Nuisance News

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A bimonthly publication from the Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement Department

Fall Weed Treatment

Fall is a great time to use chemical control to manage pesky perennial noxious weeds like Canada thistle, Field bindweed and White-top. As the cooler weather hits and the weeds begin to wither, the plants start to store the nutrients in their root structures to give them the reserves they need to overwinter.

Essentially everything is travelling down toward the root structure (translocating), which means the herbicide you apply will be taken directly to the plant's core.

When applying a fall herbicide, don't cut down or burn these plants. The more vegetation available means the weed has more surface area to absorb the herbicide and translocate it (move it down) to the root system.

Another cool-weather weed control tip is to manage biennial plants like Poison hemlock when new growth is at a more manageable stage. You can easily detect new growth emerging in the late months of summer and quickly apply a herbicide treatment to the smaller, fledgling plants.

Fall is also the time to consider a bare-ground weed control treatment since these herbicide products incorporate into the soil well with winter moisture. Residual herbicide application involves many site-specific considerations. 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.

Hide and Seek Weed Control

In June, Ada County Weed Control launched a public-outreach program that uses Geocaching, the popular outdoor hide-and-seek activity, to get residents involved in identifying and reporting weed infestations they find across area public lands.

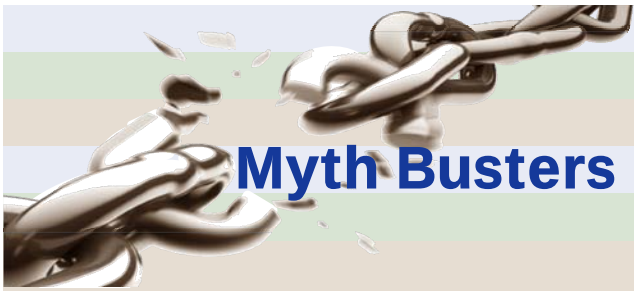
Geocachers use handheld GPS devices to locate hidden containers called geocaches. Ada County Weed Control hid four geocaches throughout the county to educate residents about specific weed infestations. The caches contain a flyer educating residents about the specific weed and encouraging them to track waypoints of any infestations they spot while out recreating on public lands.

"We launched this program to foster a growing number of residents involved in preserving the integrity of local public lands by helping us identify and fight against noxious weeds," said Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement Director Brian Wilbur. "This community of outdoor enthusiasts provides a perfect demographic to engage in keeping Ada County weed free."

The department is in the process of developing more geocaches to highlight other weed infestations and related elements of weed control, such as using biological control agents like insects in mitigating noxious weeds found on public lands.

So far, the project has proven to be a success. Approximately 70 residents have visited the hidden caches, and from that about 30 weed enforcements were created from GPS coordinates submitted to Ada County Weed Control.

"In the first couple months of this fledgling program, we have seen an outstanding response, and this program has worked exactly how we intended," Wilbur said. "This partnership not only helps us track and inventory noxious weeds on hard-to-access areas of Ada County, but it enables us to take an active stance in controlling these weeds."



Biological Control Methods

Biological weed management, such as using insects to naturally eradicate weeds is just one of several tools used in an integrated weed management plan. But it's not the only one, and it's not 100-percent effective. Using bio-control agents can take several years to control a weed infestation. And the predatory insects won't completely eradicate the noxious weeds - they need the plant as a food source to survive.

Weed Control Classifications

Noxious weeds are state-designated plants that have the potential to cause injury to public health, crops, livestock, land or other property. All noxious weeds are non-native plants, introduced to an area as ornamental vegetation or through contaminated materials including seed, feed, construction materials and/or packing materials.

Noxious weeds have no natural predators, so assigned Weed Control districts are charged with the tasks of trying to eliminate or control the infestations. To help, the Idaho Department of Agriculture has incorporated a three-tiered program of classifying noxious weeds and providing policy for resident education, enforcements and control. Ada County must mitigate noxious weed infestations according to these classifications, but weed managers have the ability to take a classified weed and move it up to a higher classification with more immediate control regulations. The classifications are as follows:

Early Detection, Rapid Response:

Plants listed as statewide EDRR weeds must be reported to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture within 10 days after being identified at the University of Idaho or by another authority approved by the ISDA director. Eradication must begin in the same season they are found. Ada County can assign weeds to this category to control new weed infestations and keep Ada County weed free.

Control:

Weed control managers must halt the spread of the infestations of control-category weeds with the ultimate goal being eradication of individual infestations. Potential for local eradication is high, but due to the large number of infestations, control must be extended over a period of years.

Containment:

These weeds are prevalent throughout local areas and because of their widespread contamination, treatment alternatives range from no action to several levels of integrated noxious weed management including eradication.

Click here for Idaho's complete Noxious Weed law.

Turn to the next page to learn how more about the state classifications of noxious weeds.

Weed Control Classifications...cont.

Learn more about these noxious weeds. Click on the name below for more information.

Early Detection Rapid Response

- Brazilian elodea
- Common/European frogbit
- Fanwort
- Feathered mosquito fern
- Giant hogweed
- Giant salvinia
- Hydrilla
- Policeman's helme
- Squarrose knapweed
- Syrian beankeeper
- Tall hawkweed
- Variable-leaf milfoil
- Yellow devil hawkweed
- Yellow floating heart

Control

- Black henbane
- Bohemian knotweed
- Buffalobur
- Common crupina
- Common reed
- Dyer's woad
- Eurasian watermilfoil
- Giant knotweed
- Japanese knotweed
- Johnsongrass
- Matgrass
- Meadow knapweed
- Mediterranean sage
- Musk Thistle
- Orange hawkweed
- Parrotfeather milfoil
- Perennial sowthistle
- Russian knapweed
- Scotch broom
- Small bugloss
- Viper's bugloss
- Water chestnut
- Yellow flag iris
- Yellow hawkweed

Containment

- Canada thistle
- Curlyleaf pondweed
- Dalmatian toadflax
- Diffuse knapweed
- Field bindweed
- Flowering rush
- Hoary alyssum
- Houndstongue
- Jointed goatgrass
- Leafy spurge
- Milium
- Oxeye daisy
- Perennial pepperweed
- Plumeless thistle
- Poison hemlock
- Puncturevine
- Purple loosestrife
- Rush skeletonweed
- Saltcedar
- Scotch thistle
- Spotted knapweed
- Tansy ragwort
- White Bryony
- Whitetop
- Yellow starthistle (*)
- Yellow toadflax

On the previous page you learned about the state classifications of noxious weeds. However, in some instances, Ada County Weed Control has moved a weed into a higher-priority category. Such is the case for Yellow starthistle. If you travel to Nez Perce County, you will see the weed has completely taken over the foothills there. Since Yellow starthistle is a new arrival in Ada County, weed managers have made it a higher control category to make sure the weed doesn't take hold here.

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