

Weed Versus Noxious Weed



What is a weed?

A weed is simply a plant that's growing where we don't want it. It might be a plant that's native to Idaho or one that was brought here on purpose or came here by accident. But there's a definition for what we consider a weed in Idaho. [The Idaho Strategic Plan for Managing Noxious and Invasive Weeds](#) defines a weed as a plant that (1) interferes with beneficial uses of land or water, (2) displaces native or desirable plants, or (3) affects human and/or animal health.

What is a noxious weed?

There is a certain classification of weeds that are of greatest concern. These are the non-native plants that are so invasive that, if left unchecked, can damage Idaho's crop and pasture lands, rangelands, wildlife habitat, and recreation areas. A plant is designated *noxious* in Idaho when it is injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property.

Idaho law requires landowners to combat noxious weeds because of the harm they cause and the high cost of fighting them once established. Prevention, early detection, rapid response and eradication are the most effective and least costly strategies against invasive species. So, let's combat new invasions before they expand beyond feasible control. The best way to do that is by pulling together!

