

Okanogan County

Noxious Weed News

April 2019

Spring

Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board

Upcoming Events

Earth Day April 22

A great day to do
something for our
environment

Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting

April 24, 4:00 pm
1 pesticide license
credit

Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting

May 22, 4:00 pm
1 pesticide license
credit

Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board Meeting

June 26, 4:00 pm
1 pesticide license
credit



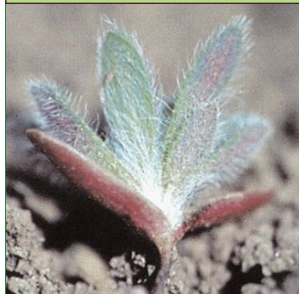
Noxious Weeds of the Season

Russian Thistle



Kochia and Russian Thistle are two weeds that show up very early in the growing season which (due to their dainty stature) often go unnoticed by landowners until after they have grown into large, very difficult to control, plants. Every year, we receive calls from landowners with questions about how to control these species on their property, but often those calls do not come in until after plants have reached maturity when control options are very limited. Both of these species are annuals, which are easier to control at this time of the year.

Kochia



Kochia is listed as a Class B Noxious Weed on the Washington State Noxious Weed List, but, due to how widespread it is in Okanogan County, it is not designated as a mandatory control species. Russian Thistle on the other hand is not a noxious weed, though, most landowners do consider it to be a highly obnoxious weed. If you would like control recommendations for either of these species, please give us a call as soon as possible.

Noxious Weed Inspections Have Begun

The Noxious Weed Office has begun inspections for noxious weeds in the lower elevations throughout the county and we will be working our way up to higher elevations as this spring continues to warm up.

If you should happen to see us out and about, please feel free to stop and ask us any noxious weed related questions that you may have. Or, if you should happen to notice an area that you think may have noxious weeds where you feel our office should be looking at, then please let us know; it always helps to have input from the public, and we are more than happy to check it out.

And remember, if you should happen to need some assistance with identifying weeds on your property or developing a weed control plan for your property, we offer free onsite consultations to landowners in Okanogan County. To schedule, please send us an email at noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us, or give us a call at (509) 422-7165.



Additional Staff Needed For the 2019 Field Season



The Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board is ramping up for the 2019 field season and we are looking to hire additional seasonal field staff. We are looking to hire two (possibly more) Field Inspectors and/or Field Assistants to work for the next 4 to 7 months.

Required Qualifications

Must be age 18 with High School Diploma or equivalent

Have a valid Washington Driver's License

Have a reliable vehicle of their own. The vehicle will be required to travel off of paved roads.

For the Field Inspector position: must possess a Washington State Department of Agriculture Pesticide Consultants License with an Ag Weed Endorsement

If you or someone you know, are interested in either of these seasonal employment opportunities, please contact our office at (509) 422-7165, send us an email at noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us, or stop in and see us at 1234 S 2nd Ave, Suite B, Okanogan, WA 98840.

2019 Noxious Weed Control Projects



BLM Survey & Treatments: This year, the Bureau of Land Management has provided \$8,400 to the Noxious Weed Office to conduct surveys for the presence of Class B Designate and Okanogan County Select Noxious Weeds on BLM land and neighboring properties in two high priority areas of Okanogan County. Funds will also be used to contract with local commercial pesticide applicators to treat any sites that are found during the survey.

DNR Treatments: The Washington State Department of Natural Resources has contracted with the Noxious Weed Office to control \$10,000 worth of noxious weeds on DNR managed lands. With this funding, we will contract with local commercial pesticide applicators to treat several sites of Class B Designate noxious weeds on DNR lands throughout Okanogan County.

U.S. Forest Service Treatments: The Tonasket Ranger District contracted with the Noxious Weed Office to treat Class B Designate noxious weed infestations (in high priority treatment areas) on lands that they manage. The Noxious Weed Office has received \$13,800, which will be utilized to contract with local applicators to conduct control work. They have also applied for an additional \$20,000 in Title II Funds, which, if received, will be added to the current contract.

Title II (application submitted): The Noxious Weed Office has also submitted an application requesting \$25,000 to assist Okanogan County landowners in their Hoary Alyssum control efforts. If received, these funds will be used to provide cost share assistance to landowners who were impacted by recent wildfires or who are located near Ferry County; where control is not required for Hoary Alyssum.

2019 Aquatic Treatment Plans Okanogan River (and others)

"We are committed to our aquatic program to ensure safety for all who recreate on Okanogan County's Waterbodies"

Okanogan River 2019 Treatments

Last fall, portions of the Okanogan River and Well's Pool were treated with herbicides to control Yellow Flag Iris, Reed Canary Grass, Fragrant Water Lily, Purple Loosestrife and Eurasian Watermilfoil.

This year, we plan to expand upon the success of last fall's treatment by expanding up river to Lake Osoyoos. We are currently in the process of adding the entire length of the Okanogan River onto our aquatic treatment permit, and we are seeking out funding sources to pay for treatments. Once the river has been added to our permit, we will then be able to start conducting in water treatments to control Eurasian Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed throughout the entire river system.

As funding allows, we plan to start treating aquatic and riparian noxious weed infestations at Osoyoos and work our way down river towards the Columbia River. These treatments will improve water quality and increase habitat for salmon and other wildlife on the river.



Other 2019 Aquatic Projects

In addition to the potential Okanogan River treatments this year, we are happy to report that we will be continuing treatments on many of the lakes in our area. Lakes that are again scheduled to receive treatments for Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed in 2019, include: Spectacle, Leader, Palmer, Alta, Conconully, Salmon, Osoyoos, and Patterson.

Thanks to past treatments on these lakes, we have seen some major reductions in the size and extent of infestations over the past few seasons. In fact, treatments have been so successful that many lakes did not need treatments in 2018.



Pesticide Equipment Calibration Workshops

Here at the Noxious Weed Office we want to ensure that our county's landowners receive the best "bang for their bucks" when controlling noxious weeds on their property. For those folks who wish to incorporate herbicide applications as part of their integrated weed management program, calibrating your equipment will help to maximize your success at **Stopping the Spread!** Before beginning your herbicide treatments this year, you should also check all of your equipment to make sure it is in good working condition. And, now is the time to start rounding up your herbicide supplies so you're not caught short-handed when it's time to get the job done.

So often, a person thinks that they have plenty of time before they need to begin their noxious weed control efforts, but then all of a sudden they are faced with infestations of 6 foot tall Scotch Thistle, along with patches of other equally frustrating, rapidly spreading noxious weeds.

To assist our landowners in properly calibrating their pesticide equipment, we are again offering free calibration assistance in 2019. If you have a group of 5 or more people within a specific area of Okanogan County who are interested in holding a hands on calibration workshop (where you'll receive recertification credits), then please give us a call at (509) 422-7165. Or, if you'd prefer one-on-one calibration training, we can set that up as well.



Earth Day
Be good to our planet and Okanogan County!
Help stop the spread of noxious weeds!
April 22

Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
1234 S 2nd Ave, P.O. Box 791
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(509) 422-7165
noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us
www.okanogancounty.org/nw



Please feel free to forward this newsletter on to your friends. Make sure you keep our office up to date with your email address, so we can keep you informed. Or, to be added to our email list, please send us an email at noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us.