

Fall Weed Watch

We have had some great interest this summer in tackling our noxious weeds in Elk Springs. Thank you for your efforts! Your effort to deal with weeds is also greatly appreciated by your neighbors who will not have to deal with noxious seeds coming onto their land.

Fall is prime time for weeds to scatter their seeds for next spring. It is a great time to treat them and to make some observations and preparations for next year. Also, look for an updated Elk Springs Noxious Weeds webpage this fall. We will house these newsletters there and link to previous ones for your reference. Stay tuned!

What You Can Do Now?

- It CAN be a good time to spray, depending on the weed species and stage of growth. Good things to spray in fall include deep-rooted perennials like [Russian knapweed](#) and [Canada thistle](#) (after the first frost is ideal). We have lots of knapweed here in our neighborhood!

You can also spray rosettes of biennial weeds like [houndstongue](#), other thistles, etc. Garfield County is happy to consult on individual plants/properties on weed ID, management techniques and timing, etc. We recommend the [Pitkin County noxious weed ID directory](#) for identifying noxious weeds.

If you decide to spray, Garfield County will share costs. Call Matt Rothrock (970) 945-1377 x 4305 or Emily Schwaller with the Conservation District (970) 404-3450. Applications due Nov. 7

- Deadhead and bag weeds. Weeds will have likely scattered some of their seeds already, but you can reduce future seeds by getting rid of the source now. Hand-pulling is effective for small patches as soon as you spot them
- Remove and dispose of plants with seeds in landfill, not compost or yard waste
- Note the locations of weeds so when they emerge in the spring, you can be proactive about removing them before they get big, flower, and seed. This is key with thistles.
- [Cheatgrass](#), which is of concern because it dries out early and can fuel fires, comes up very early and is easily tackled by hand pulling. If you see fall cheatgrass coming up now (yes, it is coming up again), pull it now and dispose of the plants.

Preparing for next year

This fall it is a great time to seed native grasses to outcompete weeds. We recommend [Western Native Seed's](#) pinyon-juniper grasses and wildflower mixes. Our neighboring Rivendell Distribution makes custom mixes for Elk Springs. Seeds should be sown in November and left to overwinter.

- Elk Springs Noxious Weed Working Group

