



Dalmatian Toadflax is a noxious weed often spread by landowners due to its ornamental value.

Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board

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Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board

Noxious Weeds for Home Buyers

Prospective Landowners need to determine if there is a noxious weed problem before they buy real estate.



Before you buy:

- Contact the Weed Board to determine past noxious weed infestations on the parcel, if any.
- Go on a weed walk with the Weed Board staff.
- Determine what noxious weed obligations you may be taking on when you purchase property.

Contact the Lincoln County Weed Board at 509-725-3646

Home buyers and prospective landowners should know this:

- ◆ Landowners are responsible for controlling noxious weeds on their property, per RCW 17.10.
- ◆ “Noxious weeds” are non-native plants introduced into this area through human action. Because of their aggressive growth and lack of natural enemies, these species can be highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices.
- ◆ Noxious weeds can reduce crop yields, destroy native plant and animal habitat, damage recreational opportunities, clog waterways, decrease property value, poison humans and livestock, and create fire hazards.
- ◆ “Control” means to prevent all seed production in noxious weeds, and to prevent the dispersal of plant structures which propagate and spread noxious weeds.
- ◆ A landowner may control noxious weeds by **chemical** (spraying herbicides); **biological** (releasing insects); **mechanical** (tillage, pulling and mowing); and **cultural means** (planting desirable vegetation, fertilization, overseeding, and using goats or livestock).
- ◆ If a landowner fails to control noxious weeds, the county may take steps to control the weeds and then charge the landowner for the cost, plus a \$500 penalty. If that is not paid, the county will place a lien on the property.
- ◆ There are **31** noxious weeds found in Lincoln County.
- ◆ In the state of Washington, the presence of noxious weeds on residential property is considered a property defect and must be disclosed.

Control Options for the Top-12 Noxious Weeds

Consult the current herbicide recommendations. Read the label before applying herbicides.



Kochia

Kochia

Herbicides: 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Cimarron Max, and Telar are all effective, if used with an MSO surfactant.

Cultural: Good competitive vegetation helps prevent infestation, but doesn't stop it entirely.

Mechanical: Pulling is effective if done before it goes to seed. Mowing can reduce seed production.



Houndstongue

Houndstongue

Herbicides: Telar, Milestone, and Tordon + 2,4-D are all effective, if used with an MSO surfactant.

Cultural: Competitive plants reduce infestation. No grazing since weed poisonous to horses and cattle.

Mechanical: Cultivation, digging and pulling are all effective if done often.

Biocontrol: A root weevil and a root beetle were released in British Columbia, Canada, but have not yet migrated to the state of Washington.



Hoary Cress

Hoary Cress (Whitetop)

Herbicides: Weedmaster, Telar, Escort and Tordon are all effective, if used with an MSO surfactant.

Cultural: Competitive plants reduce infestation.

Mechanical: Three intensive years of cultivation may kill the root system.



Sulfur Cinquefoil

Sulfur Cinquefoil

Herbicides: Escort, and Tordon + 2,4-D.

Cultural: Competitive plants reduce infestation.

Mechanical: Cultivation with annual crops will control it. Hand pulling or chopping is also effective if the root crown is removed. Mowing is not effective due to massive, woody root system.

Control Options for the Top-12 Noxious Weeds

Consult the current herbicide recommendations. Read the label before applying herbicides.



Dalmatian Toadflax

Dalmatian Toadflax

Herbicides: Telar, Milestone or Tordon + 2,4-D are all effective, if used with an MSO surfactant.
Cultural: Good results with sheep and goats grazing. Competitive plants reduce infestation.
Mechanical: Cultivation, digging and pulling are all effective if done eight to 10 times a season.
Biocontrol: Good results with stem-boring weevils, *Mecinus janthinus*, locally.



Rush Skeletonweed

Rush Skeletonweed

Herbicides: Before plant bolts, 2,4-D, Redeem, Curtail or Weedmaster. After plant bolts, Telar, Milestone or Tordon + 2,4-D, Milestone, all with an MSO surfactant.
Cultural: Competitive plants reduce infestation.
Mechanical: Cultivation, digging and pulling are all effective if done eight to 10 times a season.
Biocontrol: Good results with three biocontrols locally (gall mite, rust fungus and gall midge fly).



Common Tansy

Common Tansy

Herbicides: Weedmaster, Escort, 2,4-D and Tordon.
Cultural: Heavy vegetation reduces infestation.
Mechanical: Frequent cultivation, plus regular mowing and digging rootstalks are effective.



St. Johnswort

Common St. Johnswort (Goatweed)

Herbicides: Weedmaster, Telar and Tordon + 2,4-D.
Cultural: Competitive plants reduce infestation.
Mechanical: Pulling (with gloves) only effective on new or small infestations.
Biocontrol: Mixed results with leaf- and flower-eating beetles. Better results locally if a wet spring and summer.

Home buyers and prospective landowners should contact the Lincoln County Noxious Weed Board to:

- ◆ Review the history of noxious weeds found on a parcel of land in previous seasons. The Weed Board maintains files on “problem parcels,” especially if a Notice of Violation has been sent.
- ◆ Weather permitting, take a “Weed Walk” with one of the Weed Board staff on the property you plan to purchase. Noxious weeds will be identified, and options for effective control will be discussed. Hopefully, the home buyer or prospective landowner will learn the extent of weed-control obligations involved in the real estate purchase.
- ◆ If noxious weeds are found on the property, Weed Board staff will suggest an integrated approach for effective control that may include spraying herbicides on some areas, releasing biocontrols on others, as well as cultivating and over-seeding areas of infestation. There is “more than one way to skin a cat,” and there often are many effective options for noxious weed control.

The Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board will:

- ◆ Provide landowners with information and assistance to achieve high rates of weed control and voluntary compliance with state law.
- ◆ Survey and map noxious weeds countywide to identify the extent of the noxious weed problem, and to detect weeds at an earlier and more-preventive stage.
- ◆ Provide educational services to the public through publications, exhibits and presentations to schools and civic organizations.
- ◆ Conduct research on the best methods for weed control and eradication in Lincoln County.

Real Life Stories

A Dream Home by Coulee Dam

A young couple planned to build their “dream home” on a parcel overlooking Lake Roosevelt and Coulee Dam. They made a \$10,000 down-payment in the fall with a large balloon payment planned for the following spring.

It pays to do the research first.

They started to draw up construction plans for the “dream home” when they were contacted by the noxious weed board. There were noxious weeds on the property, and spraying herbicides would cost them \$3,000.

Even though there was no residence yet on the property, the buyer said the seller and realtor should have disclosed the presence of noxious weeds. The buyer claimed there was fraud, and then defaulted on the balloon payment. The weed board was willing to consider several options for control besides spraying, but the buyer was adamant the seller should pay.

Ultimately, the buyer lost the property and their down-payment, and never built their “dream home” near Coulee Dam. Had they done the proper research, there may have been a different outcome.

A Horse Farm by Carp Lake

A retired couple from California dreamed of a horse farm in rural Lincoln County. They found 20 acres near Carp Lake that had beautiful meadows surrounded by pine trees.

In walking through the lush green meadows, they found a plant they were not familiar with. It looked like the pretty plants on the front cover of this brochure.

They contacted the Weed Board and took a “Weed Walk” to determine if they had noxious weeds on the property. Apparently, the pretty plants were Leafy Spurge, a noxious weed that is poisonous to all livestock except sheep and goats. When they were told that the white sap inside Leafy Spurge can cause hives and a rash if it comes into contact with a person’s skin, they realized that pulling the weeds is risky and not effective control. The white sap can also cause blindness if it comes into contact with a person’s eye. Effective biocontrols for Leafy Spurge in Lincoln County have not yet been found, although some exist in Montana and other places. Spraying herbicides and grazing goats are about the only effective controls locally. The couple decided to buy property elsewhere since they dreamed of a horse farm, not a goat ranch.

Control Options for the Top-12 Noxious Weeds

Consult the current herbicide recommendations. Read the label before applying herbicides.



Leafy Spurge

Leafy Spurge

Herbicides: 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Cimarron Max, Redeem, and Tordon are all effective if used with an MSO surfactant.

Cultural: Good results with sheep and goats grazing. Competitive plants reduce infestation.

Mechanical: Cultivation, digging and pulling (with gloves) are all effective if done often.

Biocontrol: Mixed results with flea beetles locally.



Spotted Knapweed

Spotted Knapweed

Herbicides: 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Cimarron Max, Redeem, Milestone and Tordon are all effective.

Cultural: Competitive plants reduce infestation.

Mechanical: Tillage, cultivation, digging, pulling and mowing are somewhat effective if done often.

Biocontrol: Great local results with flower weevils.



Diffuse Knapweed

Diffuse Knapweed

Herbicides: 2,4-D, Weedmaster, Cimarron Max, Redeem, Milestone and Tordon are all effective.

Cultural: Competitive plants reduce infestation.

Mechanical: Tillage, cultivation, digging, pulling and mowing are somewhat effective if done often.

Biocontrol: Great local results with flower weevils, Larinus Minutus. Use for large acreage.



Canada Thistle

Canada Thistle

Herbicides: Weedmaster, Cimarron Max, Redeem, Milestone, Telar, Tordon + 2,4-D are all effective. Best to use an MSO surfactant too.

Mechanical: Mowing is effective for small patches. Tillage can spread patch if root parts are spread.

Biocontrol: Mixed local results. Some control.