

The weather has warmed and the moisture and sunshine are contributing to active plant growth, especially for noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are a problem because they have no native competition, natural predators, or diseases. These plants quickly establish themselves in disturbed areas. Noxious weeds degrade visual quality, soils and wildlife habitat (primarily by killing and replacing native vegetation). Landscapes severely altered by noxious weeds can also lend to altered fire behavior, especially increased rate of fire spread.

The weeds of special concern to us are spotted knapweed and dalmatian toadflax. Spotted knapweed grow to approximately 30" tall and it sports a purple flower that looks like a miniature carnation. It spreads primarily by seed.

Dalmatian toadflax grows to about 24" tall and has a structure and flower that looks like a yellow snapdragon. It spreads aggressively by roots and seed.

I've noticed growing populations of both species especially along Tall Pine Ave. and Pine Vista Ave. The problems seem to be worse as you get closer to Knott Road. I'm sure there are concerns on many properties, throughout the subdivision, that are not visible from the road.

Of special concern for the future are the areas disturbed by the installation of the Avion 24" water supply line. The equipment worked through severely infested areas adjacent to Knott/Woodside Road and carried with it weed seeds during the construction through Woodside Ranch. Vigilance will be required to see how bad the problem will be.

If you have questions as to whether you have a noxious weed problem, consult the Woodside Ranch Website (native landscape section) or the County noxious weed site. Feel free to contact me if you have questions with identification of plants or control strategies.

Finally; Hats off to one of our fabulous neighbors who contracted with a native plant restoration firm to reseed her recently excavated septic drainfield. The area had potential to harbor a ton of weeds almost a half acre in size. The effort will restore native grasses dominated by Idaho Fescue.

Support Your Local Plants.....Your Idaho Fescue and Ponderosa Pine will treat you right!