



Living in Adams County



Wildflower? Or Weed?

What are all those pretty flowers blooming on your property?

Well, they could be some of Adams County's beneficial native plants. Or they could be harmful invaders that you will want to control or eradicate. But how can you tell the difference?

Your first stop should be Adams County Weed Control, located at 101 Boise Cascade Avenue, next to the recycling building in Council. There you can meet County Weed Superintendent Dave Herold and his staff who will be happy to give you a booklet of pictures and descriptions of Idaho's noxious weeds.

Visit the County's [Weed Control web page](#) or the [Idaho Invasive Species](#) website to learn more about how to identify troublesome plants and different ways to control them.

Why should you care about noxious weeds? Much more than a nuisance, invasive species can crowd out desirable plants, reduce forage for livestock, choke our waterways, and even lead to local extinction of native species.



Yellow Starthistle in Goodrich, southern Adams County.
Photo Courtesy of Lonnie Huter, Bureau of Land Management

Invasive species can reduce property values, spoil our recreation areas, diminish the productivity of cropland, degrade wildlife habitat, and contribute to the frequency and spread of wildfires.

Because noxious weeds can have such a negative and costly impact, Idaho requires landowners to control noxious weeds on their property. State statute spells out landowner responsibility in [Title 22, Chapter 24](#). Of the 67 species of weeds on the Idaho Control List, 26 species are present in Adams County. We have work to do.

Adams County Weed Control and the Adams Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) board work with landowners and land managers to identify and treat weeds. These local experts will help you identify plants on your property and figure out the best method to attack your invaders while protecting desirable plants. They can advise you on the optimum time to spray your weeds and which herbicide, biocontrol or mechanical method to use, as different weed species require different tactics.

The Weed Department has equipment to lend to help you spray your weeds, including backpack sprayers, spray tanks to mount on your ATV, plus a 110-gallon skid tank with boom nozzles and a spray gun if you need to treat large areas.

Ignoring the problem won't make it go away. If you fail to control the weeds on your property, the County may have to step in. Idaho's Noxious Weed Law allows counties to spray weeds on private property at the landowner's expense.

Weeds are everyone's problem. We have to pull together to battle these invaders. Weed seeds are spread by people, pets, vehicles, livestock, wildlife, wind and water. A handful of people can't control the problem. But people joining hands can be effective. Contact the Weed Department to learn how to get started: 208-253-4669.