

Colorado's Noxious Weeds A Growing Concern in Arrowhead

The 1996 amendment to the "Colorado Noxious Weed Act" states that it is the property owners responsibility to manage noxious weeds on their property. Anyone contemplating selling their property is expected to disclose the presence of noxious weeds on their property.

What are noxious weeds? Noxious Weeds are non-native plant species that have invaded the environment, and dominate and crowd out native species. They may be poisonous to livestock or wildlife, aggressively invade our native plant community, and carry detrimental insects, diseases, or parasites. Noxious weeds are aggressive, spread rapidly, resist control, and possess a unique ability to reproduce profusely. Noxious weeds deplete nitrogen in the soil, suffocate our native plants, rob native plants of water, deplete food for our wildlife, and change the entire ecosystem.

Noxious weeds identified in Arrowhead:

Canada Thistle - compact purple flowers, 1-5 ft. tall, stems branched at top, spiny leaves

Musk Thistle - large compact purple flowers, 2-6 ft. tall, solitary flower on stem, spiny leaves

Oxeye Daisy - white ray petals, yellow disk (center), wavy-edged leaves, 10-24" tall

Scentsless Chamomile Daisy - white ray petals, yellow center, fern-like leaves, 6-30" tall

Common Mullein - stalk of yellow flowers, soft fuzzy leaves, 2-5 ft. tall

Yellow Toadflax or "Butter & Eggs" - looks like small yellow snap dragons

Common Burdock - numerous purple/white bur-like flowers, bushy leafy plant, 2-6 ft. tall

Dame's Rocket - cluster of purple flowers with 4 petals, long leaves, 4 inches to 3 ft. tall

Spotted Knapweed - pinkish purple blooms similar to thistles, dark spots on bracts, 1-3 ft. tall

What each property owner can do to help:

Identify noxious weeds on your property. Contact Linda Dysart, 862-8287 if you need help.

Herbicides are the most effective way to control noxious weeds.

Noxious weeds cannot be managed, unless the head is picked and destroyed before it blooms.

Wind, water, horses, wildlife, vehicles, clothing, pets - all spread noxious weed seeds.

Re-vegetate disturbed soils with seeds purchased only from Gunnison County. Wildflower & grass seeds purchased from Walmart, Home Depot, etc. may not be from Colorado. Non-native grasses and wildflowers usually bloom only one season because our weather & altitude are not suitable for their growth.

Gunnison County sells *Milestone*, a very effective herbicide. Contact Beth Ozyp @ 642-4461 to purchase *Milestone* or native grass and wildflower seeds.

Dispose of noxious weed seed heads in double plastic bags and take them to the Montrose or Gunnison County Landfill. Flowers or seed heads can be burned in your fire pit with a very hot fire. Do not take them to the Stump Dump where they can spread.

**THANK YOU to all those who have mitigated their property, sprayed thistles,
and replaced their noxious weeds with native wildflowers!**