

Hi, this is the Noxious Weed Report for February 1st.

Today I would like to again talk about House Bill 2413 and Senate Bill 6397, which are currently being proposed in Olympia. The intent of these bills is to protect workers and other community member from pesticide drift, which, at the surface sounds like a pretty good idea. However, what the bills would actually do is effectively end almost all pesticide applications in the state of Washington.

Both Bills, as originally written, propose a ½ mile buffer area around any residence, school, daycare, or areas where people may be outside, with no applications being allowed in that area. Both Bills require notification in writing at least 24 hours before the time of the application, but no more than 48 hours prior to the application. And, these notifications must also be delivered in person or, at least posted on the door of any residence, school or business within ½ mile of the treatment area. Even in a rural setting, most of us would have to notify at least 4 neighbors. In urban areas, the notifications that would need to be provided around the treatment area could enter into the hundreds.

If the weather and other factors cooperate on the day you intend to apply pesticides, you will only have to provide one notice. However, if conditions change or circumstances arise and you are unable to perform the treatment at the stated day and approximate time, then you will have to re-notify everyone within ½ mile of your proposed treatment area all over again. Failure to comply with notification guidelines of these bills could result in a \$10,000 civil penalty for each violation.

On January 30th, Substitute House Bill 2413 was passed through The House Committee on Labor and Workforce Development. The substitute bill does provide for some major revisions to the way that HB 2413 was originally written, which does help to alleviate some of our concerns with the original bill, however, we believe that the substitute bill still goes too far with the regulations that it places on individuals who are applying pesticides in Washington State.

The Noxious Weed Board encourages everyone to please read these bills in their entirety to determine how they will affect you and your pest control strategy and, then contact your Legislative officials with your opinion of the proposed legislation. If you have additional questions about House Bill 2413. Substitute House Bill 2413, Senate Bill 6397, or you need contact information for our local legislators, please contact the Noxious Weed Office at (509) 422-7165.

That's all I have for today . . . thanks for listening!