Montana Noxious Weed Education

Welcome to the Montana Noxious Weed Education Project!

This educational project has many components, including posters, weed species identification cards, lesson plans, illustrations, resource documents, and information about where you can find more curriculum ideas, lesson plans and various other technical materials.

This project was made possible by a grant received from the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund. Additional project funds and materials were a collaborative effort put forth by the following agencies and funding partners of the Montana Noxious Weed Education Campaign: Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana Department of Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USDA Forest Service Region 1, Montana/Dakotas Bureau of Land Management, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana Department of Transportation, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Montana State University and the Montana Weed Control Association. Other agencies whose help was certainly appreciated include Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, and Montana Farm Bureau Federation.

Many exceptional photographs of the state listed noxious weeds are included throughout the curriculum. "Thank you" to the many photographers who donated these great photos, these photos not only enhance the project, but provide students with incredible visual representations of the weed species to aid in their learning experience and enhance their visual learning capabilities.

A special "Thank You" to the people who provided technical edits for the weed species identification cards: Jane Mangold, Montana State University; Tonda Moon, Montana Department of Agriculture; and Jim Jacobs, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Additional educational curriculum and resources:

kNOweeds
Missoula County Weed District, *www.missoulaeduplace.org/ weed-curriculum.html*
Contact: Missoula County Weed District (406) 258-1685

Alien Invasion: Plants on the Move
Oregon Bureau of Land Management, *http://weedinvasion.org/*
Contact: Oregon Natural Resources Education Program (800) 554-6987

Invader Rangers
Invasive Species Council of British Columbia, *www.bcinvasives.ca/kids/ activities-index*
Contact: Invasive Species Council of British Columbia (888) 933-3722

Priority Categorization of MT's State Listed 32 Noxious Weed Spp.

Noxious weeds currently infest about 7.6 million acres of Montana (Montana Weed Management Plan, 2008). Thirty-two non-native plant species have found their way onto Montana's noxious weed list. The noxious weed list ranks weed species in an alphanumeric priority listing from Priority 1A to Priority 3.

For further technical information on each of the state listed noxious weeds please visit:
www.msuextension.org/store/

Yellow starthistle photo courtesy of Gerald D. Carr; University of Oregon

Priority 1A species are not currently in Montana, but if found, management requires eradication, education, prevention, and continued monitoring. Yellow starthistle is the only species listed in this category.

Priority 1B species have limited populations within the state. Management includes eradication or containment and education to prevent the spread of these species.

Priority 2A species are common in isolated areas of Montana. Management includes eradication or containment in areas where the population is less abundant. Management is prioritized by local weed districts.

Priority 2B species are weeds that are widespread in many counties. Management includes eradication or containment where populations are less abundant. Control of these species is prioritized by local weed districts.

Priority 3 regulated species are not actually state listed noxious weed species, and control is not mandated as it is with other priority levels. Plant species listed as Priority 3 species may not be intentionally spread or sold other than as an accidental contaminant in agricultural products. To minimize the spread of these regulated plants, the state recommends research and education to raise awareness about the potential negative effects that these species could have if allowed to establish and spread.