

WEED NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST 2012

WEED BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION:

360-379-5610 EXT 205

edixon@co.jefferson.wa.us

<http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/WeedBoard>

WEED BOARD MEETING

The next Weed Board Meeting will be held on August 16th, from 5 to 7 pm, at the WSU office in Port Hadlock. All Weed Board Meetings are open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend. For an Agenda, and Minutes of the last meeting, please contact the Weed Board. We need a **new Board Member**, to represent District 3 (Marrowstone Island, West Valley and Beaver Valley). If you are interested and are actively involved in farming (a requirement) please come to the meeting or contact the Weed Board.

TANSY RAGWORT is now in full bloom on nearly every roadside in the county—see last month's Newsletter for a full description of tansy ragwort. Each plant is capable of producing 15,000 seeds, some of which lie dormant in the soil for up to 15 years. Therefore it is extremely worthwhile to pull plants **BEFORE** they make seed, as you are walking the roads or hiking the trails. One thing to remember though, is to carefully clip off and bag the flower heads, because if left on the ground they will make viable seed. Be a Weed Buster—pull a plant each day!!!



Because absolutely no one expressed an interest in the Weed Buster class mentioned in the July newsletter, it was not held. However, a Weed Workshop will be offered towards the end of August, with focus on weed control, including safe, efficient use of herbicides. Details will be sent out to the ListServe.

SPURGE LAUREL AT FORT TOWNSEND

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, **spurge laurel** (*Daphne laureola*) is becoming more prevalent in our county. A particularly bad infestation occurs at Fort Worden, and a spurge laurel digging day will be held there on **August 30th**. Please call or email the Weed Board for more information.



Spurge laurel can threaten certain native forest ecosystems. It is toxic to humans, cats and dogs, and handling the plant can cause contact dermatitis, so people pulling or digging it should wear protective clothing and gloves.

Spurge laurel is a Class B Noxious Weed. Control is not required in Jefferson County, but is encouraged.

WEED OF THE MONTH—AUGUST

ORANGE AND YELLOW HAWKWEEDS (*Hieracium aurantiacum* and *Hieracium caespitosum*)

- Hawkweeds grow from a few inches to two feet in height
- The hairy stems are usually leafless.
- The lance-shaped leaves that grow at the base of the plant are hairy.
- The flower heads are clustered at the top of the stems.
- The flowers are similar to dandelion flowers, but smaller—about an inch in diameter.
- The entire plant contains a milky juice.



Look-a-likes:

There are a great many native and non-native plants that could be mistaken for yellow hawkweed (too numerous to mention), but the only plant resembling orange hawkweed is *Agoseris aurantiaca*, a native which is usually found at high elevations.

Distribution:

Both orange and yellow hawkweeds grow in a small number of sites in Jefferson County, mostly on roadsides such as Oak Bay Road, Highway 101 and 104.



Ecology:

They are both perennials that can reproduce by seeds, stolons (creeping stems that can form roots and produce new plants) or rhizomes (underground stems). Most hawkweed infestations begin by seed, but once plants are established they spread by stolons or rhizomes, and can produce dense patches.



Hawkweed stolons

Why Be Concerned?

- Hawkweeds are unpalatable to livestock and aggressively crowd out desirable forage species.
- They can spread and overtake other small ornamental plants.

Control:

- **Mowing** is **not** an effective long term control method because the leaves are too low-lying to be cut by the mower. Mowing can however reduce or prevent seed production by removing flower heads.
- Remove seedlings when young because they can usually be pulled easily and they have not had an opportunity to reproduce. Digging out the rosettes will remove small infestations. Care must be taken to dig out all of the root system, since even a small piece may develop into a new plant.
- If flowering plants are pulled or dug, it is essential to clip, bag and dispose of flower heads. If they are left lying on the ground they will produce viable seed.
- Consult the Noxious Weed Control Board for chemical recommendations.

**Both orange and hawkweed are Class B weeds.
Control is required in Jefferson County.**