



# Ada County Pest of the Month

*A quick guide to identifying and controlling invasive plants and animals found in the county*



## Quick Facts



- **Name:** Canada thistle, Mallow, Milkweed, Field bindweed and other annual noxious weeds
- **Found:** Ada County
- **Briefly:** In the fall, we are approaching an excellent time to control perennial weeds. As the daylight hours shorten, plants shift their biological processes

from seed production to root storage so they can overwinter in the cold local climate.

## Identification

Most biennial and perennial plants can be identified easily by the root system of the plant. Single roots are generally annual weeds and tubular roots or wide spreading rhizomes are perennial. Leaf structure and season can also help to identify whether you'll see the plant again next year or not. Pictures of local noxious weeds are found in the Ada County Weed Control Guide and will you identify what weeds are growing on your land. Or you can pull the weed and bring in to our office or the local extension office for identification purposes.



## How To Control



**Glyphosate** is very effective in areas where short-term bare-ground is desired. Glyphosate has the ability to translocate through the plant it is sprayed on, and it is very effective at killing the roots as well as the foliage of perennials. Remember, herbicides containing the active ingredient glyphosate will destroy both grasses and broadleaf plants.

*More control methods continue on the next page*

## Control...Continued



Products containing 2,4-D, mecoprop, and dicamba, can be effective on late season weeds. When properly applied, these products will not harm desirable grasses, but will control broad-leaved weeds. These herbicides are usually less expensive than the more specialized chemicals commonly used to control perennial weeds in the spring.

Most biennials, perennials and winter annuals found in this area are very susceptible to the effects of herbicide combinations, even at this time of year. Field bindweed, Canada thistle, or nuisance weeds like Mallow (Buttonweed - pictured right), Milkweed, and other long-lived undesirable plants are developing their root system for the coming rush of spring growth. If a systemic herbicide can be introduced to the root system with the saps and fluids of the plant, it will have all winter to continue to disrupt the normal growth processes of the plant.



Most perennial plants have a large amount of root material to draw from in the spring. This stored energy allows them to start new growth in the spring, usually, ahead of other, more desirable vegetation. By introducing herbicides to these plant activities, perennial weed control can be greatly enhanced.

Fall is also a great time to consider a bare-ground weed control treatment since these herbicide products incorporate into the soil well with winter moisture. The use of residual herbicides on bare ground applications is a complex process, with numerous risks. Call our offices to speak with one of our licensed applicators to understand the process. You can reach us at 577-4646 or visit our offices at 975 E. Pine Avenue in Meridian.

**Note:** Chemical control of any weed can be difficult and confusing. If you are not experienced in chemical control or do not understand the product label, contact Ada County Weed Control to speak with a licensed applicator. Inappropriate application can kill desirable vegetation, and may violate federal law.



**For questions or concerns, please contact us:**

**Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement**

**975 E. Pine Ave. - Meridian Idaho**

**208-577-4646**

**[weedandpest@adaweb.net](mailto:weedandpest@adaweb.net)**

**[www.adaweb.net/weedandpest.aspx](http://www.adaweb.net/weedandpest.aspx)**