

Control of Noxious Weeds in Forest Areas



Nina Eckberg, Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control

For existing weeds, such as Spotted knapweed, Canada thistle or hawkweed:

Mechanical control

- Mowing or cutting plants will still produce low-growing flowers, although seed production is reduced.
- Hand-pulling works best after a rain when removal of the taproot is easy.
- Mulching or shading-out weeds will reduce growth.

Cultural control

- Irrigation and fertilization (high nitrogen) discourages knapweed or hawkweed growth.
- Cultivation at regular intervals disrupts the plant's ability to keep healthy roots. However, cultivation can bring buried seed to the surface, causing germination.

Biological control

- Several insect control agents are present for knapweed in North Idaho: broad-nosed seed head weevil eats flower heads; the UV knapweed seed head fly and banded gall fly create galls on flower heads, preventing seed formation; the seed head moth larvae eat knapweed seeds; knapweed root weevil adults eat leaves and the larvae bore into roots.



Chemical control

- Chemical control of weeds in a forest setting is usually done with a product called Transline. The active ingredient in Transline is clopyralid, a chemical that mimics natural plant hormones. Transline is selective for broadleaf weeds and can be safely applied in a conifer forest.

Noxious Weed Control in a disturbed soil area



Before logging

- Survey the existing noxious weeds in the area. This will give you an idea of what is already there and you can expect these weeds to come back after the logging.
- Discuss with the contracted logging company the possibility of weed control AFTER the logging is finished. This may be written into a contract.

During logging

- Many weed seeds attach themselves to muddy equipment. Make sure equipment being used for the logging is cleaned before being brought into the logging site. Ask about mobile-cleaning stations for cleaning equipment that moves in and out of the area.

After logging

- The most common noxious weeds that occur after soils are disturbed are knapweed, hawkweed and Canada thistle. Other weeds that appear are mullein and bull thistle.
- Transportation corridors and landing areas need weed control after logging is finished.
- All of the listed weeds can be controlled with Transline. Average cost is \$300/gallon of product. When mixing, 10 ounces/acre is the control rate, so 1 gallon will cover ~ 13 acres. Contracted spraying labor varies by contractor.

-for more information about weeds and logging, go to:

<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/logging>

www.cnr.uidaho.edu/extforest

or call the Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control at 208/446-1290.

