

Lovin' Your Ranchette



NEW MEXICO

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Have you started noticing a different type of vegetation on or near your property? Does it seem to be taking over other vegetation? Does it seem to become more abundant each year?

If you answered yes to these questions, you may have a noxious weed invading your property. Weeds are merely a type of vegetation growing in an area that you do not want them growing. Noxious weeds, however, are non-native plants to the North American Continent. Most noxious weeds are invasive. They quickly spread by production of large numbers of seed or by rhizomes, which are creeping underground stems. These types of plants are not used by wildlife or livestock on a preferred basis.

What's So Bad About Noxious Weeds?

Because noxious weeds are not native to the United States, they grow unchecked by natural enemies such as insects or diseases. All noxious weeds are aggressive and competitive, stealing moisture, nutrients, and sunlight from other plants. Noxious weeds can get started in soil disturbed by construction, recreation, and other human activities. They are spread by wildlife, livestock, machinery and vehicles, people, wind, and water. So you found a potential noxious weed. What can you do? How can you gather more information about this weed? How can you tell if it really is a noxious weed? Help is just around the corner.

What Can Be Done

Weeds can spread fast, so regularly look for new weed patches and act immediately to eradicate them. Team up with neighbors to keep weeds from spreading. Remember, weed control by itself is not enough. You'll also need to modify the land management practices that caused weeds to become established in the first place.

Prevention: Good management will help keep desirable vegetation healthy and weeds under control. Buy only weed-free seed, plant only certified seed, wash your vehicle equipment after being in a weed-infested area, monitor your property, and respond quickly to new weed infestations. Reseed soil that has been disturbed with a seed mix that will work at your site and provide desirable grasses to guard against weed invasion.

Biological: Biological control attempts to find something in nature that can weaken or eventually kill weeds. Successful bioagents include certain fungi and insects from a weed's country of origin.

Mechanical: Techniques like mowing, tilling, hand-pulling, or burning can physically disrupt plant growth. Use caution with tilling, which can help spread some weeds.

Livestock Grazing: Grazing with sheep, goats, or cattle can be a practical form of control for non-poisonous weeds. Livestock and wildlife, however, can carry and spread weeds on their coats or in their feces. Avoid moving livestock from weedy areas to weed-free areas when weeds are producing viable seed.

Chemical Herbicide: Herbicides can be safe and effective when applied properly. Get advice from a specialist to make sure you aren't wasting money or endangering shrubs, trees, and native plants. Always follow the label.

If applying a chemical yourself, follow label instruction carefully. Keep chemicals away from water to safeguard humans and animals and prevent pollution of streams and groundwater. Properly dispose of leftover chemicals.

Identifying Weeds

There are many ways of identifying the weeds you may be encountering. The New Mexico State University has an excellent website at <http://weeds.nmsu.edu/> that will allow you to identify weeds, and may include fact sheets that will help you in making management decisions.

New Mexico Noxious Weed List

New Mexico's noxious weed list is classified into three divisions: Class A, Class B, and Class C weeds, all of which are non-native to New Mexico. Class A weeds are species that currently are not present in New Mexico or have limited distribution. Preventing new infestations of these species and eradicating existing infestations is the highest priority.

Class B weeds are species that are limited to portions of the state. In areas that are not infested, these species should be treated as Class A weeds. In areas with severe infestations, management plans should be designed to contain the infestation and stop any further spread.

Class C weeds are species that are wide-spread in the state. Management decisions for these species should be determined at the local level based on feasibility of control and level of infestation.

This list does not include every plant species with a potential to negatively impact the state's environment and economy. Vegetation managers are also encouraged to recognize plant species listed on the federal noxious weed list or other western states' noxious weed lists as potentially having negative impacts and to manage them accordingly.

Field Bindweed. Photo: J.S. Peterson @
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Musk Thistle. Illustration: USDA-NRCS
PLANTS Database/Britton, N.L., and A. Brown.
1913. Illustrated flora of the northern states
and Canada. Vol. 3: 554.



New Mexico Noxious Weed List

	Latin Name	Origin
<u>Class A</u>		
Alfombrilla	<i>Drymaria arenarioides</i>	Mexico
Black Henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Europe
Camelthorn	<i>Alhagi pseudalhagi</i>	Asia
Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Eurasia
Dalmatian Toadflax	<i>Linaria genisitifolia</i> ssp <i>dalmatica</i>	Europe
Difuse Knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Mediterranean
Dyer's Woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Europe
Eurasian Watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasia
Hoary Cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Europe
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	South Africa
Leafy Spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Eurasia
Onionweed	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Mediterranean
Perennial Pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	South Europe
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Europe
Purple Starthistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Europe
Scotch Thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Europe
Spotted Knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	Eurasia
Yellow Starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Europe
Yellow Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Eurasia
<u>Class B</u>		
African Rue	<i>Peganum harmala</i>	North Africa
Bull Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Eurasia
Halogeton	<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>	Asia
Malta Starthistle	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	Europe
Musk Thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	South Europe
Russian Knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Eurasia
Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i> L.	Europe
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Europe
<u>Class C</u>		
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> L.	Europe
Jointed Goatgrass	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	South Europe
Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> L.	Europe
Saltcedar	<i>Tamarix</i> sp.	Europe
Siberian Elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Europe

Cooperative Weed Management

There are several local, state, and Federal agencies that can assist private landowners such as yourself. Try contacting your local Soil and Water Conservation District or your local County Extension Agent. These entities have lots of available information that may help. The staff of these agencies will also know if there is a cooperative weed management in your county. For information about New Mexico's Soil and Water Conservation Districts you can log on to <http://www.nacdnet.org/resources/NM.htm>

Cooperative weed management areas pull together local land managers including private landowners to address noxious weed infestations. Private landowners play a key role in the success of a cooperative weed management area. Private landowners help find these noxious weed infestations and help in the treatment and control of these infestations.

Your local cooperative weed management area can help identify a plant that is infesting your property. They will be able to suggest different methods of treatment and control of an invasive and noxious weed. If an herbicide treatment is chosen, your local County Extension agent can make an appropriate recommendation and will have information on herbicide brush management treatments.

Landowners involved in a cooperative weed management area work together to treat and control noxious weed infestations. Cooperative weed management areas watch for new weed infestations. A cooperative weed management area provides information on the size of noxious weed infestations, methods of control, programs that can help private landowners control noxious weeds, restoration and rehabilitation techniques and much more.



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