

Hi, this is the noxious weed report for September 20, 2017.

We're almost through September, the weather is starting to cool down, and we're finally getting some moisture. With that being said, it's a great time to get started on fall weed control projects.

During the fall season, many perennials, like Canada thistle and Russian knapweed, divert their energy to create underground vegetative parts. These parts are where energy is stored for the winter, keeping the plant alive through the harsh cold temperatures. If using the correct herbicide, these perennials are most susceptible to treatment in the fall, because like the plant's energy, the herbicide will move down to the underground vegetative parts.

Also, keep an eye out for fall rosettes. The seeds from this year's biennial and winter annual plants can germinate before winter, creating a low-growing whorl of leaves. These rosettes form taproots and can survive the winter even under a blanket of snow. The following spring, the rosettes get the first chance at the snowmelt water, allowing them to send up flowering shoots by early summer. These plants can also produce a lot of seed, so the best time to control them is before they flower, while they're still rosettes.

Only a small amount of herbicide is needed to effectively control rosettes compared to their later flowering form. They can also easily be removed by hand as a rosette, whereas pulling or digging can be much more difficult after a flowering stalk is sent up. Some common plants whose rosettes you may find this fall include Hoary alyssum, Musk and Scotch thistle, Diffuse knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax and St Johnswort.

Remember that prevention is much less expensive than control! These weeds produce large amounts of seed and can create dense infestations within 2-3 growing seasons. Keeping your eye out for rosettes will greatly reduce your control costs in the future. Also remember that where you find a weed, it's likely that there are more weed seeds in the soil. Replant any recently controlled areas with non-invasive plants to reduce the amount of weed seeds that germinate. Flood the soil with desirable seeds to compete with the weeds!

For more information on fall weed control and integrated pest management, or if you have any questions or concerns relating to noxious weeds, send us an email at [noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us), give us a call at 422-7165, or stop in and see us in room 102 of the Okanogan County Courthouse.