

Noxious Weed Management Plan for Pine View Estates

By Alice Jolene Owens

The definition of a "noxious weed" would be as follows: A weed that is considered to be harmful or destructive to living things or, to be more exact, would be an invasive species of a plant which is determined to be harmful to agriculture crops, ecosystems, humans or livestock.

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act was passed in 1996 to help control noxious weeds in the state of Colorado. A noxious weed can be poisonous to livestock, can be a carrier of insects, diseases or parasites and can invade crops or native plants. Because noxious weeds can be harmful to people, wildlife, livestock and the environment; it is essential that a plan to control noxious weeds be put in place.

Listed below are ways that can be used to control noxious weeds:

1. Grazing management by controlling the overgrazing of pasture land. Re-vegetate or re-seed whenever needed, fertilize and irrigate.
2. Organisms such as insects, diseases and grazing of animals can be used to control noxious weeds.

Also discuss methods for noxious weed management during construction activities such as managing topsoil stockpiles and minimizing land disturbance. What you have seems to be more geared toward noxious weed management on an existing ag/grazing site where no construction is proposed.

3. Weeds can be mowed, pulled by hand, tilled with a rototiller, or can clip off the seedheads of the plant.
4. Clean mowing equipment, clothing and shoes when moving from a noxious weed infested area to a weed free area. Use certified weed free seed and livestock feed to help prevent noxious weeds from getting a start.
5. Chemicals such as "Milestone" can be used on noxious weeds. Another chemical that can be used is "Roundup," but be aware that it can kill other things around the area. Caution should be used when using chemical for control of noxious weeds.

A good source for more information on noxious weed control would be the following:

El Paso County Community Service Department

Environmental Division

3255 Akers Dr.

Colorado Springs, Co. 80922-1503

719-520-7839 or 719-520-7846

www.elpasococom

