

Spread the Word Not the Weeds

Fall | 2017

Chelan County Noxious
Weed Control



ON THE CALENDAR

Chelan County
Noxious Weed Control
Board Meeting
December 12, 1:30pm
412 Washington St.
Wenatchee, WA

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'Weedy' Native Plants Can Help to Fight Noxious Weeds

Warm weather, rain, and irrigation brought out the weeds this summer. Many different kinds of weeds show up along highways, public lands and in private yards. Some of these "weeds", however, are not noxious. In fact, they're not a problem at all!

Weedy natives (properly called early successional species) behave so much like their noxious counterparts, people often become alarmed and think they must actually be a noxious weed. But these native plants are well adapted to colonizing disturbed areas.



If left in place they can often prevent noxious weeds from coming in. They will also act as nurse plants. These are plants that provide shade, and improve soil conditions for more "permanent" species in the next successional stage

One early successional plant is *Lomatium nudicaule*

It is also known as Desert parsley, or bare stem biscuit root. This early spring perennial grows 10-30" tall and is found in dry, open areas, shrub-steppe, and in mountain meadows

In bare ground, it can spread aggressively, but this can be a good thing. Unless you plan to replant that bare ground immediately with something else, consider leaving it to keep the weeds out. Eventually, other plants (often prettier) will germinate underneath and replace the Desert parsley. (For more on this early successional plant, see page 2)

What Can You Do?


Buy Local, Burn Local. Invasive plants, pests and larvae can hide and ride long distances in firewood. Don't make it any easier for them to start a new infestation. Buy firewood where you'll burn it.

Plant Carefully. Buy plants from a reputable source and avoid using invasive plant species at all costs. Plants that are listed in Washington State on the Noxious Weed List can be found in catalogs and websites from another state.

Do Not Share. Do not bring plants into your landscape or share plants with other gardeners unless you have confirmed they are not noxious. Never dig up plants along the side of the road to plant in your garden unless you know what they are.

Is it **NOXIOUS** or **TOXIC** or both?? See the new publication on the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board website:

Protect
Your Horses and Livestock From
Toxic Plants



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What to do with toxic plants:

Dry material of some toxic plants remains toxic for years. It is best to dispose of toxic, noxious weeds to prevent accidental exposure and poisoning. Poisonous plants left on site could harm people as well as animals that may feed on the dead plants. *From Noxious Weed Disposal, a brochure produced by the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board*

Some toxic noxious weeds: Hoary alyssum, kochia Russian knapweed, houndstongue, poison hemlock, leafy spurge and common St. Johnswort

Virtuous Natives—Landscaping

Lomatium nudicaule (barestem desert-parsley)

Wildlife

Important nectar source for many butterflies.

Landscaping

Potentially useful ornamental for the dry rock garden.

First Nations

Roots dug up in spring before the plants flower [April-June] and eaten raw, boiled, cooked in pits or dried for later use. Often steam-cooked together with other bulbs of yellow glacier lily (*Erythronium grandiflorum*) (Parish et al, 1996). Seeds [late to early July] were used as an incense, fumigant, and house deodorant, as a flavor for meat and fish, and burned as an insect repellent (Turner, 1998). Young sprouts a popular vegetable. Flowers, leaves, stems, and seeds used for teas, soups, stews, and tobacco (Turner, 1997).



*Excerpts with permission from Jennifer Cook, Colorado State University
Irene Shonie, Director of CSU Extension in Gilpin County.*

Puncturevine Control—a test of patience

If you really don't like to use herbicides; if patience is your strongest virtue; if the Puncturevine is growing in an area you want to replant, then this control method may be for you. But only if you can claim attention to detail and the patience of Job.

It 'is' effective. And, it is definitely inexpensive. But it isn't fast. What do you do? Simply smother the plants blocking any possible exposure to light to prevent germination.

Carefully lay several sheets of overlapping cardboard over the plants, then cover that with a generous 3 inch thick layer of organic material, such as straw or shredded bark, to weigh it down.

Over time and with precipitation the cardboard will decompose. This method can kill up to 75 percent of the green plants in the 1st year. However Puncturevine seeds housed in in the 'goatheads' remain viable in the soil for 5

years. Left untreated they will germinate as temperatures warm and precipitation occurs.

To prevent the remaining seeds from germinating re-apply another layer of overlapping cardboard and compost and be patient.

When you're sure the seeds are no longer viable, till the ground. Cardboard adds nutrients to the soil, and you will have a nice, rich patch of soil in which to grow new plants.

What Can You Do? Cont'd from page 1

Cooperate with your neighbors; share your experience. Many land owners do not understand the difference between noxious and obnoxious weeds or the detrimental effects to the environment, habitat and water quality, property values and recreation.

Keep it Clean. Wash animals, tires and gear between fishing hunting, or camping trips. Thoroughly hose of boat trailers and vehicles before leaving the landing. Clean lawn furniture when moving it from one home to another.

Learn to Identify. If you see a suspected noxious weed, take pictures, write notes or collect a sample in a bag and notify your local Noxious Weed Control Board. In Chelan County report a weed infestation electronically at www.co.chelan.wa.us/noxious-weed.

About Us



The Noxious Weed Board was created April 22, 1986. It consists of five citizen volunteers who represent five geographic districts that cover the entire county. The Board meets throughout the year and provides vision and direction for the weed control program.

“Our primary goal is to focus on education, prevention, and technical assistance.”

Our Mission

“It is the mission of Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board to protect and preserve the agricultural lands and natural resources of the county from the degrading effects of invasive noxious weeds and to promote the control of invading noxious weeds through best management practices with a focus on education, prevention, technical assistance and control of noxious weeds through voluntary compliance with RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750.”



From the Coordinator’s Desk



The current Chelan County Noxious Weed Board has directed me to work with land developers, and irrigation districts to control noxious weeds on their rights of way, ditches, and lands that have been cleared for development.

The irrigation districts are making

an effort to control but as their season becomes more involved, weed control is put on the back burner.

If you are one of the members or users of an irrigation district I am asking you to help the Weed Board by calling the irrigation district to remind them it is their responsibility to control weeds on their right of ways.

If you live next to a new housing development that has been cleared of all vegetation and nothing but weed are coming back give the developer a call or call our office.

I’m sure everyone knows that if someone sells a property that they know has noxious weeds on it, they must disclose to the buyer that the weeds exist and they will be required to control them.

Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board

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Visit us on the web! [Click here](#). Don't find what you're looking for? Call and let us know.



Tribulus terrestris

Cheerful yellow flowers of puncturevine, *Tribulus terrestris*, mature to the well known spiny seed capsules known as goatheads. Keep these plants out of your neighborhood. Persistent hand pulling or digging can eliminate this plant



'Thank you, Terry!' doesn't begin to express our pride and appreciation.



Terry Lillybridge has given his knowledge, skill and experience to the Noxious Weed Knotweed Control Program in Chelan County since 2009.

More importantly, he has given each of us a part of himself - the sound of his hearty guffaws, his talking to himself as he works through a task, his curious mind and depth of knowledge, his tireless commitment and willingness to help whenever we ask. Those are qualities we will always remember and in many ways, he will continue to inspire us.

Terry is retiring, he assures us for real this time, and we will miss him deeply. Thank you, Terry, for helping to make the Noxious Weed Control Program in Chelan County what it is today.