

Knapweed invasive weeds in Madras, Oregon

Knapweed is on the City of Madras noxious weed list and also listed in the Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Policy and Classification System.

You don't have to look far to find knapweed in Madras, you can see it on almost every block; it is on corners, in driveways, and along yards. The City of Madras is asking all of our citizens to take some time and inspect your yard and property.

Why Should I Care?

Knapweeds can impair wildlife habitat, decrease plant diversity, and increase soil erosion. They also can cause crop losses and reduce forage, decrease the appeal of recreational lands, and pose wildlife hazards. Diffuse knapweed has spines that can damage the mouths and digestive tracts of livestock, significantly reducing forage opportunities.

Knapweeds are a serious problem not only in the City of Madras and to local farmers, but also all of Oregon; because they vigorously invade disturbed or degraded sites and form dense populations that exclude native and desirable plant communities.

What are they?

Knapweeds are bushy with mostly erect stiff branches (see figures below). Plants range from 1 to 4 feet tall; flowers can be white, pink, lavender, or purple. Leaves are up to 6 inches long at the base and get smaller toward the top of the plant.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Management Options

Herbicides readily control diffuse and spotted knapweeds, but they will reinvade the site without follow-up cultural control. Russian knapweed, with its very deep taproot, is more difficult to control. In general, management that combines cultural, mechanical, biological, and chemical treatments is the most effective. Whatever control is selected the key is long-term, continuous effort.

Chemical Control

The following information about herbicides is only a brief summary. Read and follow the herbicide labels carefully. Contact your local herbicide companies for suggested product and application.

Here are some suggested herbicides that are affective on knapweed:

2,4-D, Dicamba; Clopyralid + 2,4-D; Glyphosate, 2,4-D and aminopyralid + triclopyr

Any herbicide treatment program should rotate among chemicals to prevent developing herbicide-resistant strains of the weed. Please remember when using herbicides the label is the law.

Mechanical control

Hand-pulling small infestations of diffuse knapweed—removing the entire plant—has been effective but must be repeated two to four times a year for several years. Spotted knapweed reproduces vegetatively from short lateral roots, so pulling is less effective. Pulled plants must be properly disposed of to prevent spread. Mowing is effective in the bud to early flowering stage, but mowing mature plants will disperse seeds. Also, rosettes are generally too low to be cut successfully.

If you find knapweed please dispose of it properly. *City Ordinance No. 875 Section 6(4)(e) of the City of Madras Nuisance Ordinance No. 875. Jefferson County has established the Noxious Weeds List to be injurious to public health, crops, livestock, land, or other property and therefore is a violation of Section 9 of the City of Madras Nuisance Ordinance No. 875.*

The City of Madras will enforce the above stated ordinance if noxious weeds are not taken care of in a timely manner. The City is working diligently to eradicate any and all noxious weeds in the City; but we can't accomplish this without the help of our citizens.