

Landowner / Operator Newsletter

SPRING

2018

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Board Meetings are open to the public and held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 pm from March — October
- Staff is available for education and outreach
- Home & Garden Show— Feb 23-25 th
- Roadside residual applications underway
- Visit our website at fcweedboard.com

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2018 Noxious Weed Update



The State Weed Board voted to add **small-flowered jewelweed**, (*Impatiens parviflora*) as a Class A noxious weed. Class A noxious weeds are non-native species whose distribution in Washington is still limited. This annual displays several growth traits that make it very invasive. Adaptable to a variety of habitats, it grows well under low light conditions and variable moisture levels, eventually dominating the herb layer and displacing native plants.

Small-flowered jewelweed has pale yellow flowers and a short, straight spur. Red spots occur in the throat of the flower. Reproducing by seed, capsules explosively eject seeds many feet as they mature. Currently, there are only two known locations of the plant in Washington, both occurring on the western side. Preventing new infestations are the highest priority. Eradication of all Class A weeds is required by law.

Spurge flax, (*Thymelaea passerina*) was reclassified from a Class A noxious weed to a Class B-designate noxious weed for Franklin County. Spurge flax is an aggressive annual known to invade rangeland, disturbed sites, and dry pastures. The plant is not palatable to livestock.

Spurge flax grows upright as a main stem commonly branching at the upper portion. The plants color blends in with shrub-steppe and rangeland plants making it difficult to identify during the growing season. Fall color is red. Class B-designate noxious weeds must be controlled where they occur.

Find the complete list of Franklin County's noxious weeds on our website: fcweedboard.com



Spurge flax thrives in the same conditions as diffuse and Russian knapweeds. Small leathery leaves may impede the uptake of herbicide.



NEW - Cost Share Program



Aerial application
on large acreage

Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board signed up 5390 acres for a cost share program to incentivize treatment of noxious weed infestations on low value land. The program targets yellow starthistle, scotch thistle, diffuse knapweed, and rush skeleton-weed. Herbicide applications are scheduled for spring and fall of 2018.

Staff views the program as a way to increase the number of acres sprayed by coordinating applications across property lines. Other benefits include greater control over and knowledge of infested areas treated, ongoing tracking of progress, and improved public relations within the community. Additional noxious weeds may be added to the cost share program in future years.

The cost share will be distributed on a per acre basis to applicants satisfying program requirements. For information on participating in next years program contact the Weed Board office.



Have a post herbicide
strategy to revegetate

Planning = Resources Saved

When it comes to weed control many of us have the best of intentions, but lack of planning may be more costly in the long run than if a good management plan had been in place. Herbicides are one option for controlling noxious and nuisance weeds however, we often have a “once and done” mindset. A “one time” use of this particular tool may lead to added expense down the line.

Weed control is not just a summer thing! Prior to weed control efforts, it is wise to create a plan that provides long term results. While herbicides effectively kill weeds, some products result in a site void of vegetation or with little vegetation remaining. These areas are vulnerable to re-infestation from weed seeds in the soil bank or to new invaders. If choosing to integrate herbicides into your weed control program the guideline below will aid in developing a management plan to restore your property to a healthy state and its intended use, whether for leisure, recreational or agricultural production.



Planning saves
resources in the long
run.

1. Identify the weed and its growth cycle: Is it an annual, perennial or biennial?
2. Desired result: What do you want to keep or achieve?
3. Herbicide choice: Do you need a contact, pre or post-emergent for your weed type?
4. Timing of Application: Should you make a spring or fall application?
5. Crop rotation: Plant back with desirable species for competition
6. Budget: Cost reduces weeds over time while retaining the lands desirable qualities

Successful weed management programs consider all available techniques in the tool box. A blend of mechanical, chemical and cultural practices provides the best results.

Spring Time Green Time

It's true that April showers bring May flowers but they also bring weeds. Be on the lookout for rosettes so you can plan ahead. Rush skeletonweed resembles a dandelion rosette. It can be red or purple in color and basal leaves are lobed with lobes pointing back towards the leaf base. Kochia seedlings are frosty green and covered in fine hairs. Puncturevine seedlings leaves are opposite and pinnately compound with hairs appearing on each leaflet. Diffuse knapweed leaves are grayish green and alternate, basal leaves are short stalked and divided into lobes.



Puncturevine Seedling



Diffuse Knapweed Rosette

Ravenna Grass Update

Progress continues to be made in the eradication of Ravenna grass. Ravenna grass is a class B-designate in Franklin County, which means we will continue to enforce eradication. Staff has been targeting residential neighborhoods where about 60 new sites were found in 2017, most of which have since been removed. We have found the most effective way to eliminate this plant is to dig it out, making sure that the entire root ball is removed. This can be extremely labor intensive depending on the size of the plant but will ensure that regrowth does not occur.



Sage Words From Our Program Coordinator

2017 presented several challenges for Weed Board staff and its Board of Directors. Extreme weather and snow melt last year neutralized the previous seasons roadside applications and delayed spring 2017 work. We decided to move applications to the spring of 2018 to extend product residual longer into the year. Excessive moisture also sparked an explosion of noxious weeds; the marked increase in noxious weed pressure was unlike any we have seen before. With control efforts creating a considerable hardship on producers, we recognized an opportunity to offer a cost share program to assist landowners with sizeable noxious weed acres. The program has been implemented for 2018.

Our staff continues to develop new skills as we work together, learning and growing so we can provide information to the public leading to greater understanding of noxious weed management. In 2018 we will work to maintain our program at the highest level for the betterment of Franklin County.

Todd Harris / Program Coordinator

Our Program In A Nutshell

The Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board (FCNWCB) was established in 1986 to limit economic loss and adverse effects to agricultural productivity and protect natural and human resources from the degrading effects of noxious weeds. The spread of weeds causes economic loss for the entire community and creates a hardship on the producer. Funded by the residents of Franklin County, our goal is to be a resource for citizens while protecting the county's rich agricultural heritage.

FCNWCB has been engaged in noxious weed control activities since its inception. Activities include noxious weed surveys, control measures ranging from hand pulling to coordination of large scale aerial applications, introduction of approved biocontrol agents, and the education of growers and the general public.

Our activities and information regarding Board Meetings is available on our website, fcweedboard.com

We welcome and encourage the public to attend Board Meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month.

Our policy has always been to work with growers, landowners and agencies to develop practical plans for noxious weed control. Plants grow without regard to property lines or political jurisdictions so everyone's cooperation is needed; city gardeners, farmers, government land agencies, and ranchers all have a role to play.

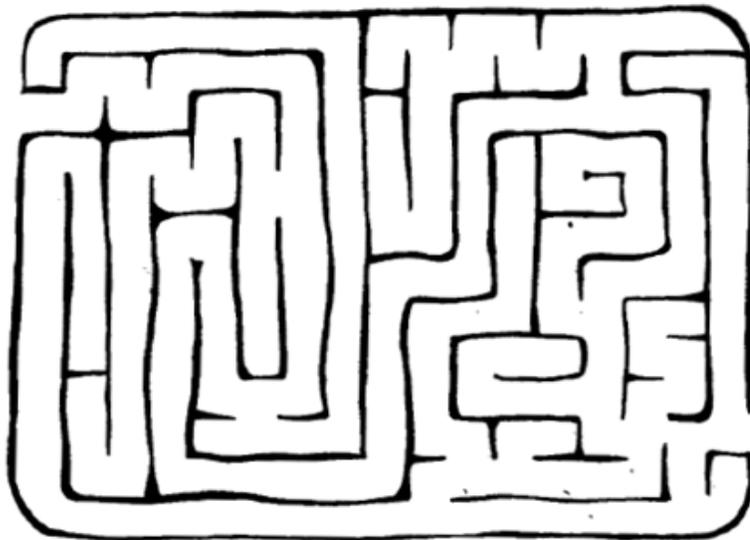
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For Our Wee Weed Warriors



Help Finnegan the field inspector get through the maze to the Scotch thistle!

Scotch thistle has large leaves with sharp edges. Leaves can grow to 2 feet across!