

impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

UI Extension teaches landowners new skills to manage noxious weeds

AT A GLANCE

Noxious weeds cost Idaho citizens millions of dollars to manage each year. Landowners can play an important role in weed management but need specialized knowledge and skills.

The Situation

Noxious weeds cost Idaho citizens, landowners and government entities millions of dollars to manage each year. Noxious weeds are invasive plants designated by the State of Idaho as being hazardous to public health, the environment or the economy. Idaho has 71 noxious weeds. Noxious weeds degrade land and water quality, reduce profitability, affect recreational opportunities and increase fire hazards. Public and private land is negatively impacted by noxious weeds. Landowners can have a significant impact managing these pests, yet many lack the knowledge and skills necessary to identify and manage Idaho's legally designated noxious weeds. Idaho's rapidly growing population of small acreage landowners need to learn about Idaho's noxious weeds and weed laws to be responsible, effective land managers. Because of this need, there is a significant opportunity to provide Extension driven educational, results-based programming about invasive weed management to Idaho homeowners, landowners and land managers.

Our Response

We assembled a team of UI Extension educators and specialists to develop and conduct a survey regarding Idaho state noxious weed management needs and



Available for viewing on UI-Extension YouTube Channel.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yflzo20ZoSg>

programming. We surveyed weed control professionals in local, state and federal positions throughout the state. Our main objective was to determine their views about what tools are most necessary for small acreage landowners to achieve successful noxious weed management plans. Through their professional input, we designed a program targeting weed control knowledge gaps and skill building for landowners. Information regarding Idaho noxious weed law, weed identification, weed control strategies, pesticide safety, sprayer calibration and weed control resources was provided in an online program that reached 63 participants.

Presentations were recorded, edited and posted to UI Extension's YouTube channel. Participant feedback was solicited directly after the event to determine

knowledge gained. Feedback was also obtained six months later to assess the extent of knowledge and skill implementation gained and used on the ground.

Program Outcomes

Forty-one percent of participants completed post-program evaluations. Of those respondents, 96% felt they had gained greater understanding of Idaho Noxious Weed Law, felt more confident identifying noxious weeds, had a greater understanding of weed control resources, and were better prepared to work with their county weed control superintendents to manage their land. Eighty-eight percent indicated they were ready to create personalized weed management plans using integrated pest management principles taught during our program. Eighty-four percent responded they could read and understand pesticide labels better than before our program and 77% felt they could calibrate and safely use a handheld weed sprayer.

Twelve percent of attendees responded to our six-month post program survey. Of those, 75% attended the live online program and 25% watched the video recording on YouTube. All respondents had identified noxious weeds, used additional weed management resources, considered Idaho Noxious Weed Law when making management decisions, and implemented an integrated weed management plan as a result of participating in our program. Sixty-two percent had calibrated a sprayer to conduct correct herbicide applications. Sixty-two percent had interacted with their county weed control superintendent or local cooperative weed management area board to learn more knowledge and skills about managing noxious weeds.

Learning & Action Outcomes	
96%	Gained knowledge about Idaho's Noxious Weeds Law
88%	Ready to create personalized integrated weed management plans after attending
62%	Successfully calibrated spray equipment as result of program
62%	Interacted with county weed superintendent or local cooperative weed management board after attending

The Future

We plan to create a document to supplement the video course that county UI Extension educators and weed superintendents can use for future programs to educate our growing rural, small acreage landowner population. The document along with the video series will become a curriculum we can use throughout Idaho. We will include a short assessment along with the document to measure our impact of the curriculum and to identify any changes or additions needed to the curriculum.

[Noxious Weed Control for Rural Landowners videos](#)

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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