

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the Noxious Weed Board and what does it do?

The noxious weed board is a group of volunteer citizens of the county, who assist the County Weed Manager with reporting weed occurrences and developing a recommended integrative management plan for noxious weeds within the county. The board helps to review this plan at regular intervals, and may develop and adopt eradication or containment standards that are more stringent than state standards based on local noxious weed infestations.

## What is the noxious weed control program?

The county noxious weed control program focuses on prevention, education and technical assistance to the entire county in the control of noxious weeds. Early detection and landowner compliance greatly reduces costs associated with weed management, and elevates the efficacy of control in the county. Noxious weeds do not respect property boundaries, should your neighbor have them you will mostly likely deal with them as well.

Most noxious weeds grow rapidly March through October, and control is highly dependent on the growth stage of the weed. Each year the county surveys public lands within the county to evaluate the success of our work. We cannot get a complete picture of the severity of noxious weeds without citizens cooperating to report noxious weeds. We assist all landowners in the control of any noxious weed on their property. The use of herbicides is not a requirement, and the county weed department will work with each landowner to achieve eradication and/or control on a site by site basis.

## How is noxious weed control enforced?

In some cases the County Weed Manager may attempt to provide a courtesy call regarding a report or siting of weeds from a public place on your property. The Colorado Noxious Weed Act requires county weed programs to notify the county resident of a siting of noxious weeds on the property by certified mail. In this notification you will receive the name of the weed sited, a management objective, and a specified period in which the landowner is required to act upon the notice. Should the landowner not comply, the local governing body reserves the right to issue a warrant to enter the property and place a lien on the property for the cost of control.

## How is a plant designated as a noxious weed?

Noxious Weed - As written in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, a noxious weed “means an alien plant or parts of an alien plant that have been designated by rule as being noxious or has been declared a noxious weed by a local advisory board, and meets one or more of the following criteria: (1) Aggressively invades or is detrimental to economic crops or native plant communities; (2) Is poisonous to livestock; (3) Is a carrier of detrimental insects, diseases, or

parasites; (4) The direct or indirect effect of the presence of this plant is detrimental to the environmentally sound management of natural or agricultural ecosystems” (Colorado Noxious Weed Act, 35-5.5)

What are some of the costs associated with noxious weeds, and why should I be concerned?

“It is estimated that the associated costs of noxious weeds impacts the US economy by up to \$120 billion a year and that there are at least 100 million infested acres in North America.”  
Jefferson County Colorado

In addition to economic costs, noxious weeds have a detrimental effect on threatened and endangered species.

Link to an article by Ethan Proud

<http://www.pagosasun.com/extension-viewpoints-the-cost-of-noxious-weeds/>

Colorado State University

<https://planttalk.colostate.edu/topics/weeds-cultural-problems/2103-colorado-noxious-weeds/>

US Fish and Wildlife Service

<https://www.fws.gov/sagebrush/threats-to-wildlife/invasive-species/>

City of Portland

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/330681>