

Weed workshops help landowners

AT A GLANCE

Rural land stewardship includes controlling weeds. Landowners need information on identifying weeds and how to manage them.

The Situation

One of the most time consuming and continual chores for any rural landowner is controlling weeds on their property. Weeds reduce the forage quality of pasture and rangelands, invade forests and displace native plants and trees, and occur around homesteads, in gardens, and other areas where they can create a nuisance and displace desired vegetation and wildlife.

Landowners need information on ways to combat weeds, including encouraging desirable plants that can out compete weeds, managing soil disturbance and applying herbicides. The number of different herbicides and their restrictions for different plants and sites can be confusing, and many landowners are unable to identify weeds, so they don't know what the appropriate control methods are for their situation.

Our Response

While weed workshops have always been a part of Extension programming, we have recently increased the number of weed, and weed-related, workshops offered. During the last four years (since December 2015) we have offered eleven weeds, or weeds related, workshops in order to assist landowners with managing weeds on their property.



Flowers from a few common weeds.

Workshops focused exclusively on weeds have included:

- Common Broadleaf Weeds of the Clearwater Valley and How to Control Them (offered once a year for three years; Tim Prather, UI Extension, presenter)
- After the Fire: Ventenata Control Field Tour (Tim Prather, UI Extension, presenter)
- How to Control Ventenata and Other Annual Grasses (Tim Prather, UI Extension, presenter)
- Weed Identification Field Tour (Richard Old, XID Services, presenter).

Additional workshops that have weeds as a major focus include:

- Dry-land Pasture Management and Rehabilitation (various presenters)
- Current Topics of Farm and Forest Health (offered every year; various presenters).

Program Outcomes

Three hundred and forty-one people have attended the eleven programs representing over 100,000 acres of land. Of the six workshops exclusively focused on weeds, attendees reported an average 65 percent increase in knowledge, with 92 percent reporting that they would implement the knowledge gained.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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