

Noxious Weed Control

June 2022

If you have a thistle infestation, please get it under control now!

A homeowner on Sam Grange attended a seminar on noxious weeds. Here are some highlights:

- Need to know plant identification and if you learn the life cycle of the plant it is even better to determine how to kill it.
- Most thistles are biennial (a plant that takes two years to grow from seed to fruition and die) except Canada thistle which is a perennial.
- Hounds tongue (little Velcro nutlets that attach to everything especially long-haired dogs) is also a biennial.
- Fall spraying of perennials is a good time to knock them down right after the first frost. The frost triggers the plant to put its energy/storage into the roots. If it gets sprayed, then it carries the pesticide down to the roots as well.
- Some roots of weeds can be more than 25 feet deep, so one application one year won't kill it. Some weeds require yearly application to get them under control.
- Weed seeds can stay dormant in the soil for multiple decades.
- Spray now while the weeds are in the rosette stage.
- Missouri heights weeds, found on the Noxious weed list B of Colorado 12th ed: Houndstongue, Plumeless thistle, Canada thistle, Scotch thistle, Oxeye daisy, Absinth wormwood, Chamomile, Moth mullein just to mention a few.
- Don't have bare ground, weeds will take over. Newly disturbed ground will harbor weeds. Seed areas with good grass species.
- Smooth brome also known as cheat grass is a fire hazard.
- Weeds diminish property values, food and shelter for wildlife too.
- There is no better or cheaper time to control weeds than now....prices just go up.
- Control weeds when patches are small, they can increase in size exponentially.
- Steve Anthony is the Vegetation Manager for Garfield County; he can help answer questions on control & identification 970-379-4456
- Mow lawns between 2 ½ - 3 inches, taller lawns choke out weeds and require less water.
- Deep water lawns to drive the roots down and water less frequently.
- If mowers have a mulch option, use it. The grass clippings add extra organic matter and can be the equivalent of fertilizing 1 to 1 ½ times.

More info on weeds management with regard to non compliance and info on pest and weed enforcement: [Weed & Pest - Enforcement - Eagle County](#)

Suggestion for weed mitigation: Tim Spittler of Green Pastures 970-219-5348
greenpasturespcllc@gmail.com