

Spread the word and not the weeds



Chelan County
Noxious Weed

March

Spring | 2017

Coming Events

- March 23—1 pm
WA ST NW Control Board
Confluence Tech Center
285 Technology Center Way
Wenatchee, WA
- April 15 9—4 pm
Chelan Earth Day Fair
River Walk Park April 15,
2017
- April 24 12—4 pm
Earth Day Celebration
Leavenworth, WA
- May 19 - 9:30 am
State NW Control Board
Nat. Resources Bldg.
1111 Washington St.
Olympia, WA 98504
- May 28 8 am—1 pm
Farmers Market
Pybus Public Market
Wenatchee, WA

Inside

- Beyond the Fence 2
- Herbicidal Movement
in the Environment 2
- Tool Box 3
- Coordinator's Corner 3
- Spring Weed Control 4
- Do Ornaments
Really 'Escape'? 4

Outreach and Education—the difference makers



Noxious Weed Control booth at the 2017 Wenatchee Outdoor Sportsman Show in February.

Education and outreach play a vital role in carrying out our mission, part of which is to promote the control of invading noxious weeds through voluntary compliance with RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750.

We talk with property owners from remote rural areas and urban neighborhoods with the same message:

- Untreated, noxious weeds thrive in the landscape.
- Even day-to-day travels and recreational activities perpetuate the problem.
- You can reduce the impacts of noxious weeds by starting with your own property

We strive to carry that message through events like these:

Weed Management Workshop
We present this popular one day workshop the 3rd Tuesday every February packed with 7 one hour seminars

Native Planting 101
Partnering with the Cascadia Conservation District we participate in classes on revegetating sites with native plants to protect against re-infestations of noxious weeds.

Earth Day Community Fairs
Our focus is on the impacts of invasive species on the environment and best practices for weed control and disposal.

Farmers Markets
Weekly markets attract people we may not see at other venues from hard-core weed warriors to the curious.

Ravenna grass Reclassified

Ravenna grass is a recent addition to the State Noxious Weed List. Initially listed as a Class A weed it has been reclassified and is now listed as a Class B.

Chelan County Noxious Weed Control has about 10 cases of escaped plants, growing in State or County Right of Ways, drainages and yards. Ravenna grass has been in domestic planting for the past 20 years.



Ravenna grass (*Saccharum ravennae*)

A majority of the Ravenna grass is located in a landscape environment.

Much of the time Ravenna

grass is found planted among other grasses of different species. The Chelan County Noxious Weed board has found very few Ravenna grass plants outside of planted areas. The requirement to remove this grass from landscape planting would be very costly to the home owner.

The Board believes it can create a policy that adequately supports the removal of escaped Ravenna grass, while allowing home owners the flexibility to maintain their ornamental plantings and control

Behind the House and Beyond the Fence

You could find yourself in a Giant hogweed jungle!



The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board estimates that 50 percent of the plants on the state's noxious weed list are escaped ornamentals.

Giant hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, is a Class A noxious weed in Washington State and all land owners are required to eradicate the plant when it occurs on their land. It has not been found in Chelan County, yet.

Originally from Asia Giant hogweed was introduced to Britain as an ornamental plant in the 19th century and as spread to many other parts of Europe, Britain, the United States and Canada.

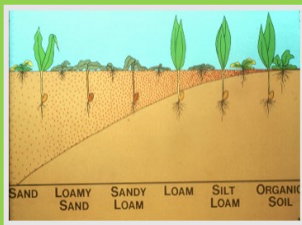
Giant hogweed is an escaped ornamental spreading by seed. Look for it in backyards, ravines, parks, abandoned lots, streams, woods, and roadsides. This 'backyard bully' will crowd out other plants and take over natural areas and even invade healthy turf.

Giant hogweed reaches 10 to 15 feet when in flower. Its large flat-topped, umbrella-shaped white flower clusters open on top of stout, hollow stems 2 to 4 inches in diameter with dark reddish-purple raised blotches. It is shade tolerant but thrives in full sun.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the preferred approach to control using a range of possible methods to match the requirements of each specific site.

Small infestations can be effectively hand-pulled or dug up. Isolated plants should be carefully removed in order to stop them from infesting a larger area. The plant is toxic, causing contact dermatitis. Care should be taken when handling this plant, wear protective clothing and gloves.

Herbicides in the Environment What happens after application?



Herbicide movement is greater in sand compared to silt loam or high organic matter soils.

(Image source: Steve Dewey, retired, Utah State University.

“The philosopher who said that work well done never needs doing over, never weeded a garden.”
Ray D. Everson

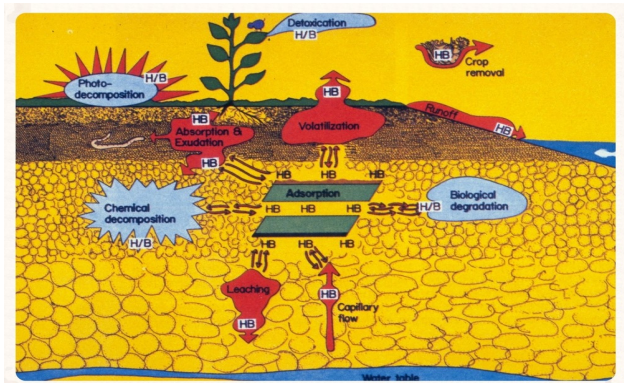
When using herbicides to control the target invasive plants, the goal is to also prevent collateral damage. Many factors can influence movement of herbicides in the environment after application - rainfall, sunlight intensity, soil texture, organic matter and chemistry (pH) and microbial populations.

Anecdotal accounts of unintended results include everything from little to no kill rate to something resembling scorched earth. Assuming the applicator reads and follows the label, why would this be?

Once an herbicide is applied, it is either:

- absorbed by the plant
- washed off by precipitation onto the soil
- begins photo-decomposition on the plant surfaces or the soil surface, or
- evaporates into the air.

Of the above possibilities soil is perhaps the most important environmental factor following application.



Herbicides dissipate in the environment through absorption and detoxification by plants, volatilization, photodecomposition, and other degradation and transport processes. HB denotes herbicide.

(Forest Service – Region 8 Southern Archive, USDA Forest Service, Buwood.org)

In general herbicides are more effective in medium-to-fine textured soils (loam, clay loam and clay) and with more than 3% organic matter. Coarse-to-medium textured soils have lower amounts of organic matter.

Herbicidal activity and persistence are influenced by an herbicide's ability to bind to soil (absorption) or move through the soil column.

Soil structure and porosity also influence the ability of herbicides to move downward into the soil (leaching), across the soil surface (runoff), or into the air (volatilization).

The ideal herbicide is one that controls the targeted plants as advertised then quickly degrades or breaks down in soil to inactive compounds.

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 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.”



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

Coordinator’s Corner



Happy Spring to everyone. As the days become warmer, one of your favorite summer past times is starting to emerge from its long winter nap. This is the time to get your tools of engagement in shape.

Clean your weed sprayer, calibrate it and check your chemical supplies. If any of your chemicals have frozen over the winter set them aside to be disposed of at the proper time and place.

Many weeds you may be trying to kill are very vulnerable to pre-emergent chemicals. Most of the **pre-emergent chemicals** are sold at your local hardware store. Think about the type of job you want to do. ‘Do I want to kill everything in the driveway?’ If so get a ground clear-type chemical. To determine the proper chemical for your job start by reading the **label**. Everything you need to know is on that label. Weed control is an all summer task.

Tool Box

From the Methow Conservancy here are 10 effective tools to reduce, manage and prevent the spread of weeds.

1. Educate yourself
2. Plant competing vegetation
3. Pull weeds by hand
4. Hoeing
5. Work the soil
6. Mowing
7. Covering soil
8. Grazing animals
9. Biocontrols
10. Herbicides

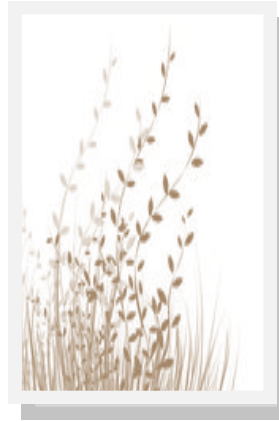
Chelan County Noxious Weed Control

412 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Phone: 509-667-6576

Fax: 509-667-6561

E-mail: noxious.weeds@co.chelan.wa.us



Visit us on the web! Click on the logo below. Don't find what you're looking for? Call and let us know.



Spread the word, not the weeds.

Spring Noxious Weed Control - Pre and Post-emergents

Ready to spring into action?

Create a weed management plan based on the type of soil you have, the ornamentals present in your landscape, and the weeds already present. Identify the weeds you have and learn about their life cycles.

Weeds are persistent and difficult to control. A successful weed control plan can include both mechanical and chemical strategies, and you must be as persistent as the weeds. Here are some tools that can help.

Pre-emergent herbicides kill annual weeds, including annual grasses, as they germinate in mid April to early May. Apply a pre-emergent 2-4 weeks before these dates while there is still moisture from rain expected to incorporate it into the soil.

Post-emergent herbicides kill annual and perennial weeds that are already actively growing at the time of application. Selective post-emergents kill broadleaf weeds, but not grasses, while non-selective herbicides, such as glyphosate (RoundUp*) also kill

grasses. Many post emergent herbicides are systemic, they move into the plant tissues and are effective at killing the roots and shoots of perennial plants. Non-systemic herbicides kill on contact but will not move into the roots. They are most effective when they are applied on young annual weeds.

Weeds are opportunists, they will be back unless you replant or mulch treated areas. Remember to read herbicide labels carefully and apply as directed.

Do ornamentals really escape?

True, many noxious weeds have made their way onto noxious weed lists tagged as 'escaped' ornamentals. Is it possible many of them had a helping hand in their escape?

Ciscoe Morris once said, "If you haven't killed a plant, you're not a gardener." Is it possible that too many peace-loving gardeners just can't kill perfectly good plants, so simply give them away?

The following plant descriptions taken from garden catalogs suggest why this may be the case.

:(Vigorous—is code for invasive.

:(Good groundcover—an impenetrable carpet capable of hiding a small child or garden tool should you lay it down anywhere nearby.

:(Grows more beautiful each year—means it looks like road kill for the foreseeable future.

:(Zone 5 with protection— is a variation of "Russian roulette."

:(May require support—means

your daughter's engineering degree will finally pay off.

:(Moisture-loving—plants are ideal for landscaping all your bogs and swamps.

:(Carefree—refers more to the plant's attitude more than your workload.

:(And my personal favorite, "naturalizes easily" - because my mom always said, "you'll have this until you die."