

Weekly Ag Report
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April 20, 2016

Morning, this is your Weekly Ag Report. Do you know your noxious weeds in Lassen County? Do you know what makes a weed noxious? In general, weeds are just plants that you don't want to be growing where they are, whether it is a dandelion in your yard, or tall whitetop in your pasture.

However, noxious weeds actually have a legal designation. These are plants are legally required to be controlled by California State Law, or, in some cases, even Federal Law. The reason these species have a legal designation is because of the impact they can have on agriculture, the economy, and natural ecosystems function. These impacts range from yield reductions and reduced biodiversity to altered fire regimes.

Noxious weeds are divided up into lists of how important each one is to control.

- "A" list weeds are not yet established or of limited distributions in the state and are of utmost importance to control – eradication is the goal. The best time to control a weed is when patches are small before it spreads and goes to seed, which is why if you see an "A" list weed, you need to kill it! These species have often had dramatic impacts in other states, and we do not want them taking over up here in northeastern California.
- "B" list weeds are a little more widespread than "A" list species, however they are still important to control, to keep them from spreading.
- "C" list weeds are often widespread through the state, but still pose a threat to California, and should be controlled when resources allow.
- When "Q" is a designation of a plant species, the environmental and economic impact is unsure because of lack of information.

Most noxious weeds are designated by states individually. However, in a state as large and diverse as California, many of these species, even "C" list species have not spread to the far corners of the state. Yellow star thistle for example has a "C" list designation in California. However, it is of utmost importance to control in Lassen County, because its populations are still low compared to other areas. If it is not controlled, it has the potential to take over.

Some of the "A" list weeds you should be on the lookout for are Scotch thistle, musk thistle, spotted knapweed, rush skeleton weed, halogeton, hydrilla, and Dalmatian toadflax, just to name a few. Tall whitetop, barbed goat grass, Russian knapweed, hoary cress, Canada thistle, yellow nutsedge, dyers woad, and Mediterranean sage are all "B" list weeds. If you see any of these plants, don't let them go to seed. Seeds can last for years in the soil. Help stop the problem before it spreads! So keep your eyes out, and do the ecosystem, the economy, and your neighbor a favor by keeping these noxious plant populations to a minimum!

More information about noxious weeds can be found on the California Department of Food and Agriculture website, UC IPM, or CAL IPC. Until next time this was your Weekly Ag Report.