

# Sublette County Weed Awareness Newsletter



*"It is the Responsibility of each Person or Landowner  
to Control Noxious Weeds on their Land"*

## **DO YOU NEED A SPRAYER???**

Sublette County Weed and Pest provides backpack, ATV sprayers, slide-in and hand sprayers at no cost to residents or property owners in Sublette County!

## **Cost Share Program**

Pesticides purchased by a Sublette County resident, from SCWP for treatment of Wyoming Designated or Sublette County Declared Weed or Pests will get a cost share of 50%!

# Calendar of Events

## Wyoming Invasive Weed Awareness Week

Governor Mead has declared the second week in May as Wyoming Invasive Weed Awareness Week!

This year Sublette County Weed and Pest will host several Weed Identification workshops!

- **Marbleton Town Hall**  
May 10th @ 6:30
- **Bondurant School**  
May 11th @ 6:00
- **Sublette County Weed and Pest office in Pinedale**  
May 12th @ 1:00 pm  
May 12th @ 6:30 pm

## Springtime

- Look for nymph grasshoppers
- Mustard treatments
- Check your equipment-repair worn parts and calibrate your sprayer

## June

- Whitetop control
- Look for nymph grasshoppers
- Call SCWP about Weed Free Forage Certification

## July

- Perennial pepperweed control
- Certify fields

## Fall

- Canada thistle, Russian and spotted knapweed control
- Willow control before leaves color
- Yard touch up treatments

## Check Your Town Ordinances

Be sure to check and comply with your town ordinance related to weed control. Town ordinances are different than the Wyoming Weed and Pest Act that mandates control of only noxious weeds.



leafy spurge - a highly invasive noxious weed

# The cost of doing nothing!

Brian A. Mealor  
Assistant Professor & Extension Weed Specialist  
University of Wyoming

When making decisions for business or personal reasons one must ensure that benefits exceed the costs, particularly in today's economic climate, but actions that seem to produce temporary savings today may lead to increased costs in the future. If left unmanaged for even several years, invasive weeds are capable of expanding rapidly, with exponential increase in the negative impacts (such as reductions in livestock forage, crop production or wildlife habitat) felt by the landowner or manager. The decision to implement a weed management program should be evaluated within the context of the particular situation, whether it is a smaller acreage property, a ranch agribusiness or a multi-thousand acre federal grazing allotment. Here we explore the potential impacts of deciding not to actively implement a weed control program or to discontinue an existing program on your property...making the decision to do nothing.

**Invasive weeds are capable of rapid spread from existing populations.** Although expansion rates vary among weed species and due to site-specific conditions, we can make some assumptions based on published literature. Small, newly established populations have been documented to expand at rates of up to 60% per year. As infestation become large, rates of expansion may decrease for several reasons, but driven largely by resource limitations. As an example, a 100 acre leafy spurge infestation in rangelands that normally produce 0.3 AUMs per acre can result in an annual forage loss of 30 AUMs (assuming no forage use from infested acres). Over a 10 year period, you will have lost at least 300 AUMs worth of forage; *with the assumption that the infestation did not increase in size*. Private grazing leases may be up to \$20 per AUM, so this particular leafy spurge infestation may cost a rancher up to \$6000 over a 10 year period...not to mention the cost of hay to replace lost forage.

**As individual infestation size increases, the cost of control increases while the probability of eradication decreases.** Larger infestations will cost more to control, by default, because more labor and control materials are needed to cover the larger area. Other, less obvious factors also increase potential costs of management. As weeds persist longer in an area and become more dense, the likelihood of controlling the population with a single method decreases: integrated methods including seeding of desirable species may be required. A publication from the University of Nevada discusses the change in costs associated with delaying control on a 75 acre infestation of perennial pepperweed with an expansion rate of 20%, but similar patterns would hold up for other weeds as well. Initial project costs were estimated at \$12,647. If the project startup was delayed for only 4 years, those costs were estimated to increase to over \$26,000 and to over \$54,000 after an 8 year delay in initiating control. If a 30% expansion rate was assumed, a 10-year delay in starting control resulted in a first-year control cost of over \$170,000. We are fortunate in Wyoming to have active Weed and Pest Districts that are willing to aid landowners in their weed management efforts. The districts provide cost-sharing opportunities to purchase herbicides for controlling listed noxious weeds; further helping to decrease the financial burdens on landowners. An "ounce of prevention" may be far more affordable than the cost of doing nothing.

Brian Mealor can be reached by email at [bamealor@uwyo.edu](mailto:bamealor@uwyo.edu) or by phone at 307-766-3113.

# Noxious Weeds of Sublette County



## houndstongue

- biennial
- velcro like seeds
- leaves are hairy and lack lobes
- disturbed locations and gravel stream-beds
- toxic to livestock especially horses



## black henbane

- cream and purple flowers
- numerous seeds
- invades disturbed areas
- poisonous



## perennial pepperweed

- perennial that can be 6 feet tall
- numerous, small white flowers
- leaves are glossy
- very invasive in riparian areas and irrigated meadows
- very aggressive root system



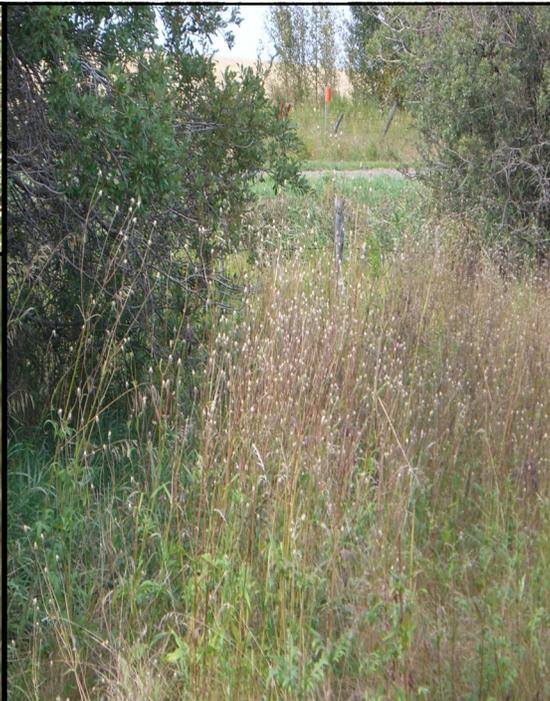
## whitetop or hoary cress

- perennial with creeping roots
- creamy colored flowers
- leaves that clasp the stem
- very aggressive root system



## Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR)

Sublette County Weed and Pest strongly promotes EDRR, the process of actively searching for new weed invaders, assessing their risk potential and responding immediately with an appropriate control. New weed invaders are weeds not known to be found in Sublette County except for in isolated and containable infestations with high potential for control. SCWP needs your help watching for these new invaders. The following are some that are on our "most wanted list".



### field scabious

- light purple flowers
- heavily dissected leaves
- extensive root system
- very invasive
- escaped ornamental invader

### Austrian fieldcress

- yellow flowers with 4 petals
- toothed leaved
- perennial creeping roots
- likes wet areas
- found in New Fork River drainage



spotted knapweed



- biennial or short lived perennial
- black spots on bracts
- forms dense rosettes
- all leaves very lobed

Russian knapweed



- perennial
- green papery bracts
- re-sprouts from roots
- lower leaves lobed and upper leaved entire and sessile

diffuse knapweed



- annual, biennial or perennial
- bristly bracts
- forms dense rosettes
- lower leaves lobed upper leaves not lobed

## Dalmation toadflax

- perennial reproducing from underground root stalks
- bright yellow flower with spur
- alternate, waxy, broad leaves



## Scotch thistle

- can grow up to 6 ft tall
- very hairy which gives it a frosty green appearance
- Biennial, so reproduces by seed

# Projects

## Green River Basin

### Weed Management Area

Sublette County Weed and Pest along with our partners are reorganizing the GRB CWMA. Over the winter we have held workgroup meetings at the watershed level. The workgroups will manage weeds as if there are no fences! The idea is to get neighbors working together to reduce spread, control weeds, gain education of tools to be used for weed management, and to prevent new introductions. Currently, workgroups are set up along Piney creeks, as well as in the Daniel/Horse Creek and LaBarge areas. Future groups may be Boulder area, Upper New Fork area, and along the Green River corridor. Please contact the SCWP if you would like more information!!!!

## Oxeye daisy



## yellow starthistle



## Other Projects

- Private Pesticide Trainings
- Certified Weed Free Forage
- Company Trainings
- Weed Workshops
- Education Days
- Invasive Plants Taskforce

# Yard and Garden

## Are Dandelions Taking Over Your Yard?

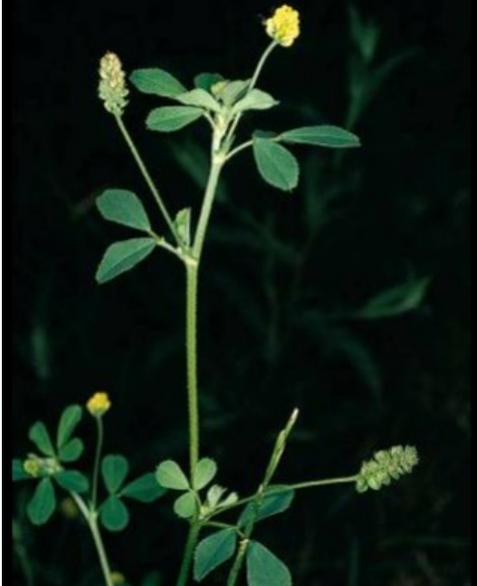
Dandelions, black medic, and other broadleaf weeds that were a problem in your yard last year will be back this spring! A spring application should be applied while the weeds are actively growing. In addition, a fall follow-up application may be necessary to control persistent weeds. Most often the first part of September to mid October (after the first frost) is the ideal time to control dandelions. Remember to apply a fall turf/ornamental herbicide on a warm day. For dandelion control 2,4- D formulations show the best results. Please contact a local commercial applicator if you need help with your private treatments! SCWP only consults on non-noxious weed problems.



dandelion



black medic

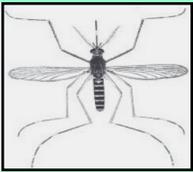


## Preparing your Garden for Planting...

Early Spring, after green up and prior to planting your garden, is a great time to spray with glyphosate, which is the active ingredient in Roundup. However, it is crucial to wait until troublesome weeds have emerged and are actively growing. Glyphosate is a systemic (moves through the plant), non-selective (kills any plant it is sprayed on), herbicide with no soil residual. It takes 7 to 10 days to see the visual effects that the herbicide has killed the plant all the way to the roots. This is a great way of getting ahead of those weeds that invade your garden.

## Mosquito

Mosquitoes are an important pest because some species transmit the West Nile Virus. Sublette County Weed and Pest sells B.t.i. briquets for individuals to treat small water bodies. Please contact the Sublette County Mosquito Districts with further questions about treatments.



Did you know that only female mosquitoes bite?

## Biological Control Agents

SCWP can help you acquire insects to control hard to access and large infestations of noxious weeds. Other tools of biological control can be implemented with targeted grazing of livestock such as sheep, goats or cattle. Many noxious weeds can be eaten by livestock with no toxic effects and actually have a high forage value.

Dalmation toadflax weevil



spotted knapweed weevil



## WYOMING WEED AND PEST CONTROL ACT DESIGNATED LIST

- (1) Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis* L.)
- (2) Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense* L.)
- (3) Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula* L.)
- (4) Perennial sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis* L.)
- (5) Quackgrass (*Agropyron repens* (L.) Beauv.)
- (6) Hoary cress (whitetop) (*Cardaria draba* and *Cardaria pubescens* (L.) Desv.)
- (7) Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium* L.)
- (8) Ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* L.)
- (9) Skeletonleaf bursage (*Franseria discolor* Nutt.)
- (10) Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens* L.)
- (11) Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris* L.)
- (12) Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica* (L.) Mill.)
- (13) Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium* L.)
- (14) Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans* L.)
- (15) Common burdock (*Arctium minus* (Hill) Bernh.)
- (16) Plumeless thistle (*Carduus acanthoides* L.)
- (17) Dyers woad (*Isatis tinctoria* L.)
- (18) Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale* L.)
- (19) Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa* Lam.)
- (20) Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa* Lam.)
- (21) Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.)
- (22) Saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.)
- (23) Common St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- (24) Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
- (25) Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia* L.)

### Designated Pests W.S. 11-5-102 (a)(xii)

- (1) Grasshoppers
- (2) Mormon crickets
- (3) Prairie dogs
- (4) Ground squirrels
- (5) Mountain pine beetle
- (6) Beet Leafhopper

### Sublette County Declared Pests W.S.S. 11-5-102 (a)(xi)

- (1) Black henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*)
- (2) Scentless chamomile (*Anthemis arvensis*)
- (3) Field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*)
- (4) Western water hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*)
- (5) Austrian fieldcress (*Rorippa austriaca*)

# Problem Insects

We Can Help!!!

Please bring your samples of insects, plant damage or plants to SCWP for identification! Contact us and we can come to your property and consult.

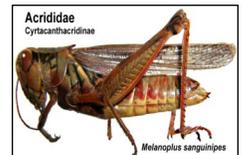


## Aphids

Small soft-bodied insects, most are wingless and feed in masses. Colors range from almost colorless to green, yellow, or black. They feed on plant sap and can cause several kinds of plant injuries such as galls and transmit viruses. Honeydew excreted by aphids can also attract ants. Biological control includes natural enemies such as ladybugs and lacewings. Aphids can be controlled by hosing them with a strong jet of water or by the use of insecticides.

## Grasshoppers

The projected 2011 forecast indicates grasshopper numbers could easily reach levels that would have negative effects on our natural resources. In 2010 there were a few areas with high grasshopper numbers, but none that reached treatment levels. It is essential to implement a grasshopper control program early since timing is critical for control. Look often and early for very small (1/4 inch) grasshopper nymphs in your rangelands.



**Spiders** are often found in Sublette County. We have a variety of spiders in the area. The most common spiders that SCWP gets asked about is the wolf spider and jumping spiders shown below.



**Bark Beetles** particularly mountain pine beetles have been turning our forest red and have caused widespread tree mortality. There are chemical treatments, such as pheromones and insecticides, available to treat small areas in order to prevent infestations.



Sublette County Weed and Pest  
P.O. Box 729  
12 South Bench Road  
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941  
(307) 367-4728



## **Board of Directors**

- Doug Vickrey
- Pam Chrisman (not pictured)
- Monte Skinner
- Jeff Hatch
- John Copeland

Supervisor - *Adrienne Peterson*

Assistant Supervisor - *Andy Currah*

Assistant Supervisor - *Julie Kraft*

Office Manager - *Shawna Bennett*

Sublette County Weed and Pest Control District  
PO Box 729  
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boxholder