

Weed Control is a Full Time Job in Blaine County!

The Situation

Weeds are a serious problem in Blaine County. Many areas of the county are infested with noxious weeds, especially knapweed. Control depends on the landowner being able to recognize the weeds and then initiate control. Control methods don't always involve herbicide sprays, but include cultural methods such as mechanical control and control by competition. Even biological methods will aid in weed control.

Our Response

To assist the residents of Blaine County with their weed control problems, the University of Idaho Extension staff provides weed identification and control recommendations. Help is also available through the county weed control department.

During the months of May through August, an Idaho master gardener is available to identify weeds and discuss control every Monday afternoon. This plant clinic is located in the Extension Office in Hailey.

Other programs in Blaine County focus on awareness. Advertisements are placed in local newspapers to show residents what noxious weeds look like and to describe specific control methods. At least one other program is held yearly to heighten awareness about noxious weeds and to educate residents about weed control.

Achievements

In 1999 about one fourth of the questions answered by Master Gardeners dealt with weeds. In addition numerous phone calls to the Extension Office requested help with weed identification and control.

In spring and summer of 1999, advertisements in local newspapers reaching about 3000 residents alerted citizens about the control of Canada thistle, puncture vine, Scotch thistle, Dalmatian toadflax and knapweed. Accompanying pictures helped landowners identify these weeds.

During 1999 a "Weed Out" was held, co-sponsored by the Environmental Resource Center and the Wood River Land Trust. Fifteen people attended a brief seminar on noxious weeds and their control at a riverside site infested with knapweed. The group then dug weeds for an hour with the person digging the most weeds recognized. All participants received donated door prizes and refreshments were eaten. A reporter from the local newspaper attended (and dug weeds) and later published an article on the event that helped to promote noxious weed awareness.

The Future

Educational efforts in Blaine County will continue to help residents identify and control weeds.

For More Information

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