



## Coming Events

- April 16 9—4 pm  
Earth Day Fair  
Chelan, Wa
- April 24 12—4 pm  
Earth Day Celebration  
Leavenworth, WA
- May 19 - 9:30 am  
WA ST Noxious Weed  
Control Board Mtg.  
Nat. Resources Bldg.  
1111 Washington St.  
Olympia, WA 98504
- May 28 8 am—1 pm  
Farmers Market booth at  
Pybus Public Market,  
Wenatchee, WA
- June 14 6:30 pm Chelan  
County Noxious Weed

## Inside

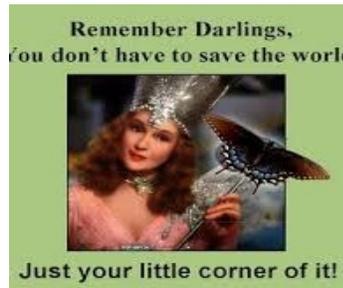
- Why You May Want to Consider Using Goats 2
- From Catalog to Noxious Weed List 2
- Medusahead-no myth 3
- Tool Box 3
- Coordinator's Corner 3
- Spring into Control 4
- Do Ornaments Really 'Escape'? 4

## Outreach and education—the difference makers

Education & Outreach is a vital component to carrying out our mission and we are continually looking for more opportunities to be of service. How do we do that?

- We explain how noxious weeds thrive in the landscape.
- We show how day-to-day travels and recreational activities perpetuate the problem.
- We encourage everyone to reduce the impacts of noxious weeds starting with their own property

Here are examples of the kind of outreach activities we believe help to make a difference in our local communities. Why? Because the smallest actions often make the biggest difference.



### Weed Management Workshop

We present this popular one day workshop every February. It is packed with 7 hour-long presentations on a variety of topics critical to anyone who is committed to the control of noxious weeds. Attendees can receive up to 7 WSDA credits for license recertification—for just \$10 dollars.

### Native Planting 101

We partner with the Cascadia Conservation District every year by offering this class on how to revegetate sites with native plants to protect against re-infestations of noxious weeds. Equally important native plants are adapted to our local climate.

### Earth Day Fairs

In local communities Earth Day renews our interest in the environment and is a perfect forum to talk about impacts of invasive species on the environment as well as best practices for weed control and disposal.

### Farmers Markets

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

## Medusahead - a real transformer

Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput medusae*) is now on WA ST Noxious Weed List. Unlike its namesake it is no mythical being. This weed is an **eco-system transformer!**

Native to the Mediterranean region Medusahead is found throughout Oregon, most of western and southern Idaho, eastern Washington, and northern Nevada! We haven't found it in Chelan County yet.

Medusahead arrived near Roseburg, Oregon in 1887



*Appearances can be deceiving.* probably in the fur of stock animals. It not only competes for resources with more desirable species, it can change the ecosystem function to favor its own survival at the expense of the entire ecosystem.

In areas with a Mediterranean climate pattern Medusahead matures 2-4 weeks after other grasses have senesced. This allows the plant to access soil moisture and sunlight without competition.

Below is an excellent and extensive reference.

*Kyser GB, DiTomaso JM, Davies KW, Davy JS, Smith BS (2014) Medusahead Management Guided for the Western States. Univ. Cal. Weed Research and Information Center,*



It's much easier and more cost effective to control invasive plants before the invasion.

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

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

## Why You May Want to Consider Using Goats

Land owners' increased awareness of RCWs and responsibility for noxious weed control many landowners are looking for alternative methods of weed control for large acreages.

Goats present a natural alternative by consuming unwanted brush and weeds. We know controlling noxious weeds is usually not a one-step process, no matter the method. Goats however can work consistently and inexpensively.

Vines constitute a significant portion of a goat's diet .But in dryer areas their diet is much more varied.

Goats act as biological control agents in forested areas and are becoming increasingly important due to environmental concerns and renewed focus on wildfire prevention.

Here are 5 reasons to consider using goats.:

- Goats can work between rocks, along steep embankments and cliffs.
- Goats are browsers and typically prefer brush and broad-leafed non-grassy plants, often referred to as weeds.
- Goats naturally eliminate ladder fuels as they work.
- Goats like to nibble a little bit from several different plants.
- Goats are relatively quiet without attracting negative attention

Using goats can be an effective and valuable tool for brush and weed control.

## From Garden Catalog to Noxious Weed List

Invasive plants such as the Purple loosestrife, English ivy, Butterfly bush, Yellow-flag iris, Scotch broom and most recently Ravenna Grass were once beloved ornamentals.

Escaped ornamentals out-compete native plants for natural resources. Even after these plants are recognized as invasive, it may take years to regulate their sale

while gardeners continue the age-old tradition of trading and sharing their favorite plants with each other.

The Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association has created a Taskforce to address invasive horticultural plants. The Taskforce has endorsed an assessment process for determining plant invasiveness based on three major criteria:

- 1) impact on ecosystems;
- 2) invasive traits such as runners, seeds, potential for human dispersal, etc.; and,
- 3) actual distribution over various ecosystems

Ask your nursery or call the Noxious Weed Department for plant alternatives to 'vigorous' potentially invasive species.

## Medusahead — no myth (cont.)

Medusahead seedlings acquire soil resources more efficiently than do native grass seedlings making it more likely they will inhibit native vegetation.

Medusahead's high silica content is the key to its success. It offers little nutritional value.

Its spiny awns injure the mouths of grazing animals. They avoid eating it and the

ecosystem evolves into a near-monotypic stand.

Silica retards decomposition of senesced plants. Old stalks and foliage build up into a thick persistent thatch which prevents survival and establishment of other rangeland species by delaying soil warming in spring, tying up nutrients, suppressing germination.

Even worse, in low-elevation sagebrush-steppe, Medusahead can also be a fire promoter by filling in between the sagebrush creating a continuous fuel corridor that accelerates the fire cycle. Increased fire frequency rapidly degrades the ecosystem from a native shrub community to predominantly nonnative annual grassland.

## 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



I know we all hate to deal with weeds – every year it’s the same thing over and over again.

My suggestion to you is to do an analysis of your weed prevention program. If you have been doing the same thing for several years with the same results you may want to re-evaluate.

I understand many people don’t like to use chemicals. But when it comes to weeds, chemicals will give you the upper hand. Many chemicals will kill the plant along with many seedlings that come later.

Following a chemical application, hand pulling and digging is not such an overwhelming task.

## Tool Box

The Tool Box is a brand new addition to the newsletter. This month we again feature a link on the Resources page of our website called **Bio-Control Training Videos**.

Check it out at: <http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/noxious-weed/pages/resources-noxious-weed?parent=Resources#sthash.wdM0irvv.dpuf>

Click on the hyperlink above or copy and paste into your browser.

## 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](mailto: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 Control Pre and Post-emergents

Spring is time for weed control.

**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 roadkill 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" - really means you'll have this until you die.