



The Sage

NEWS FROM THE FRANKLIN COUNTY
NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

WINTER 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

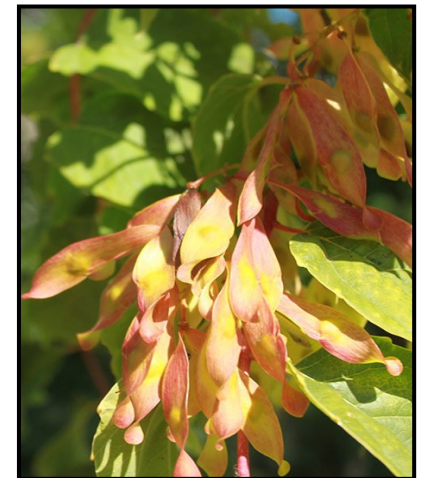
- Board Meetings– 1:00 pm Oct. through Feb.; Virtual attendance option. Contact the office for login info.
- Visit our website at fcweedboard.com to learn about noxious weeds and our activities.
- Cost Share signup for 2022 underway. Registration is on a first come, first served basis.
- Drop by Sacajawea State Park and view the pollinator garden.

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Tree of Heaven, Not So Heavenly

Tree of heaven may have an attractive name but there is nothing heavenly about this invasive species. Mature female trees seed readily and can produce root suckers as far as 50 feet from the parent plant. Within its roots, leaves and bark are chemicals that keep other plants from growing. It is a huge problem in urban areas; the aggressive root system and suckering can damage pavement, sewers and building foundations. Cutting on the tree in an attempt to control growth only makes matters worse; the tree will send up dozens of stump and root sprouts. It is also a host for a potential invader, the Spotted Lanternfly which has an appetite for more than 70 types of fruit and landscape trees, grapevines and woody ornamentals.



Although listed as a Class C noxious weed in WA State, control is not yet required in Franklin County. However, we are receiving inquiries on it's status in our county and how to manage it, particularly in our urban areas. With funding from WSDA we were able to partner with several agencies and test a variety of control methods over a two year period. Three methods of applying herbicide were tested, foliar, basal bark, and hack-and-squirt. In year one, all applications were made in early October. After evaluating year one results adjustments were made to the application timing and the type of application used. We determined the basal bark method had not proven effective. In year two we took the following approach:

Year Two Application Timing & Methods Used

- ◆ Herbicide applications were made in July
- ◆ Foliar applications were made where tree height allowed complete coverage
- ◆ The hack and squirt method was used on trees with 4 inch or greater diameter trunk

Story continued on page 2

Tree of Heaven, Not So Heavenly – Our Findings

In the second year we observed several trees sending up root suckers and shoots at the base of the trunk. Some top growth was apparent but it also appeared stunted from the previous years herbicide treatment. We determined the resprouting was a combination of tree-of-heaven’s extensive root system and the late application in the first year. Some of the sites we treated also have a high water table so moisture is readily available. Although the funding has been used up we will continue to monitor sites and anticipate follow up treatments will be likely.

Here is a summary of what we learned:

KEY POINTS

- ◆ Control takes multiple years
- ◆ Herbicide applications should be timed to target the extensive root system (July – September)
- ◆ Choose a systemic herbicide over a contact herbicide
- ◆ Foliar applications can be made where tree height and distribution allows complete coverage
- ◆ The hack-and-squirt method works best for trees with 4 inch or greater diameter trunks
- ◆ Well-established stands require a combination of control methods to address the varying size trees in the stand
- ◆ Treat with an herbicide **before** cutting, then treat stumps immediately after the tree is cut down

If you are interested in removing tree of heaven from your property our staff is available for consultation



Tree of heaven growing in a storm drain

Look For New Signs Around the County



Earlier this year the State Weed Board reached out to County Weed Boards asking for ideas that would utilize a small amount of funds that remained in their 2021 budget. One of our Inspectors came up with a great idea to make new signs for our county. His project was approved so Marcus designed 4 new signs that will be strategically placed around the county. The signs emphasize the message that land-owners should be good neighbors and control noxious weeds on their properties so that the weeds do not spread to neighboring properties or counties.

Did You Know...



Noxious Weeds Harm What You CARE About!

It's true! It's also no accident the term "noxious" is used to describe weeds that have a negative impact, after all, the word noxious means harmful or damaging. But have you ever given any thought that noxious weeds are damaging the things **YOU** care so deeply about? Let's take a look at the many ways noxious weeds may be impacting the things you value.

◆ Recreational Opportunities

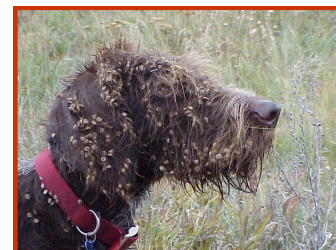
Noxious weeds significantly reduce the value of public and open spaces, reducing the enjoyment of many outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, cycling, and hiking. Have you ever had the frustration of cutting a bike ride short to change a flat tire or had to pick those sharp-spined tackweed seeds from your puppies paw?



L Scott

Human, Pet & Environmental Health

Some noxious weeds are toxic to you and your pets. Dense infestations also reduce biodiversity, degrading wildlife habitat and forage. Dry biomass of certain noxious and nuisance weeds such as cheatgrass create serious fire hazard. Early germination and rapid growth of weeds post-fire is much quicker than native plant recovery.



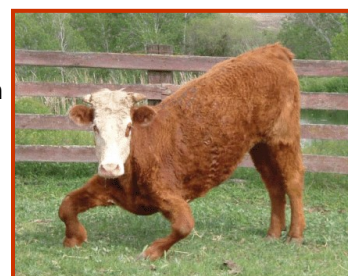
Property Values

Within urban areas noxious weeds can be very damaging to pavement, uplifting sidewalks and landscape curbing. In Pasco we have found roots of tree of heaven growing out of storm drains and have seen damage to home foundations and retaining walls.



◆ Pasture & Rangeland Health

A pasture overrun with noxious weeds reduces grazing quality. For example livestock that consume yellow starthistle may get chewing disease. In which the animal cannot swallow and eventually starves. One species of lupines contains alkaloids which when ingested by the mother during pregnancy can cause crooked calf disease.



Grocery Costs

Noxious weeds cost farmers, ranchers, and orchardists millions of dollars in control and lost crop production, which increases costs for your groceries. Velvetleaf causes great concern in row crops such as corn and soybean because of long seed viability. It is costly and difficult to control when established.



Good Neighbors Don't Share Noxious Weeds

Pop Quiz... Name that rosette

Many perennial and biennial weeds produce leafy rosettes the first year and flower the second year, often before native plants come out of dormancy. Can you identify these pesky plants from the rosette?

Answers are on the back page.



Biennial with a thick woody taproot.
Hairy, rough leaves feel like a dog's tongue.
Seedpods stick to clothing and fur like Velcro.

Perennial that resembles a dandelion.

Stem bases have downward pointing brown hairs.

Rosettes die as the plant ages leaving behind a skeleton of dead stems.



Ground hugging rosettes grow well on dry rocky banks.
Leaves circle around the stem.
Kids, never touch this plant! Milky sap can cause blisters.

*Hey Kids, Do you find noxious weeds puzzling?
Unscramble the words to help you learn about
bad weeds.*



For Our Wee Weed Warriors

WEED WORD SCRAMBLE

Please unscramble the words below

1. EEWD

2. SRUH OSLKEENDWETE

3. PIRNEUUCTVNE

4. YLWEL0 TSTTERLASIH

5. COIKHA

6. OUSNOXI

7. CTNYOU

8. SEESD

9. ANVNAER SRSAG

10. LKINNFAR

11. TOSOR

12. GRISPN

YELLOW STARHISTLE

RUSH SKELETONWEED

KOCHIA

PUNCTUREVINE

SEEDS

NOXIOUS

FRANKLIN

ROOTS

RAVENNA GRASS

SPRING

COUNTY

WEED

By Holly Kress, from the Fall 2017 Franklin County Weed Board Newsletter

More activities to help you little weed warriors learn about noxious weeds can be found on our website. Just click on the link fcweedboard.com/education and visit our Kid stuff page. There you will find coloring pages, word scrambles and other activities.

Announcements

- ◆ Due to Covid-19 concerns the public has the option of attending Board meetings remotely. For instructions on how to join remotely contact the Weed Board ahead of time and ask for Betsy. Board meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. October - February and 7:00 p.m. March - September.
- ◆ FCWB offers a landowner cost share program on spring or fall applications intended to control certain species of high priority noxious weeds. It's time to sign up your acres for the 2022 program year. Sign up is on a first come, first served basis. Registration will close when 5000 acres has been proposed for treatment or January 15, 2022 whichever come first.
- ◆ An innovative new product has been added to the tool box for the management of three invasive grasses: cheatgrass/downy brome, medusahead and jointed goatgrass. The pre-emergent bioherbicide product is a naturally occurring soil bacterium available through BioWest Ag Solutions. The EPA registered the product in September of 2020 stating it has the potential to help in wildfire management. To learn more about the product visit [BioWest Ag Solutions](#) or see the news release on the [EPA's](#) website.

Sage Words From The Program Coordinator

2021 presented challenges but not so severe that it impacted our ability to provide services and maintain our program at its current level. We began the year with teleconference Board meetings and trainings as set forth by the Governor's proclamations. The fluid exchange of information that you have with face to face meetings was welcomed when we were finally able to resume in-person meetings. We were also challenged by an unseasonably dry year. This was most noticeable where pre-emergent herbicides were used. Pre-emergent herbicides need moisture to be incorporated and made active. If you don't get the moisture, you don't get the control.

As we move into 2022 the cost share program will go into its 5th year. There has been a great deal of new interest in the program with approximately 5000 acres sprayed in 2021. You will also see us out in our spray trucks spraying the roadsides through collaboration with the public works department. We typically spray 1900 miles annually.

Noxious weeds are a complex and often confusing subject to discuss, from what they look like to how to control them. We do our best to provide the most applicable information for a given weed situation. We host meetings that offer pesticide credits, participate in outreach events and take continuing education to improve our knowledge so we can serve you better.

—Todd Harris, FCNWCB Program Coordinator

Page 4 Rosette I.D. Quiz Answers

1. **Houndstongue, Class B-Designate Noxious Weed, control required.**
2. **Rush skeletonweed, Class B Noxious Weed, control or containment required.**
3. **Myrtle Spurge, Class B-Designate Noxious Weed, control or containment required.**



Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board

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