here again and the valley is preparing to celebrate “70 Years of Pride, County Wide.” If you plan to head down to the fair, keep an eye out for the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board booth. This year we’ll be sharing a booth with the Colville Confederated Tribes as a part of our coordinated weed management area partnership. We will be providing technical assistance with any weed-related questions and we’ll have plenty of informational handouts available for anyone who stops by. We’ll also have plant identification books available for anyone needing to identify an unknown species. Just be sure to bring your plant specimen in a bag to stop the spread of seed.

Another important issue to be aware of at this point in the year is the potential for wildfires. Wildfires can be started in so many different ways, so it’s very important to consider how your actions could potentially ignite something around you. Burn piles and controlled burns are usually effective ways to control noxious weeds, but at this point in the year, it’s very risky to start a controlled fire. In most areas of our county, the land and climate is incredibly dry through August and September, making it dangerous to have a fire, even under proper supervision. Also, as you’re using ATVs and trucks to spray for noxious and obnoxious weeds, be aware of the potential for your vehicle to start a fire while driving through or stopped in tall, dry grass. Wildfires are a huge threat to our communities and it’s our job as citizens to take precautions to prevent them.

The Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board would also like to invite you to our monthly board meeting next week, on Wednesday, August 23. We will be providing some updates regarding the noxious weed policies and will be having a discussion about our supplemental resulting from an unexpected carry-over from 2016. Also remember that attendance at the meeting earns one credit toward any WSDA Pesticide License.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns relating to noxious weeds, send us an email at noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us, give us a call at 422-7165, or stop in and see us in room 102 of the Okanogan County Courthouse.