



The Sage

E-NEWS FROM THE FRANKLIN COUNTY
NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

SPRING 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 pm from March — October. Public attendance is by telephone.
- Spring residual application on roadsides is completed
- Find out about our activities by visiting our website at fcweedboard.com
- Visit the pollinator garden at Sacajawea Park

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What's New for 2021 (continued)	2
Springing Into Action Photos	2
Are You Catching My Drift?	3
Cost Share Program Update	4
New Species Added to the Quarantine List	4
Pop Quiz... Name That Spring Rosette	5
Announcements	6
Sage Words From Our Coordinator	6
Pop Quiz Answers	6

What's New For 2021?



Joel Price, Oregon Department of Agriculture

The noxious weed list has been updated to reflect the new species now considered noxious weeds in Franklin County.

Which Species Made the List?

Turkish thistle was added to the county list as a Class A noxious weed. Saltcedar and Myrtle spurge have been added as B-designate noxious weeds. Medusahead was added as a Class C noxious weed.

By law, landowners are required to destroy all Class A noxious weeds on their property. Many Class A weeds are added to prevent species from gaining a foothold in the state. Turkish thistle is one of those species.

Turkish thistle, an annual, is not yet known to be in Washington but has been identified in Oregon and Idaho along the Snake River. It is presumed that it would do well in Eastern Washington's climate.

Oregon and Idaho report there is a lot of variability in its growth, flowering at just 3 inches in height or growing to 4 feet before flowering. The variability is most likely dependent on moisture, another sign it might do well in our low rainfall region.

Terrain poses a problem where Turkish thistle is growing in both states so only a handful of isolated infestations have been treated but it is assumed that herbicides that work on other thistles such as the **Aminopyralid family** of herbicides will also work on Turkish thistle.

Turkish thistle is not as robust as some of our more common thistles so it may be difficult to detect if growing amongst perennial grasses. If you come across a thistle plant you do not recognize please report it to us so we can identify it. FCWB wants to take an **early detection, rapid response approach** to this potential new threat.



Mark Porter, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Turkish thistle flowering at 3" tall

Story continued on Page 2

Saltcedar and Myrtle spurge have been designated for mandatory control. “The Class B-designate listing for these noxious weeds is appropriate, given their limited distribution,” says Coordinator, Todd Harris. “Controlling these species is manageable and can be done at a time of the year when temperature hinders spraying other noxious weeds,” Harris adds.



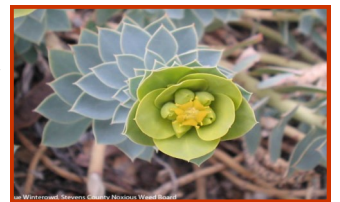
Saltcedar is a deciduous multi-trunked small tree or shrub with scaly, cedar like branches and bright pink flowers that appear in summer. It typically reaches heights of 5 – 20 feet. The branching habit of the plant often results in the formation of dense thickets.



An aggressive colonizer, saltcedar quickly displaces native vegetation because of its ability to adapt to various site conditions. It also secretes salt that forms a crust above and below ground inhibiting the survival of other plants.



Myrtle spurge is a perennial forb originally valued for its water wise characteristics. This ground hugging plant does very well in our arid climate, performing well on dry, rocky banks. It is commonly found in home landscapes. Myrtle spurge contains a milky sap that causes nausea and vomiting if ingested and blistering of the skin.



Medusahead was added as a Class C noxious weed. This non native winter annual is a problem in northern parts of Franklin County. The Class C listing allows the Board flexibility in it’s management. We can choose to educate landowners on its impacts and perform herbicide trials to determine what chemicals work best.



Springing Into Action



A broadcast application by our crew



Todd meets with WA State Parks staff to discuss plans for a sterilant application on the Columbia Plateau Trail



Marcus sprays Scotch thistle plants



Luis spraying yellow starthistle



Spring residual application

Visit our website at fcweedboard.com to learn more about our program, current projects and noxious weeds

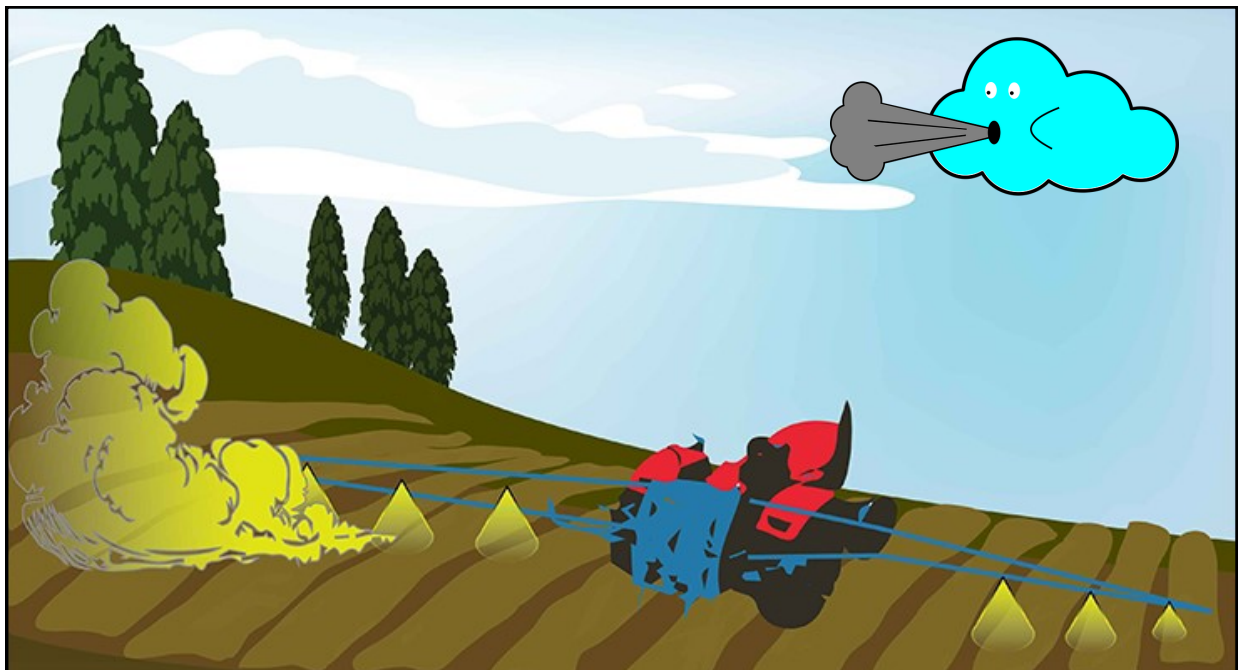
Are You Catching My Drift?

Spring has sprung and with it comes warmer days and weed seed germination. You may have plans in the near future to spray those weeds that have already begun to grow. However, before deciding on an application day you need to be aware of weather conditions. After all, you want to make sure the day you spray ensures the application will kill your weeds while safeguarding your neighbor's crops and nearby landscapes. Springtime in the Tri Cities tends to be quite breezy and as much as we want to take advantage of those nice spring temperatures, we have to keep in mind that herbicides will drift under certain conditions.

It is recommended to spray in wind speeds between 3 and 10 miles per hour. Spraying in winds in excess of 10 mph increases the possibility of herbicide drift. Calm days also pose a threat because small droplets of herbicide will stay suspended in the air for long periods of time. This reduces the efficacy of the application and increases the chance for drift, if the wind picks up later.

Here are some helpful tips to help you decide when to spray:

- ◆ Check the forecasted weather with a local source before scheduling your spray day.
- ◆ On the scheduled day check the forecast again and take the wind speed in the area where the application will take place using a hand-held wind measuring device. Check the wind speed before, during and after the application.
- ◆ Should the wind increase during spraying or become completely calm, stop spraying and resume when conditions are more favorable.
- ◆ Be aware of the proximity of sensitive crops and landscapes.
- ◆ Refer to the product label for the recommended application directions.
- ◆ Be aware of the potential volatility of the herbicide you choose.



Cost Share Program

Our cost share program which targets yellow starthistle, Scotch thistle, diffuse knapweed and rush skeletonweed had a lot of interest in 2020. The program is on a first-come, first-served basis which includes a disbursement to the landowner to help defray the cost of spraying noxious weeds. Originally proposals were accepted until a total of 4000 acres had been signed with a closing of the application period on Jan 31st of that year.



A helicopter is used for an aerial application

Since the goal of the program is to get as many acres sprayed as possible the Board recognized the opportunity to increase acreage to 5000 for 2021. Eligibility to participate in the program was increased to the first 5000 acres proposed. We are very pleased with the growing interest in the program and happy to offer this incentive.

The cost share program provides benefits to both the landowner and FCNWCB. Coordinating large aerial applications allows us to increase the acreage sprayed and track ongoing progress while helping adjoining landowners work cooperatively on noxious weed control. This year's cost share payment to help offset spraying costs is \$8.28/acre.

If you would like more information about the program please call the office at 509-545-3847 or visit fcweedboard.com

WSDA Places New Species On the Quarantine List



Ravenna grass encroaches on the Columbia River



Poison hemlock

As of March 11th, twelve plants are no longer permitted to be sold or distributed in WA state, including online.

Several of the newly added species are present in Franklin County and staff have been actively educating the public that these changes were coming. We are particularly excited to have Ravenna grass (*Tripsidium ravennae*) placed on the list. Since 2015 we have worked diligently to rid the county of Ravenna grass and now that it can no longer come into the state our efforts will pay off.

Ravenna grass, a B-designate noxious weed in Franklin County, is a tall ornamental grass that is commonly mistaken for pampus grass, although they are unrelated. The reason for the confusion is because it has been sold in the industry as hardy pampus grass. Consequently, some property owners were under the impression the grass was not a noxious weed and had a hard time understanding why we were asking them to remove it. Most however, have been very cooperative because the grass often outgrows its original space or voluntarily seeds all over the yard making it a nuisance.

Some of the other plants added to the list include Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Myrtle spurge and poison hemlock have toxic qualities that can cause severe and painful skin irritation. Tree-of-heaven is host to a potential new invader that could devastate Washington's economy if it were to become established.

The complete list of prohibited plants can be found here: [prohibited plants](#).

Pop Quiz... Name that spring rosette

Spring is here and noxious weeds are beginning to rear their ugly heads. Can you identify these pesky plants?

Answers are on the back page.



Winter annual with a stout taproot.

Deeply lobed leaves appear ruffled.

Hairy leaf surface causes a grey-green or blue-green appearance.

Perennial that is often mistaken for a grass.
Glossy yellowish-green, grass-like leaves taper to a pointed tip.
Triangular stems.



Herbaceous annual with a deep taproot.

Germinates in dense mats.

Seedlings are densely hairy giving the plant a frosty green look.



Announcements

Board Meetings

Monthly Board meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm during the spring and summer. Meetings are open to the public and can also be attended by phone. Call 545-3847 for details.

Sprayers Available

We have UTV or ATV mountable sprayers available to help you with your spring weed control – free with a damage deposit.

Landowner Consultations

The staff continues to practice social distancing but are still available to meet with you to discuss all your noxious weed issues.



Sage Words From Our Program Coordinator

Over the past year many of us have spent more time than usual at home... working from home, schooling from home and staying connected with family and friends from home. Why not take advantage of this time to tackle those pesky weeds. Although this spring has been cool and breezy so far, it hasn't seemed to slow down the weeds.

We have missed seeing all of you at the events we typically participate in every year but with more and more people being vaccinated we are hopeful that community events will return soon giving us the opportunity to take part in outreach once again. You may not have seen our faces much in the past year but we are always available to assist you with noxious weed problems and are just a phone call away. Todd Harris, Program Coordinator

Page 5 Spring Rosette I.D. Quiz Answers

1. Yellow starthistle, Class B Noxious Weed, control or containment required.
2. Yellow nutsedge, Class B Noxious Weed, control or containment required.
3. Kochia, Class B Noxious Weed, control or containment required.



Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board

Physical: 502 Boeing St. Pasco, WA ~ Mailing: 1016 N 4th Pasco, WA 99301

509-545-3847 ~ fcwb@co.franklin.wa.us

fcweedboard.com