



Ada County Weed Control Services

Types of Weed Control

The best way to control weeds from any property – be it a home garden or thousands of acres of public land – is through an integrative management plan. From bio-control agents, like insects that feed on noxious weeds, to mowing down an invasive weed infestation, there are plenty of tools available to help control weeds in Ada County. This brochure explains the types of weed control. Be sure to turn to other Ada County Weed Management online resources to learn more!

Ada County Weed Management has a detailed guide of these control methods listed on its Web site visit www.adaweb.net and navigate to the Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement department. Ada County Weed Control experts are available to help you identify weeds found on your property and provide consultations about what control methods are right for you.

For more information, call 577-4646.

Ada County
Weed, Pest & Mosquito Abatement

975 E. Pine Avenue
Meridian, ID 83642



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Weed Control Methods

Cultural control uses creative plant management and soil maintenance to prevent or push out infestations of invasive/noxious weeds. Weeds thrive on bare ground, so the easiest form of cultural control is ensuring your lawns and pastures maintain a competitive, healthy grass ground cover. Regularly (and properly)



fertilize your pastures and lawn – noxious weeds don't like fertilizer, but grasses and desirable plants do. These wanted plants will consume nutrients in your healthy soil and leave little left for undesired noxious and/or invasive weeds.

Landowners can also encourage stock grazing of certain noxious weeds. Some weeds are toxic to stock animals, so identify the weed before allowing grazing. Also research your weed infestation to determine other types of cultural control, like preventing seed production or maintaining proper grass length – management practices that help to eradicate some weed species.

Manual Control methods like mowing, hoeing, hand-pulling, or tilling are effective in an integrative weed management plan. A great example of manual control is used for Scotch and Musk thistles: with a shovel blade, cut the weed stem a few inches below the soil surface to prevent the weed from re-growing.



Mowing weeds before seed production is the most effective way to stop future weed infestations. Be sure you know what weed species you are dealing with – some weed species reproduce from fragments, so forms of manual control could actually spread the infestation. Additionally some weed species have caustic properties and could cause severe irritation if exposed to your

skin. Wear gloves while hand-pulling or working with plants to prevent seed production.

Biological Control essentially uses nature against noxious weeds. Noxious or invasive weeds are non-native species that lack a natural predator. Biological control is the introduction of natural predators that feed on or otherwise destroy infestations. Ada County Weed Control chooses to use environmentally safe



biological agents as a tool to control several difficult weed infestations. Ada County weed control has released a rust spore, midges, mites, beetles, and weevils to help control weed infestations on public land. Biological control, while economical and environmentally sensitive, is not always the most effective form of weed control. Bio-control agents need the specific weeds to survive, so they won't completely eradicate the weed. These biological controls work best on larger infestations, and they typically take time to truly tame weed infestations, so it's not recommended for use on private property.

Chemical Control is the most important part of an integrative weed management plan. When used in conjunction with the above control methods, chemical control ensures success in weed management. Whenever using herbicides, it is **IMPERATIVE** you follow the label instructions. Mishandling of chemical herbicides is dangerous and



could potentially damage the surrounding environment. Furthermore, with the improper use of specific herbicides you could actually grow resistant weed species. For questions, consult Ada County Weed Management crews at 577-4646

