

Hands on Guide on how to control selected noxious weeds



Pulling together to restore our natural areas

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Weed Control is EASY

- **E**ducation
 - Know what weeds you want to control
 - Know what tools are available for control on a given site
 - Know what your goals are
 - What do you want in the place of the weeds?
- **A**ssess
 - Review the weed control plan and control measures and make changes
- **S**tabilization
 - Heal the system and protect it
 - Bring in native plants to help push out invasive weeds
- **Y**early
 - Do checkups at minimum yearly to remove new weeds
 - True control can take up to 10 years on a given site.

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Weed Control Basics

- Reduce spread of current infestations
- Prevent establishment of any new weeds
- Create a site specific plan
- There is **NO** one size fits all plan for weed control

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Before you get dirty

- Choose your location
- Get commitment from volunteers
- Contact local interested parties
- Create a site specific plan
 - Weed control is about healing the system
 - Map out the weed infestation(s)
 - Prioritize control locations
 - Determine best control option(s)
 - Create a revegetation plan
 - Create a monitoring & maintenance schedule

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Before you get dirty *Choose your location*

- Common Locations:
 - Parks
 - Schools
 - **Roadsides**
 - **Land trust properties**
- Contact appropriate staff to coordinate efforts
 - Staff may be able to provide equipment and disposal information
 - Staff may also have a management plan in place for you to work under



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Before you get dirty *Volunteers*

- Designate a volunteer leader
- Create a clear way to communicate with your volunteers
 - Make sure you have emails & phone numbers for volunteers
 - Make sure to have a file for emergency contacts



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Before you get dirty

Volunteers

- Determine who will provide equipment
 - If volunteers have equipment to share make sure to identify there equipment
- Post event information in a local paper no less than one week in advance of the event
 - It is suggested that the volunteer group choose an on going, day and time for meeting up
- Provide a sign in sheet for volunteers at the event

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Before you get dirty

Local Interested Parties

- Make sure to contact other organizations that are active in the weed pull location.
- If possible post some information at the weed pull location describing the work to be done and inviting visitors to participate.
- If appropriate: contact neighboring landowners to inform them of the weed pull.



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Before you get dirty

Create a site specific plan

- Contact the land owner/ manager to identify existing information
 - Ask if there are maps, photos and other historical information about the site.
 - Make sure to ask about any sensitive historical or ecological areas on site.
- Map weed infestations on the map
 - Weed locations do not need to be exact
 - Provide information about surrounding vegetation



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Before you get dirty

Create a Site Specific Plan

- Prioritize control locations
 - First priority should be weeds that are not wide spread
 - These plants have not taken hold yet and your group may be able to eradicate them.
 - Next focus on isolated outlying populations of a specific weed species
 - For larger populations work from the edges of the population towards the center.

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Before you get dirty

Determine best control option(s)

- Hand pulling
- Mowing
- Weed whacking
- Mulching/Smothering
- Digging
- Shading
- Using biological control agents
- Asking for assistance for an herbicide treatment



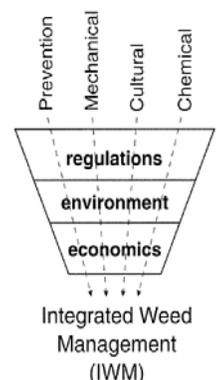
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Integrated Vegetation Management

- Prevention IS the BEST WEED CONTROL
- Stop infestations when there are only a few plants to control !!!

- Prevention
- Mechanical
- Cultural
- Chemical

- You must use them all together



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Choosing a Control Method

- Considerations:
 - Size of infestation or degree to which it has overtaken an area
 - If the infestation is threatening other plants
 - Location of infestation
 - What are the options for accessibility
 - Site proximity to other natural areas
 - Human and animal uses on site
 - Site terrain
 - Sloping, flat, shoreline, stream-side, other
 - Mobility of volunteer force

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Notes: How to guide

- Remove the invasive plants
 - Remove seed heads
 - Get to the Root(s) of the problem
- Dig, mow, & smother weeds
- Retain as many native plants as possible
- Plant in desirable vegetation to help out-compete the invasive weeds
- Monitor and Maintain the site
 - Remove any new weeds



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