

What is the main cause in the spread of Velvetleaf, Buffalobur, and Bighead knapweed?

BIRDFEEDERS!

Bird feeders are usually responsible for the introduction of some class A weeds. These noxious weeds often come in as contaminants in the bird seed. Try to buy bird seed that is noxious weed free, and inspect the area around your bird feeder for any noxious weeds that might be present.

Who, me?



It is every landowners responsibility to protect and preserve the land and resources from the degrading impact of noxious weeds.

Weed Board meetings are held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at 4:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. You are always invited to attend, and we appreciate your comments and suggestions!! Recertification credit is available.

CLASS A WEEDS AND THE LAW

Under state law RCW 17.10 all class A weeds must be totally eliminated. All seeds and plants must be removed. *Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control is here to help by paying for the chemical treatment of all Class A Weeds.*

**CLASS A
NOXIOUS
WEEDS**

Found in Okanogan County



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Weed Control Board**

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**CLASS A
NOXIOUS
WEEDS ARE:**

- **HIGHLY AGGRESSIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS THAT ARE STILL LIMITED IN THEIR DISTRIBUTION TO WASHINGTON STATE.**
- **REQUIRED UNDER WASHINGTON STATE LAW TO BE PREVENTED FROM SPREADING AND ERADICATED WHEN FOUND.**
- **EXTREMELY INVASIVE IF THEY GET A FOOTHOLD, THEREFORE IT'S CRUCIAL TO KEEP THEM FROM BECOMING ESTABLISHED AND SPREADING.**

THE OKANOGAN NOXIOUS WEED BOARD WILL PROVIDE ALL THE NECESSARY CHEMICAL TREATMENT AT NO COST TO THE LANDOWNERS IN OKANOGAN COUNTY.

CLASS A NOXIOUS WEEDS FOUND IN OKANOGAN COUNTY

Spurge Flax (*Thymelaea passerina*)

Spurge flax is a herbaceous annual with a fibrous taproot. The overall plant size ranges from 2 ½ inches to two feet tall. Slender, wiry and erect, spurge flax grows as one main stem, or more commonly,

branches from the upper plant. The leaf arrangement is alternate. The small and narrow (8-14 mm long) linear shaped, leathery leaves taper to a point, and are



progressively smaller upward along the stems. The leaves are directly attached to the stem with a yellow base. The flowers are greenish and tubular, two to three mm long, perfect and incomplete: four sepals, no petals, and eight stamens. The stamens are in two whorls of four. Below each flower, two very small bracts arise from a tuft of tiny white hairs. The fruit is a shiny black achene. The round seeds are brown to black, two to three mm long. The plant turns red in the fall.

Wild 4 O'clock (*Mirabilis nyctaginea*)

Though considered a flower in other parts of the country, wild 4 o'clock is a class A Noxious Weed in Washington State. Wild four o'clock is a perennial herb, sometimes woody at the base, reaching 3 to 4 feet tall. It reproduces



by seed and by fragmented root pieces. The overall plant shape is bushy, and the stems are extensively branched. The stems are smooth, often four-sided, sometimes ridged and reddish. Branching of the stem is opposite, and the stems are thickened at the nodes. The leaf arrangement is also opposite. The leaves are usually heart shaped ranging from 2 to 4 inches long and 1 to 3 inches wide. The upper stems, and leaves are sometimes covered with a whitish or bluish waxy covering.

Velvetleaf (*Abutilon theophrasti*)

Velvetleaf is a summer annual that reproduces by seed. Velvetleaf reaches 3 to 8 feet tall or more, growing from a stout main stem, with upper branching. As the common name implies, the entire plant is velvety and soft and is completely covered with short, fine hairs. The leaf arrangement is alternate. The large heart-shaped leaves are usually 2 to 5 inches wide, but they can be as large as 10 to 12 inches across. Each leaf is pointed at the tip. A slender petiole supports each leaf.

The flowers are solitary or in small clusters, and they are found on short stalks in the upper leaf axils. Each yellow to yellow-orange flower is about ¾ inch wide, with 5 petals and many stamens which fuse to form a tube. Velvetleaf grows from a strongly developed, slender white taproot with many smaller root branches.



Bighead Knapweed

(*Centaurea macrocephala*)

Bighead knapweed is a member of the thistle tribe in the sunflower family. This perennial species is the tallest Knapweed growing in the Pacific Northwest, ranging from two to five feet tall, depending on the habitat. The plant stems are upright and unbranched, terminating in a single flower head.

The leaves are broadly lance shaped with toothed edges and pointed tips, and they have a rough surface. Basal or rosette leaves are stalked and they can reach 15 inches long and three inches wide. The leaves and leaf stalks are progressively smaller upward on the plant stem, with the top leaves being stalkless. The solitary flower heads are globe shaped, and one to three inches in diameter. The bracts beneath the flower head have thin, papery, fringed margins. The lower bracts show evidence of spines. The flowers are yellow. The seeds are medium brown and ridged, with a ring of light-colored bristles.



Buffalobur (*Solanum rostratum*)

Buffalobur is a low growing, yellow-flowered, spined, hairy annual. The stems (mostly branching in the upper part), are erect and bushy, 1/2 to two feet long. The entire plant, except for the flower petals, is covered by straight yellow spines, 1/8 to 1/2 inch long. The leaves are alternate and two to six inches long including the stalks. Each leaf is irregularly cut into five to seven lobes, and often these are two to five lobed.

The leaves are covered by short yellow star-like hairs, and the midribs, veins, and leaf stalks are spiny. The yellow flowers are five-lobed, wheel-shaped, 1 to 1.5 inches



across, in a few flowered clusters on spiny flower stalks. The calyx is covered by spines; it enlarges and forms a spiny bur, enclosing and completely covering the seedpod. The seeds are almost circular, 1/2 inch or slightly more in diameter, brown to reddish brown, flattened, irregularly angled, with a finely pitted surface. To identify buffalobur, look for the tomato-like yellow flowers and the unique, extremely prickly leaves, stems and fruits.

Remember, The Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board will pay for the treatment of any class A weeds on your property, so contact us if you or anyone you know has any of these noxious weeds.