

# FALL 2018

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Board Meetings are open to the public and held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 1 pm from October through February
- Staff is available for education and outreach
- Look for our booth at the following 2019 events:  
Eastern WA Ag Expo  
Jan. 8-9  
Home & Garden Show  
Feb. 22-24
- Visit our website at [fcweedboard.com](http://fcweedboard.com)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Cost Share Program Update	2
The ABC's of Noxious Weeds	2
Trivia Time	3
What's Bugging You?	3
Cool Projects	4
Coordinator's Desk	4
Answers To Trivia Time	4

# Landowner - Operator Newsletter

## Stopping Weeds Before They Start

As the leaves turn brown this fall, some folks might think it's too late to spray this year's weeds. Think again. Fall brings the opportunity to get ahead of the weeds with an application of pre-emergent herbicide.

Pre-emergents can help stop the germination of seeds, stopping weeds before they start. Fall applications of the aminopyralid family of weed control chemicals (i.e. Milestone, Chaparral, Opensight), for example, can suppress new growth next spring of yellow starthistle, Scotch thistle, rush skeletonweed and various knapweeds. Fall applications will also control living broadleaf plants, which are vulnerable to herbicides this time of year because the plants are sending energy down to their roots.



Diffuse knapweed



Yellow starthistle

A common thought is that if weeds are dead or done growing for the year, why spray this fall?

"Seeds produced this year are set to begin growing as soon as they receive necessary moisture," FCWV Program Coordinator Todd Harris explains. "If a residual product is applied this fall, then as those weed seeds germinate in the soil with fall moisture, germinating seeds start to grow into the residual product preventing any further growth."

Yellow starthistle begins to germinate in the spring, however it will continue to produce more seedlings as additional spring rains arrive. If the same area were sprayed with a residual product in the aminopyralid family of herbicides, there would not be any germination of yellow starthistle for two to three years. Native bunchgrasses would recover providing beneficial competition against invading weed species. While established grasses are tolerant of aminopyralids, remember that the residual activity will also suppress grass seed. So it's important to wait a full growing season before reseeding a treated area.



Scotch thistle

Always follow the directions on the herbicide label. Make sure the herbicide you apply is labeled for the site of application (i.e. Range and Pasture, Turf & Ornamental, etc.). Be aware of weather conditions and surroundings such as desirable plants, trees and crops.

# Cost Share Program Update



Rush skeletonweed

Sixteen landowners and operators signed up to participate in the 2018 cost share program for a total of 5,390 acres treated or scheduled to be treated this fall. Participants selected spring or fall applications targeting yellow starthistle, Scotch thistle, diffuse knapweed and rush skeletonweed. The cost share to the participants is \$4.64 per acre. Several landowners who signed up for spring applications opted to move their work to the fall because of adverse weather.

The Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board would like to remind rangeland owners and operators to complete their fall herbicide treatments. Late October to mid-November are optimal times to apply pre-emergent to the targeted noxious weeds. Reimbursement payments will be dispersed when all participants have submitted their certifications of completion.

The purpose of the program is to increase the number of acres sprayed by coordinating applications across property lines. Other benefits include greater weed control over the infested areas and increasing our knowledge of the extent of infestations in those areas. It is also an opportunity to monitor ongoing progress and to collaborate with landowners.

Additional noxious weeds may be added to the cost share program in the future. For more information about eligibility, contact the Weed Board office.

## The ABC's of Noxious Weeds

The State's Noxious Weed list is prioritized into three classes: A, B, and C.

- **Class A** weeds are non-native species with limited distribution. Preventing new infestations and eradicating existing infestations is of the highest priority and required by law ([RCW 17.10.140](#)) statewide. Flowering rush, an aquatic invasive plant, is the only Class A weed with a known presence in Franklin County.
- **Class B** weeds are non-native species presently limited to portions of the state or county. In regions where a Class B species is already abundant, control is decided at the local level with containment as the primary goal. A further state classification for certain Class B weeds is a Class B-designate, which is of a higher priority requiring control of that species. Some examples of Class B designates that require control in Franklin County include Ravenna grass, Scotch thistle and spurge flax.
- **Class C** weeds are non-native species that are widespread or of special interest to the agricultural industry of a region. Long-term programs of suppression and control are decided at the local level. **A County Weed Board may require landowners to control a Class C weed if it poses a threat to agriculture.** Canada thistle and field bindweed are examples of Class C weeds in Franklin County.

Visit our website at [fcweedboard.com](http://fcweedboard.com) to view a full list of noxious weeds and their classification within Franklin County. Our web pages are also a great resource for identifying noxious weeds, learning about control options, and about our projects and assistance programs.



# Trivia Time

Test your knowledge by taking our noxious weed trivia quiz (*answers on back page*).

Name the following invasive plants:

1. The first designated noxious weed in the state of Washington, this plant is named for a country it invaded in the late 1800s as a contaminant in crop seed before it was detected in the United States. Despite its name, this plant is native to southeastern Eurasia.
2. In Europe, the flowers from this plant have been called “bachelor’s buttons.” In times past, young women would wear them to attract bachelors. In the U.S. this noxious weed is detrimental to wildlife habitat and agriculture, infesting more than 5 million acres.
3. This large spiny plant is credited with helping the Scots fend off a Viking invasion. Planning a sneak attack at night, the Vikings were barefoot for stealth. When one of their warriors stepped on this plant he yelled out in pain, so the legend goes, which alerted the sleeping Scotsmen of the coming attack. Although it’s the official national flower of Scotland, in the U.S. this species is an invasive noxious weed.
4. Many noxious weeds are poisonous to humans, livestock and other animals. Ingesting about 40 berries from this noxious weed can kill an adult person. Its sap can cause skin irritation and rashes. The roots, leaves and stems are also poisonous.



## What’s Bugging You?



*Galerucella* beetle

In 2018, the staff released seven different types of bio-controls at 13 sites around the county.

Biological controls are, in most cases, insects that are used to suppress noxious weed infestations by feeding on them directly or by other means.

Although bio-controls won’t completely eradicate an infestation, they can reduce the vigor and size of it. Whenever possible, Franklin County Weed Board staff applies herbicide controls because they’re typically the most effective, but a bio-control can be a useful alternative in some situations.

Sometimes an infestation is in a remote, hard-to-reach spot that an herbicide applicator would have difficulty spraying, such as diffuse knapweed growing on a cliff face. In such a case, FCWB staff could release insect bio-agents at the site. The staff also sometimes releases bios in weed infestations that are growing in or near water sources where it’s not appropriate to spray. For example, the Russian knapweed gall midge, *Jaapiella*, has been released along the banks of the Columbia River to work on Russian knapweed infestations there. Also, in several riparian areas the *Galerucella* beetle has been released to defoliate purple loosestrife, an aquatic invasive species.

# Cool Projects

This year, FCWB received funding from the WA State Department of Agriculture for two exciting projects.

Staff will treat noxious weeds on 95.5 acres at **Juniper Dunes** this fall. The Juniper Dunes Wilderness and OHV Area is managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Much of its 20,000 acres is protected, but wheeled outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy 3,920 acres that are designated for off-highway vehicles. We have worked with the BLM for several years conducting surveys for noxious weeds. Available funds will be used to treat a section of the recreational area that is heavily traversed by vehicles. Failure to clean off-road vehicles prior to leaving an infested area contributes to the spread of noxious weed seed.



FCWB staff recently completed herbicide trials on **white bryony**, a Class B noxious weed. White bryony is an aggressive, perennial vine with a hard-to-kill tuber. The herbicide combinations will be evaluated for effectiveness and the findings shared with other weed boards around the state. In 2019, the tubers will be excavated with the help of volunteers. Want to help out? Contact our office about volunteering!



Soon visitors to **Sacajawea State Park** will be able to enjoy a pollinator friendly planting. FCWB staff will complete work this fall on a two-year project at the park. The first year focused on noxious weed control and the second year on native bunchgrass rejuvenation. This fall, we'll plant native vegetation around the welcome sign as pollinator forage and for park beautification. We are happy to have been given the opportunity by Washington State Parks to participate in this revitalization project.

## Coordinator's Desk

In 2018 we changed our roadside spray program to a spring-only application beginning as soon as frost was gone in February and continuing through April. We communicate with Franklin County Public Works often as the year progresses to coordinate our work with theirs. Our goal is to apply residual herbicide to the roads we spray in Franklin County for the most prolonged control of weeds along the roadside.

I was very pleased at the participation in the first year of our cost share program which was started to provide additional incentive to landowners to control noxious weeds on their lands. Most of the applications are scheduled for this fall. I plan on continuing the program in 2019. In addition, I would like to increase the budget amount for next year's cost share program. In the future more noxious weeds may be added to the program.

FCWB has worked with State Parks, Bonneville Power, as well as a whole host of private landowners both large and small, to help control noxious weeds. We are here to educate, coordinate efforts and provide guidance in the process of controlling weeds of all kinds. Learn more by visiting our website at [fweedboard.com](http://fweedboard.com).

—Todd Harris, FCWB program coordinator

## Answers To Trivia Time from Page 3



1. Canada thistle



2. Spotted knapweed



3. Scotch thistle



4. White bryony