

Noxious Weed Terminology

Allelopathic: this is when a plant can “poison” a site so that other plants cannot grow, kind of like its own personal herbicide. Usually from falling leaves, etc.

Annual: grows, flowers and drops seed in one year or less (Summer annual emerges in spring and flowers by fall, Winter annual emerges in fall and flowers in spring)

Biennial: 2-year life cycle, usually forms a rosette the first year and develops root, then grows a stem for flowering and seed the second year and dies (so sad)

Perennial: lives for more than two years, may seed every year and/or spread by roots

Biological Control: use of insects or other natural enemies to control weeds – these “agents” usually come from the weeds’ hometown and keep the weed “in check.” These are slow to develop – sometimes taking decades to find the right “bug” for the job

Manual / Mechanical Control: this is simply the use of tools and/or machinery to remove or disrupt the weeds (yep, that includes those five-fingered tools at the end of your arms)

Chemical Control: use of chemicals in liquid, solid, and/or gas forms to kill weeds and/or prevent establishment in an area. Can be an effective tool in weed control

Safety Concerns When Working With Noxious Weeds

Many of these weeds are poisonous or may have toxic residues or other chemical properties that can be harmful to you! So remember:

Always wear gloves when handling noxious weeds!!!

What to do with Noxious Weed Material

- 1) Find the plant in the booklet and be sure that you can identify the plant correctly; there is no sense in killing the wrong plant.
- 2) Follow the instructions in the Control and Prevention sections of this booklet – including accurate reporting of location. Most of these weeds can be chopped off and left there – unless they are flowering or have seeds on them, that’s when you need to bag them up and burn them. Isolated plants are the main targets – they are the beginnings of invasions; please take care to remove them!
- 3) If you are supposed to bag the plant, be careful that you get the whole plant and you are not dropping seeds or plant parts on the ground – NEVER toss weeds with flower or seed heads in an open pick-up – they will just blow out!
- 4) If you have questions – just ask your supervisor or contact the Wildlife Biologist!