

OKANOGAN COUNTY  
NOXIOUS WEED  
CONTROL BOARD

# Okanogan County Noxious Weed News

April 2017

Spring

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Earth Day April 22

Okanogan County  
Noxious Weed Control  
Board Meeting:  
April 26, 4:00 pm  
I pesticide license credit

Ferry County  
Weed Board Meeting:  
May 10  
509-775-5225 ext. 1111

Okanogan County  
Noxious Weed Control  
Board Meeting:  
May 24, 4:00 pm  
I pesticide license credit

Ferry County  
Weed Board Meeting:  
June 14  
509-775-5225 ext. 1111

Okanogan County  
Noxious Weed Control  
Board Meeting:  
June 28, 4:00 pm  
I pesticide license credit

Ferry County  
Weed Board Meeting:  
July 12  
509-775-5225 ext. 1111

Okanogan County  
Noxious Weed Control  
Board Meeting:  
July 26, 4:00 pm  
I pesticide license credit

## Now Mandatory Control in Okanogan County

Two of our top roadside hitchhikers are now designated by the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board as **mandatory control within all public right of ways and parking areas in Okanogan County.**



Everyone is familiar with Puncturevine, AKA Goatheads. Puncturevine is a low growing annual that matures from a taproot and branches out along the ground. Flowers are small and yellow. They produce a woody fruit that has long sharp spines. Animals will not graze it.



The second hitchhiker, Longspine Sandbur, is a summer annual that favors sandy or well-drained gravelly soils. Leaf blades and leaf sheaths are flat in appearance, and immature plants spread horizontally. It thrives on roadsides and fence lines. Seeds are easily spread from burs that cling to clothing, fur, machinery and tires.



## Inspections Have Begun

With the little bit of sun **and** lots of moisture we've been seeing this spring, things are beginning to grow. We have begun inspections on those noxious weeds that seem to come out early every spring, and doing some contract work with pre-emergent herbicides. If you should happen to see us out and about, please feel free to stop and ask any noxious weed questions that you have. Or if you notice an area that you think may have noxious weeds and feel needs to be checked over, please let us know; it always helps to have input from the public, and we are more than happy to check it out.

# Do You Have a Weed Control Plan?

## 7 Steps to Setting up an Effective Weed Control Plan for Your Property

**Step 1:** Identify the goals that you have for your property and the outcomes that you want to achieve. For instance you may have the goal of improving wildlife habitat on your property, and to achieve this goal your planned outcome is to reduce the presence of Diffuse Knapweed on your property by ninety percent within the next five years.

**Step 2:** Accurately identify where noxious weed problems occur on your property. You will need to survey your property to identify the location, size, and density of noxious weed infestations (be sure to take pictures, so you have something to refer back to in the future).

**Step 3:** Research the noxious weed species that you are trying to control. You want to look at the weed's strengths and weaknesses (i.e. what habitats can they grow in, what resources do they need to live, and, most important, what control methods are effective in controlling them).

**Step 4:** Look at your own strengths and weaknesses. Consider your budget and the amount of time you have to devote to working on your control efforts.

**Step 5:** Strategize your plan of attack. Prioritize where treatments will occur on your property and decide which control methods to use (for the best results, use an integrated approach).

**Step 6:** Include provisions for conducting follow-up treatments and monitoring. You should expect that follow-up treatments will be needed, at a minimum, on an annual basis. And, yearly monitoring of your progress should be used to evaluate the effectiveness of your efforts, and, if needed, to make changes to your plan to make it more effective.

**Step 7:** Plan for a long-term commitment to your weed control efforts. Remember, many noxious weeds have seeds that remain viable in the soil for ten or more years, so long-term monitoring and follow-up control efforts will be necessary for success.

## Please watch your mailbox!

We'll soon be sending out a flier showing Class B-Designate noxious weeds, which are mandatory control in Okanogan County. This is a handy page to put up in a visible spot for identification purposes.



# Take a Hike!



We have a few boot brushes in our office to give away while they last!

As you're hiking, or enjoying other outdoor activities, keep in mind that weed seeds move easily in soil, and some like to hitch a ride on shoes, socks, clothing, and pets.

Some seeds have Velcro-like burs that stick to your pants legs, and even your furry companion. So be sure to remove any plant parts and seeds from your hiking boots, shoes, any gear you have with you, and even your pets and any vehicles.

Hiking on designated trails can also help stop the spread of invasive noxious weeds. And remember, it's tempting, but don't dig up pretty plants to take home; you may be taking home an invasive species you're not familiar with.

A lot of people say they like the "natural" look, but left unattended, a lot of aggressive, non-native plants can take over our favorite areas of beautiful native plants, wildflowers, and grasses.



## Our Aquatic Program

We are continuing to increase our aquatic program. Besides the lakes already being treated, which are Osoyoos, Spectacle, and Palmer Lakes, we are currently in the process of adding to the permit, to make treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed possible on Leader Lake, Patterson Lake, and Alta Lake.

Treatments will hopefully occur this summer. Eradication isn't the goal at this time, but our hope is to greatly improve water quality, and ensure safety for those out enjoying the summer sun, whether boating, fishing, swimming, or any other water sports.

And for all boaters, remember **Clean, Drain, Dry!** Clean off all plants, animals and mud from your boat, trailer, and equipment; **Drain** any water from pumps, motor and bilge, and remove drain plugs; and **Dry** all items completely before moving your boat into another body of water.



# Gardening and Pollinators



With the beautiful weather we are now enjoying, everyone will be anxious to start planning their flower gardens. The Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board will SOON be giving out free flower seed packets here in our office.



This was a huge success last year, so we wanted to provide the same opportunity for 2017. It's important to provide our pollinators with good, non-invasive plants that bloom from spring through fall.

These packets contain a beautiful, native to Eastern Washington flower mix that is beneficial to bees, butterflies and any other pollinators in the area.

The flower mix is not meant to be spread over large areas as it is more suited for flower pots and flower gardens. When they come in, if you would like to get some, please stop by our office in room 102 of the Courthouse. We would love to send some home with you. Just give us a call ahead of time to see if they have already arrived here at our office.



**Be good to our planet and Okanogan County...  
Help stop the spread of noxious weeds!**



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Please feel free to forward this newsletter on to your friends. Make sure you keep our office up to date with your email address, so we can keep you informed. Or, to be added to our email list, please send us an email at [noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us).