

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Know your weeds - learn to recognize and identify invasive plants, and share this information with friends and neighbours.

Early detection is key!

Report weed locations to the Regional District of North Okanagan, or the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, or the Ministry of Forests and Range.

ORANGE HAWKWEED



VERY INVASIVE

Prevent weeds from establishing:



PULL

isolated or new patches of weeds.



CLIP & BAG

Clip seed heads, place in a bag, and seal tightly.



BURY or LANDFILL

bagged seed heads and plants.



REPORT

weed locations to land managers.



Don't let invasive plants go to seed.

Don't plant invasive plant seeds or wildflower seed mixes that contain them.

Don't let plants escape from your garden.

Stay on roads or designated trails.

Check yourself, animals, vehicle and

recreational equipment for seeds and plant parts before leaving an infested area, and remove them.

Plant native grasses and wildflowers or non-invasive exotics on disturbed sites to prevent invasive plant growth and soil erosion.



RUSSIAN KNAPWEED

INVASIVE



WE NEED YOUR HELP

The *Weed Control Act* of BC imposes a duty on occupiers of land to control noxious weeds, but without wide-spread cooperation and a commitment by individuals to address the problem, the efforts of weed programs such as the RDNO's can only have limited success. Please do your part by learning more about invasive plants and get actively involved, for the sake of our environment and economy.

Together, we can make a difference!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about the RDNO's Noxious Weed program, visit our website at

www.rdno.ca

or call **(250) 550-3700**



SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE

INVASIVE

To learn more about noxious weeds and invasive plants, visit

www.weedsbc.ca

invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca



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NOXIOUS WEEDS OF THE NORTH OKANAGAN

& INVASIVE PLANTS GUIDE



Regional District of North Okanagan

www.rdno.ca

WHAT ARE NOXIOUS WEEDS?

Noxious Weeds, also called **Invasive Plants**, are non-native plant species that invade our ecosystems and out-compete local plants and cultivated crops for water, nutrients and light. Highly adaptable and difficult to control, these alien plants grow aggressively without the insect predators and plant pathogens that kept them in check in their native habitats.

Invasive plants are tough, adaptable and aggressive, growing quickly on disturbed sites via root fragments or seeds. A single plant can produce thousands of seeds that can be dispersed by wind, water and soil.

Seeds and plant parts may hitch a ride on boots, clothing, backpacks, animals and vehicles, thus travelling from infested areas.

Check the inside poster to identify Invasive Plants & Noxious Weeds of the North Okanagan

INVASIVE PLANTS ARE EVERYWHERE

Weeds can be found almost anywhere:

roads,
trails,
railways,
grasslands,
wetlands,
parks...

even in your own garden!



HOARY CRESS

INVASIVE

WEEDS ARE EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM

Invasive plants affect biodiversity by rapidly displacing native plant species that provide habitat for wildlife, and food for people and livestock. Invasive plants pose a threat to rare ecosystems, increase the frequency of wildfires and reduce survival rates of native species following fire. In addition, riparian habitat alteration may result in erosion, sedimentation and loss of aquatic habitat.



IMPACTS OF INVASIVE PLANTS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Competition from invasive plants can result in:

- suppressed native plant and seedling growth
- less palatable and sometimes poisonous weed species within the plant community,
- increased fire hazard as unpalatable plant material builds up
- future native plant communities under threat from weed seeds that remain viable in the soil for decades
- alteration of water flows









TANSY RAGWORT

VERY INVASIVE

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Invasive plants threaten the health of our resources and supported industries.

Noxious weed infestations can:

- reduce forage quality & yield 
- cause irritation or poisoning to humans, wildlife and livestock 
- cost taxpayers many \$\$\$ to control 
- reduce vigor of tree seedlings where planted 
- reduce property & aesthetic value 
- restrict recreational opportunities when poisonous and thorny weed infestations are present 



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL?

Under the *Weed Control Act* of the Province of BC, it is the responsibility of the land owner or occupier to control **noxious weeds** on land owned or occupied by him/her.



OXEYE DAISY

INVASIVE

RDNO NOXIOUS WEED PROGRAM

The goal of the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) Noxious Weed program is to prevent the introduction of new species of noxious weeds and invasive plants, and to reduce the spread of these alien invaders to minimize the impacts on lands within the North Okanagan.

To achieve this, the RDNO provides education to raise public awareness of the impacts of invasive plants, assists in the coordination of control efforts of agencies and individuals, and provides management advice to North Okanagan residents.

The RDNO also operates a prevention, monitoring and control program that is guided by the **Pest Management Plan (PMP)** that outlines an **Integrated Pest Management** approach that includes manual, mechanical, biological and chemical control methods on lands within the regional district. Four summer students are employed with the **RDNO Invasive Plant Control Crew** under the direct supervision of the Weed Control Officer.

Integrated Pest Management involves inventorying noxious weeds/invasive plants, selecting treatment methods, and evaluating effectiveness of treatment.

Biological control makes use of the plant's natural enemies, such as insects and pathogens, to reduce plant populations to economically manageable levels.

Biocontrol agents are carefully monitored and only available for some weed species.



Adult *Cyphocleonus achates*, a root feeding weevil that selectively attacks spotted and diffuse knapweed