

Union County Noxious Weed List

Updated January 2017

State of Oregon Laws & Regulations on Noxious Weeds

Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 569 — Weed Control (excerpts)

569.180 Noxious weeds as public nuisance; policy. In recognition of the imminent and continuous threat to natural resources, watershed health, livestock, wildlife, land and agricultural products of this state, and in recognition of the widespread infestations and potential infestations of noxious weeds throughout this state, noxious weeds are declared to be a public nuisance and shall be detected, controlled and, where feasible, eradicated on all lands in this state. It is declared to be the policy of this state that priority shall be given first to the prevention of new infestations of noxious weeds and then to the control and, where feasible, eradication of noxious weeds in infested areas.

569.350 Necessity of eradication of weeds; cooperation in control and eradication. Noxious weeds have become so thoroughly established and are spreading so rapidly on state, county and federally owned lands, as well as on property in individual ownership and in transition to county ownership through tax delinquency, that they hereby are declared a menace to the public welfare. While it is recognized that complete eradication may not be practicable, it hereby is established that steps leading to eradication and control are necessary and that responsibility rests not only on the individual landowner and operator but also on the county, state and federal government, and that the county, state and federal government should cooperate with individual owners in the control and eradication of noxious weed pests. [Formerly 570.505]

569.355 State and counties to control noxious weeds. The state and the respective counties shall control any weeds designated as noxious by the state or the respective counties in any such county on land under their respective ownerships.

What is a noxious weed and where did it come from?

What is a noxious weed? A weed is designated noxious when it is considered by a governmental agency to be injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property (Oregon Administrative Law 603-052-1200). Most noxious weeds are non-native plants that are serious pests causing economic loss and harm the environment. Noxious weeds choke out crops, destroy range and pasture lands, clog waterways, affect human and animal health, and threaten native plant communities.

How did noxious weeds get here and where did they come from? Most of Oregon's least desirable weeds are of Mediterranean, European, and Asian origin. The introduction of non-native invasive plants has increased dramatically in the past decade because of the increased ease and speed of world travel and the expansion of global commerce. Local spread of noxious weeds can be natural by wind, water, and animals; but human activities such as, recreation, vehicle travel, and the movement of contaminated equipment, products, and livestock often greatly increase the distance and rate of dispersal.

Union County Noxious Weed List

Updated January 2017

Designation of Noxious Weeds in Union County

Noxious Weeds shall be designated Class “A”, Class “B”, Agricultural Class “B”, Watch List, or Residential Watch List.

Class “A” designated weed is a **priority noxious weed** designated by the Union County Commissioners as a **target weed species** on which the Weed Control District will comply with a state wide management plan and/or implement a county wide plan for intensive control and monitoring. An “A” rated weed may also be a weed of known economic importance which occurs in small enough infestations to make containment/eradication possible; or one that is not known to occur here, but its presence in neighboring counties make future occurrence here seem imminent.

*Recommended Action: Infestations are subject to **intensive control** when and where found. Education through a county website.*

Class “B” designated weed is a **weed of economic importance**, which is both locally abundant and abundant in neighboring counties.

*Recommended Action: **Moderate control** and/or **monitoring** at the county level. Education through a county website.*

Agricultural Class “B” designated weed is a **weed of economic importance within agricultural areas of the County**, which is both locally abundant and abundant in neighboring counties.

*Recommended Action: **Moderate control** and/or **monitoring** within agricultural areas. Provide assistance to agricultural producers in control when feasible.*

Watch List designated weeds are weeds that have been **known to occur** in Union County, but thought to be eradicated or have been reduced to small easily manageable population due to aggressive control or biological agents.

*Recommended Action: **Monitoring** at the county level and **education** through a county website.*

Residential Watch List designated weeds are **aggressive ornamental weeds** that have been identified in a residential setting, or are known noxious weeds that may be available through commercial horticulture sources.

*Recommended Action: **Monitoring** at the county level and **education** through a county website.*

Union County Noxious Weed List

Updated January 2017

CLASS "A" WEEDS

Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed-- <i>Cove area/High Valley/Medical Springs</i>
Anchusa officinalis	Common bugloss
Centaurea pratensis	Meadow knapweed (<i>outside the Cove area</i>)
Centaurea solstitialis	Yellow starthistle (outside the established containment areas, Little Creek to Rhinehart Lane and Union-Cove Hwy)
Chondrilla juncea L.	Rush skeletonweed
Cytisus scoparius	Scotch broom
Euphorbia esula	Leafy spurge (greater than 1 mile from the Grande Ronde River)
Hieracium spp.	Hawkweed complex
Hieracium piloselloides	King-devil hawkweed
Hieracium pratense	Meadow hawkweed
Hieracium pilosella	Mouse-ear hawkweed
Hieracium aurantiacum	Orange hawkweed
Hieracium floribundum	Yellow hawkweed
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress -- White top (within the Grande Ronde basin, develop containment areas)
Lepidium latifolium L.	Perennial pepperweed
Polygonum (Fallopia)	Knotweed complex (in or adjacent to waterways)
Polygonum sachalinense	Giant knotweed
Polygonum cuspidatum	Japanese knotweed
Polygonum polystachyum	Himalayan knotweed
Polygonum x bohemicum	Hybrid or bohemian knotweed
Senecio jacobaea	Tansy ragwort
Crupina vulgaris	Common crupina
Salvia aethiopsis	Mediterranean sage
Linaria vulgaris	Yellow Toadflax

Union County Noxious Weed List

Updated January 2017

Euphorbia myrsinites	Myrtle spurge (outside of residential areas)
Abutilon theophrasti Medic.	Velvet leaf
Hyoscyamus niger	Black henbane
Tanacetum vulgare L.	Common tansy

CLASS "B" WEEDS

Aegilops cylindrica	Jointed goatgrass
Centaurea stoebe	Spotted knapweed (Develop containment areas; too widespread for Class A)
Centaurea diffusa	Diffuse knapweed
Centaurea solstitialis	Yellow starthistle (Develop containment areas, Little Creek to Rhinehart Lane and Union-Cove Hwy)
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum L.	Oxeye Daisy
Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle
Daucus carota L.	Wild Carrot – Queen Anne’s Lace
Euphorbia esula	Leafy spurge (within 1 mile of Grande Ronde River)
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress -- Whitetop (within Powder River basin)
Linaria dalmatica	Dalmatian toadflax – <i>bio control in place</i>
Lythrum salicaria L.	Purple loosestrife – <i>bio control in place, no spread</i>
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle
Potentilla recta	Sulfur cinquefoil
Tribulus terrestris	Puncturevine— <i>roadside mainly recreation affect</i>
Cynoglossum officinale	Houndstongue

Union County Noxious Weed List

Updated January 2017

Rubus armeniacus (R. procerus, R. discolor)	Armenian (Himalayan) blackberry
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Flag Iris
Taeniatherum caput-medusae	Medusahead rye
Ventenata dubia	Ventena grass (North Africa grass, Wiregrass)
Tamarisk ramosissima	Saltcedar

AGRICULTURAL CLASS "B" WEEDS

Conyza canadensis	Horseweed – Mares tail
Galium aparine	Catchweed bedstraw
Kochia scoparia	Kochia
Agropyron repens	Quackgrass
Conium maculatum	Poison hemlock
Salsola tenuifolia	Russian thistle
Solanum dulcamara L.	Bittersweet nightshade
Agrostis stolonifera var. palustris	Creeping bentgrass (GMO-Roundup resistant)

AGRICULTURAL SEED CONTAMINATES -- WEEDS OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

Landowners within Union County are responsible for controlling weeds identified within the Oregon Seed Certification Handbook. This list is available online <http://www.oscs.orst.edu/> or via the "Field Crops" page at the Union County Agriculture Service Center web site <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/union/index.php> .

Focus Weeds For Grants and Coordinated Noxious Weed Management Plans

Centaurea solstitialis	Yellow starthistle
Centaurea stoebe	Spotted knapweed
Euphorbia esula	Leafy spurge
Lepidium draba	Hoary cress – White top

Union County Noxious Weed List

Updated January 2017

Hieracium pretense

Meadow hawkweed

Lepidium latifolium L.

Perennial pepperweed

Chondrilla juncea L.

Rush skeletonweed

Senecio jacobaea

Tansy ragwort

Union County Noxious Weed List

Updated January 2017

WATCH LIST WEEDS

Weeds that have been present at some time in the past but are now considered controlled or eradicated. There is not a recognized vector for reintroduction or an impending threat from neighboring counties

Abutilon theophrasti Medic.	Velvet leaf— <i>presumed to be eradicated after introduction from Pyles Canyon and Ladd Marsh train derailments.</i>
Carduus nutans	Musk thistle – <i>Bio control in place, very isolated populations</i>
Isatis tinctoria	Dyers woad-- <i>Thought to be eradicated. First identified in Pyles Canyon on Seven Diamond land and near the trailer at the mouth of Pyles Canyon.</i>
Solanum rostratum	Buffalo burr-- <i>thought to be eradicated at Pyles Canyon train derailment in 1980's. Known to occur in birdseed</i>
Berteroa incana	Hoary Alyssum – <i>known infestation in Wallowa County. Difficult to eradicate once established.</i>

RESIDENTIAL WATCH LIST WEEDS

Weeds identified in residential gardens in Union county, or known to be available as ornamentals. They are known to move offsite and may become a threat in other areas.

Cytisus scoparius	Scotch broom
Euphorbia myrsinites	Myrtle spurge
Hieracium Aurantiacum L.	Orange hawkweed (Oregon “A list” weed)
Isatis tinctoria	Dyers woad
Knotweed complex	Japanese knotweed
Saccarum revennae	Ravenna Grass

Union County Noxious Weed List

Updated January 2017

Information on Specific Weeds in Union County

Common bugloss: Listed in the vascular plants of Rebarrow Forest (EOU property contact Karen Antell). Known at the old Union sawmill, and a single plant at Arnie Grammon's old place off Bond Lane near Flying J Truckstop. Introduced in Wallowa County by a pioneer beekeeper since it blooms all summer. Herbal uses and probably ornamental at one time.

White top: Primary movement from contaminated hay coming into Union County. Found throughout the County, but primarily in small sites. Spreading into South County from serious infestations in Baker Co.

Meadow knapweed: A natural hybrid of brown and black knapweeds. It was planted fairly extensively in Western Oregon particularly in the Medford area as high protein forage for a while in the 1940's. Found in the Cove area among the home sites, along Mill Creek above town, and at the Union cemetery. A few sites have been located around hunting camps; likely being transported in by western Oregon hunters.

Russian knapweed: A creeping perennial. Seems to be slow spreading but difficult to kill and forms very dense stands. Most sites appear to be associated with contaminated hay. Durkee area had quite a bit that was most likely brought in with sheep. Many old hayfields in the West were infested from contaminated alfalfa seed. Known locations are at Medical Springs, a mile south of Cove along High Valley Road in a pasture, and Seven Diamond ranch in Pyles Canyon.

Rush skeletonweed: A creeping perennial, and very fast moving threat to all classes of land. Moving in from Umatilla County along the I-84 freeway, Linton Mountain road, and Tollgate Highway. Known sites in Union County are along I-84 in and around the Flying J exit, and on the I-84 right-of-way at the Hilgard exit and along the right-of-way to Five Points Creek.

Scotch broom: A fairly old site along the tracks below Palmer Junction. Many plants are around an old cabin on Steen Bowman Road, and a small lot on Forest Capital just off the 63 Road on the bench above Lookingglass Creek. There were several single plant sites removed over the years on both forests. Likely a combination of ornamental escapes (the old cabin is one), hunters, and possibly logging equipment.

Hawkweeds: All state "Class A" weeds, except Meadow Hawkweed now on the state "B" list. Invaders of mountain meadow type habitats, found in dense stands in meadow pastures on Bear Creek just outside of Wallowa, in the Leep country north of Enterprise, and the Cricket Flat area.

Meadow hawkweed: Found in Wallowa County and north Union County (Cricket Flat to Indian Creek), and in fall of 2006 a find on Mount Harris by a contractor working for Forest Capital.

Union County Noxious Weed List

Updated January 2017

Orange hawkweed: So far the only known in Eastern Oregon have come from a nursery in Bend. Potentially more aggressive than Meadow hawkweed. Lots of movement apparently with logging equipment, ATV's, and horses (packstock).

Perennial pepperweed: A creeping perennial and tough to kill. Heavy infestations in Malheur County, Harney County, Warner wetlands. New infestations mostly from contaminated hay. The dried seed heads have been used in dried flower arrangements. The seeds are very viable! Limited in Union County. Several small spots on Ladd Marsh and adjacent areas near Hot Lake. A small site just below the restaurant at North Powder (pasture). A couple small spots on Seven Diamond land in Pyles Canyon, and some along Government Gulch out of Telocaset. The Powder River in Baker County is infested for miles, so likely on the Union County side as well.

Knotweeds: Virtually all were originally ornamental. Most new infestations due to improper disposal of plant material (dumping along the river would be a killer) and high water events do move root fragments and stems that will sprout and form dense stands along waterways. Two known sites are causing severe problems in Wallowa County.

Tansy ragwort: Original introductions were largely by hunters (hay) from Western Oregon. Toxic to cattle and horses, this plant was responsible for the loss of \$5 million annually in Western Oregon prior to successful biological control. The potential loss in Eastern Oregon has been estimated to be \$13 million annually. The bio-control bugs don't survive here. There are three sites in Union County that have plants every year: Tamarack flat above Ladd Creek, Lookingglass Creek, and South Catherine. Usually six to ten other sites may have a few plants. There are hundreds of locations that have had plants in the past that are being checked annually.

Bittersweet nightshade: A trailing or climbing perennial with spreading stems up to 10 feet. A native of Europe, and widely distributed across North America. Typically found in moist areas and along waterways, and may form large colonies and thickets. All parts of the plant are toxic. Recently identified as a wintering host for the *potato psyllid* that carries the "Zebra Chip" fungus. This fungus was also found in Bittersweet Nightshade, and has the potential to cause serious economic damage to local potato crops.

Diffuse and Spotted Knapweed: Bio-control insects for Diffuse Knapweed are in place throughout Union County, and Oregon Dept. of Agriculture has been releasing the agents for Spotted Knapweed.