

# Okanogan County's 2013 Winter Noxious Weed Bulletin

## Coming Events

### January Events

**January 2:** Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting. (For more information please contact the Ferry County Noxious Weed Office at (509) 775-5235)

**January 22:** Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board will be holding its monthly board meeting in the Commissioners Hearing Room at the Virginia Grainger Building in Okanogan at 4:00 PM. (Note: You will receive 1 pesticide license recertification credit for every board meeting that you attend)

### February Events

**February 6:** Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting. (For more information please contact the Ferry County Noxious Weed Office at (509) 775-5235)

**February 7:** 'Mark your calendars' the 2012 Horticulture Show will be held in the Agriplex building at the Okanogan County Fairgrounds. This year's show will be worth 3 credits toward your pesticide license recertification (the trade show starts at 11:00 am).

**February 20:** Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding an 8 credit pesticide license recertification workshop at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee. (For more information please contact the Chelan County Noxious Weed Office at (509) 667-6550)

**February 26:** Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting at 4:00 pm in the Commissioners Hearing Room.

### March Events

**March 6:** Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting. (For more information please contact the Ferry County Noxious Weed Office at (509) 775-5235)

**March 27:** Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board's Spring Pesticide License Recertification class will be held in the Annex at the Agriplex. The Class will be worth up to 8 credits for five dollars. Lunch will be available on site for an additional fee!!!!

**March 26:** Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board will be holding its monthly board meeting in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 4:00 PM.

## Winter Herbicide Applications

### Herbicide Applications, During the Winter?



Yes, that's right, you can apply some herbicides during the winter months. In fact, for most pre-emergent and sterilant herbicides, late winter and early spring (before plants start actively growing) is the optimum time to apply them.

Every year is different, but, depending on snow levels and weather conditions, pre-emergent and sterilant herbicide applications can begin as early as February. A general rule of thumb is: if there isn't snow on the ground, if the ground isn't frozen, and if your equipment isn't freezing up, then you can effectively apply these herbicides. But, always check the herbicide label to be certain that it is legal to do so.

## Buyer Beware

### Seed Catalogs May be Selling you Weeds



Common Bugloss



Yellow Flag Iris

Before you know it, the Spring planting season will be here and many of us are already receiving seed catalogs in the mail. But, before you start placing your seed orders for this year's flower garden, you need to be aware that seed packets can be, and often are, a source for invasive and noxious weeds to get started growing on your property.

In a study conducted by the University of Washington, researchers picked a variety of wildflower seed packets from several different distributors and planted them to see what would come up. When the seeds sprouted, they found that each seed packet contained anywhere from 3 to 13 varieties of invasive plants, and 8 of the packets contained seeds for species of noxious weeds listed in at least 1 state or Canadian province. A third of the packets that were tested did not even list which species of plants were included, and, only 5 of the packets that they planted correctly listed the kind of seeds that they contained. This is something to be aware of when purchasing seeds to plant in your garden. Do a little research before you buy and purchase only quality weed free seeds to ensure that you don't end up with noxious weeds in your flower garden!

Happy  
New Year

## 2012 Weed Control Projects

### Weed Control Accomplishments of 2012



Okanogan County Noxious Weed Office coordinated several noxious weed control projects in 2012, as well as our New Invader and Class 'A' noxious weed programs. Pictured left; Garlic Mustard is a new Class 'A' Noxious Weed in Okanogan County that was first detected in 2012.

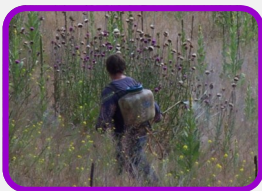
In 2012 the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Office was able to treat all of our New Invader, Class 'A', and Priority Control Weed Species. We were also able to treat noxious weeds in several project areas throughout Okanogan County. And, we were able to purchase herbicide to give out to landowners who hold a pesticide applicators license to help them control Hoary Alyssum on their property.

The Noxious Weed Office was able to pay for the treatment of: 18.4 acres of Wild 4 O'clock, 31 acres of Leafy Spurge, 6.1 acres of Rush Skeletonweed, 51 acres of Scotch Thistle, 6.5 acres of Musk Thistle, 6 acres of Hawkweed, 3.25 acres of Yellow Starthistle, 1.5 acres of Garlic Mustard, 80 acres of Spurge Flax, .5 acre of Common Bugloss, .1 acres of Syrian Bean Caper, and 5 acres of Hoary Alyssum. We were also able to treat 107 acres of various other noxious weeds and 92 miles of roads located on Tribal and Department of Natural Resources managed Lands.

Almost all of these projects as well as the 2012 Weeds Cross Borders Calendars, and our Weeds Cross Borders Tour were paid for with grant dollars, and were provided at little or no cost to the landowner. In total, the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board received \$185,370 worth of grant and other outside funding sources to help combat noxious weeds in Okanogan County during the 2012 field season (some of this money will carry over into our 2013 budget).

### Be Ready To Spray This Spring

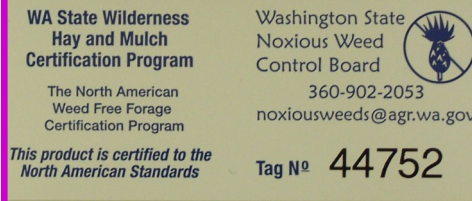
#### Don't forget to renew your Pesticide License



If you plan to use any restricted use pesticides this year, you will need to make sure that your pesticide applicator license is current. To check on the status of your pesticide applicator license, or to see how many pesticide license recertification credits you have, please visit the Washington State Department of Agriculture's pesticide license website at <http://agr.wa.gov/pestfert/licensing/search> or contact the Noxious Weed Office at (509) 422-7165.

## Winter Feed And Noxious Weeds

### Is Your Winter Feed Bringing New Weeds?



For a list of certified weed free hay producers in our area, please contact the Okanogan Noxious Weed Office at (509) 422-7165.

For those folks who own livestock in our area, winter feeding is just a normal fact of life. But, the winter feed that you are providing now can lead to noxious weed problems on your property later on if noxious weed seeds are inadvertently introduced to your property from contaminated hay or other feed products.

To reduce the risk of bringing new weeds onto your property when feeding livestock over the winter, we recommend that you only purchase certified weed free hay and other feed products, or that you purchase them from a trusted source that you know will provide a high quality weed free product. And, it is always a good idea to keep a small sample of the hay that you feed during the winter so it can be analyzed if some strange new weed does happen to show up on your property next summer.

### Changes Coming In 2013

#### Limited Time and Staff Force Change

Due to limited personnel and an overwhelming amount of work to be accomplished this field season, the office will be implementing some major changes in 2013.

##### Office Hours

During the 2013 field season, the Noxious Weed Office will reduce the number of hours the office is open to the public. Field season office hours will be Monday through Wednesday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. This will allow Thursday and Friday to be dedicated field days and allow for adequate follow up on landowner concerns.

##### Class 'A' & New Invader Weed Control

The Noxious Weed Office will again provide for herbicide control of New Invader and Class 'A' Noxious Weeds at no cost to the landowner. However, landowner contracts will be mailed out in February and must be returned no later than the end of March. Landowners with Class 'A' or New Invader weeds who do not return their contract by March 31, will be sent a posting notice, and will be responsible for the cost associated with control.

##### Notification for Mandatory Control Noxious Weeds

To limit repeated inspections, reducing costs and time involved, landowners with mandatory control weeds on their property will receive a "notice to control" by a specific date. If the weeds aren't controlled by that date, a posting letter will be sent. Enforcements will follow as needed.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter on to your friends. Make sure you keep our office up to date with your email address, so we can keep you informed. To be added to our email list, send us an email at [noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us)