

Weed Identification and Control In Foxfield

This handout is designed to help you identify common weeds, both noxious and nuisance, found in Foxfield. A characteristic of all noxious weeds is their aggressive behavior. Typically, they steal precious moisture, nutrients, and sunlight from the surrounding plants. Noxious weeds also affect local wildlife, invade open space, can be poisonous to livestock and horses, irritating to human skin and dangerous for pets.

This single leafy spurge plant if left unattended will quickly overtake an entire field.



The first step in conquering these weeds is education. Take the time to familiarize yourself with these weeds. Walk your property and determine which species are on your site. This flyer has pictures of all noxious and nuisance weeds found in Foxfield.

Establish a control plan. The Department of Agriculture website describes in detail the different control methods that are effective for each weed. Keep a record of when these weeds first appear. Remember, it is imperative to treat the weeds before they go to seed. Be patient. Control of some weeds may take several years.

Talk to your neighbors. A combined effort is essential to controlling these weeds.

The four methods below should be used in combination to fight weeds.

Cultural - avoiding overgrazing, re-vegetating disturbed soils and maintaining the vigor of desirable grasses or other plants that compete with weeds. Use of weed free mulch and forage.

Biological - using livestock such as sheep and goats to graze on weeds, which reduces their vigor. It also may involve introducing a specific disease or insect to affect weeds. Biological control has proven to be effective to varying degrees on some weeds.

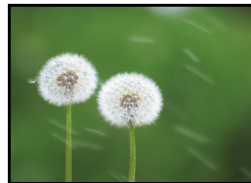
Mechanical-methods that physically disrupt plant growth such as mowing.



Chemical -use of herbicides.



Colorado's Pesticide Applicators' Act requires that anyone engaged in applying pesticides to control weeds must first obtain state certification as both a pesticide applicator and specialized certification as a weed spray applicator.



Remember, the easiest time to control noxious weeds is when only a few plants are present. Don't wait until the weeds have gone to seed. Just one plant, like this dandelion, can spread thousands of seeds to neighboring properties.