Noxious Weeds are Pretty, But...

They are Taking Over Our Public Lands, Watersheds and Open Spaces

What is a Weed?

Weeds are plants that are out of place and unwanted (e.g. dandelions and crab grass).

What is a Noxious Weed?

Noxious weeds are designated by the Oregon State Weed Board as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or any public or private property. Noxious weeds cause extensive economic, public health and environmental impacts.

Why Should I Care?

Noxious weeds overtake our backyards, farms and pastures, and public lands. Private and public lands are becoming choked with these unwanted species. In addition, noxious weeds have taken over lands that once belonged to native species. Many wildlife and plant species have lost their homes to noxious weeds.

It is estimated that Oregon loses more than $83 million annually due to noxious weeds. These weeds invade timber plantations, crops, and pasturelands; clog waterways; injure humans and animals; and displace native vegetation. Removal of noxious weeds costs taxpayers, business owners, and landowners money!

On public lands, we are losing ground every day. Approximately 4,600 acres of public lands are lost to noxious weeds daily. Noxious weeds know no boundaries and spread from landowner to landowner, and seeds can survive in the soil for many years. Early detection and identification of these species is crucial to controlling their spread. To effectively locate and treat these invaders, we must work together.

A Bit from the Past

Noxious weeds have come to our country in several different ways. Many noxious weeds "hitch-hiked" to their new home in hay or animal feed, in crop seeds brought from the Old World, or in the soil used as ballast in ships. Some were brought over intentionally for landscaping, as ornamental plants, or for medicinal purposes, without knowing the impact they would one day have. Today, weed seeds travel in socks or clothing, on the bottom of shoes, in animal fur, on pack animals, on tires, under cars and boats, and sometimes even in floral arrangements.

Get Started by:

* Identify the weeds in your area. This could be a great school project for your kids!

* Form a team. Get the neighborhood involved. Together you can get more done.

* Plan your attack! Figure out which control methods you're going to use.

* Go to battle! Get bags, gloves, hoes, whatever it takes, and get the job done.

* Celebrate your victory! Make plans for your next assault!

BLM

Medford District Office

STOP Noxious Weeds in their Tracks!

How Do I Get Rid of...	Yellow Starthistle	Purple Loosestrife
Cut/Mow	Cut or mow just prior to flowering. Will require follow up mowing if plants re-sprout.	Clip flowers prior to full bloom, and bag for later disposal or burning.
Hand Pull	Hand pull all summer, until plants die in fall. If plants are flowering, clip flowers, bag and burn.	Not very effective, as root system is extensive, and remaining root segments can sprout to form new plants.
Herbicide	Best control method. Contact local co-op or nursery for best product for your situation. Always read and follow the label.	Best control method. Contact local co-op or nursery for best product for your situation. Always read and follow the label.
Biological Control	Five different insect species have been released over the past 20 years. Good distribution.	Several insect species have been released with favorable results. Not suggested for small patches.
Burning	Not advisable due to risk of escaped fire (need to burn in summer to get rid of).	Not very effective.
Domestic Animals	Goats, sheep, and cattle will graze. Poisonous to horses. Good protein content early in year.	Grazing has not been thoroughly tested, but indications are that this is not an effective control measure.
Cultivation	Discing in conjunction with grass seeding works well.	Not very effective, as root system is extensive, and remaining root segments can sprout to form new plants.
Re-seeding	Always re-seed to provide competition against re-establishment of noxious weeds.	Usually grows in riparian or wet areas. Surrounding shrubs and bushes should re-establish dominance.

  

Himalayan Blackberry	**Puncturevine**	**Scotch Broom Complex** (includes Portuguese, French, and Spanish)
Can be very effective, especially if treated with herbicide after small shoots resprout.	Sever root with spade or hoe, and remove entire plant with seeds intact. Bag for later disposal or burning.	Best to cut prior to seed production in the spring. Cutting in fall reduces carbohydrates for root survival.
Not very effective, as root system is extensive, and remaining root segments can sprout to form new plants.	Most effective control method for adult plants. Bag plants after pulling. Do not leave on ground!	Not very effective, as root system is extensive, and remaining root segments can sprout to form new plants.
Best control method. Contact local co-op or nursery for best product for your situation. Always read and follow the label.	Effective only on very small plants. After plant is producing seed, herbicide will kill plant, but seeds will survive.	Best control method. Contact local co-op or nursery for best product for your situation. Always read and follow the label.
No insect species have been found to effectively treat <u>only</u> the Himalayan variety.	Several insect species have demonstrated marginal to moderate success in control.	Insects are marginally effective. Several species have been approved for release in Oregon.
Not very effective.	Spot treatment with a propane burner can be effective, but time consuming.	Not very effective.
Goats and sheep are effective controls, if confined to small areas.	Not very effective.	Not very effective.
Will resprout, unless treated with herbicide as follow-up.	Only effective with very young plants, due to seed production.	Difficult due to stature of plant.
Always re-seed to provide competition against re-establishment of noxious weeds.	Always re-seed to provide competition against re-establishment of noxious weeds.	Always re-seed to provide competition against re-establishment of noxious weeds.

The Worst of the Weeds...

Yellow Starthistle

Grows in pastures, rangelands, roadsides, vineyards, crop fields, orchards, disturbed areas, and public lands.

Flowers bloom from June to August.

Below its bright flowers are needle sharp spines, as long as one inch.

Seeds can be carried on the wind, or drop to the ground and sprout in the fall.

Averages one to two feet in height, but can reach five feet. Stems and leaves are grey green in color and wooly.

Poisonous, and potentially fatal to horses.

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Thrives in marshes, meadows, and open bogs, but can also survive in dry sites.

Flowers bloom from mid-June to mid-September.

Purple Loosestrife

Can reproduce from seed or broken plant parts. Seeds are spread mainly through moving water, but can also be carried by animals and birds.

Can exceed eight feet in height. Stems are angled and leaves are opposite.

Replaces cattails, bulrushes and other plants in wetlands, reducing the quality of food and shelter for fish and wildlife.

Grows in dense thickets in wastelands, pastures, forest plantations, roadsides, creek gullies, river flats, and riparian areas.

Himalayan Blackberry

Flowers bloom in June and July.

Seeds are spread in the scat of animals.

Short thorns on all stems.

Grows in dense, impenetrable thickets.

Replaces native vegetation and can limit the movement of large animals.

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Puncturevine

Grows in hot, dry, sandy, conditions including roadsides, parking lots and parks.

Flowers bloom in June and July.

Sharp, thorny burrs attach to objects (vehicle tires, shoe bottoms and animals) in the summer.

Can flower within two weeks of sprouting and can produce seed within four weeks.

Typically grows close to the ground, with 6 to 20 inch stems branching from the base to form a dense mat.

Injures animals and humans when feet step on burrs.

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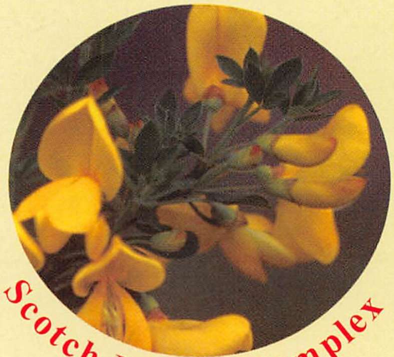
Takes over pastures, dry scrublands and hillsides, native grasslands, dry riverbeds, roadsides, trails, and land that has been disturbed by logging or fire.



Scotch Broom Complex

Flowers bloom in March and April.

Seeds are "shot" out of their seed pod when it bursts open or are spread by water, animals and vehicles.

Can grow to 10 feet in height. Grows in stout, brushy patches.

Areas with thick infestations create a high fire hazard.