

Weed Act 2010---The First Year

In June of 2010, the Provincial Government introduced a new Weed Act which was to guide us to control emerging and existing serious weeds problems. Sadly, there was not a great deal of promotion by the Province regarding the serious new weed species that they had identified, so it was left on the weed inspectors' shoulders to help raise awareness about these emerging problems. While we did our best to get the word out, ratepayers of our municipality and neighboring ones were surprised by the alien invasive species which were put on the new list. The need to control these species which up until May of 2010 were considered harmless or even valuable in some cases caused surprise, and even anger in a few cases, but for the most part these threats to our livelihood and environment were addressed.

For those of you who dealt with your newly named noxious and even prohibited noxious weeds, we thank you. Your grandchildren also will thank you for your efforts in keeping our environment clean, natural, pristine, and free of alien invasive species. Just think that if something similar to this would have been done 400 years ago, dandelion, Canada thistle and other alien invasive species would be non-existent in North America today. For those who did not control those species, keep in mind that there might have been a little leeway in 2010, but in 2011, the full effect of the Act will be taken into consideration. The Act allows for serious penalties for not controlling alien invasive species, up to and including large fines and losing control of your land for the period of time it takes to control serious weed issues. So, rather than risking these penalties, it would be a good idea to take steps to control and get rid of any of the weeds on the noxious and prohibited noxious list, and eliminate any prohibited noxious alien invasive species that might be on your land.

The complete listing of prohibited noxious and noxious plants is listed below. Those with one star (*) are known to be found in the County, and those with two stars (**) are commonly found. One additional species, absinth wormwood, is not yet locally named as noxious, but has been treated as such for the purposes of our weed inspection. Special efforts will be taken in the future to assist producers to control absinth.

Again the County is very grateful for those ratepayers and neighbors who control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. We are always available to identify and recommend control measures for these alien invasive species. Detailed information, pictures and control measures are available upon request.

Prohibited noxious weeds:

- Autumn olive
- **Himalayan balsam
- Common barberry
- Red bartsia
- Common buckthorn
- Sulphur cinquefoil
- Common crupina
- Dyer's woad
- Eurasian water milfoil
- Flowering rush
- Garlic mustard
- Jointed goatgrass
- *Meadow hawkweed
- Mouse-ear hawkweed
- Orange hawkweed
- Hoary alyssum
- Giant hogweed
- Pale yellow iris
- Bighead knapweed
- Black knapweed
- Brown knapweed
- Diffuse knapweed.
- Hybrid knapweed
- Meadow knapweed
- Russian knapweed
- Spotted knapweed
- Squarrose knapweed
- Tyrol knapweed
- Giant knotweed
- Hybrid Japanese knotweed
- Japanese knotweed
- Purple loosestrife
- Medusahead
- Yellow nutsedge
- Puncturevine
- Tansy ragwort
- Saltcedar.
- Saltlover.
- Common St John's-wort
- Yellow starthistle
- Chinese yellow tamarisk
- Smallflower tamarisk
- Marsh thistle
- Nodding thistle
- Plumeless thistle,

Noxious weeds

- **Common baby's-breath.
- **Creeping bellflower
- Field bindweed
- Blueweed
- Downy brome
- Great burdock
- Lesser burdock
- **Wooly burdock
- Tall buttercup
- **Scentless chamomile
- *Yellow clematis
- **White cockle
- **Oxeye daisy
- *Dame's rocket
- Black henbane
- Globe-podded hoary cress
- Heart-podded hoary cress
- Lens-podded hoary cress
- Hound's-tongue.
- *Common mullein
- Broad-leaved pepper-grass
- *Field scabious
- **Perennial sow thistle
- **Leafy spurge
- **Common tansy.
- **Canada thistle
- *Dalmation toadflax
- **Yellow toadflax.

Again, the County is very grateful for those ratepayers and neighbors who control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. As you can see, we have very few prohibited noxious weeds here in the County, and even fewer that are common. If you have any of these plants on your property, or even any dead remainders of plants of this species, it is recommended that they are bagged and sent to a landfill, making sure the operator is aware of what is in the bags so that they are burned or deeply buried. Even at this time of year, if you have evidence (pictures or preserved plant samples) of prohibited or noxious weeds that were found in the County, please bring them to our attention for our control. We are always available to identify and recommend future control measures for these alien invasive species when the next growing season arrives. Detailed information, pictures and control measures are available upon request.



Field scabious, Photo Source "Garden Plants by Post":



Dame's rocket: Source Bird x Bird 2008/9 Avian data



Red Bartsia: Photo source wildliferanger.com