

Noxious Weed Committee Plan

--Caz & Paul Eldridge, Maria Smith, Betty Smith and Linda Frederick

In the fall of 2004, the Noxious Weed Committee met in 2004 to discuss methods and plan recommendations for handling noxious weeds in Tres Valles West. Linda shared brochures and pamphlets she had gathered, as well as pictures from plant identification books. Jim Connelly, the CSU county extension agent met with Linda after the meeting to find the biggest weed sites. They spotted Leafy Spurge (near the dumpster and east of entrance) and Thistle (Canadian and Musk) in and around Tres Valles West roadways. Both are spread by wild animals, birds and cattle. Both are non-native and extremely invasive in this ecosystem. They take more than their share of water – which impacts and kills native plants. We want to discourage and eliminate the noxious weeds while preserving and nurturing the grasses and plants native to the area. We'll try the following methods and evaluate their effectiveness.

Leafy Spurge -

Linda purchased backpack sprayer and pesticide recommended by Connelly for the Leafy Spurge. Connelly demonstrated the proper technique to her and she'll help people use it properly. Applications should be done on a non-windy(!) day in the fall and again in the spring. Connelly emphasized the importance of handling this very toxic pesticide carefully.

The committee recommended looking into hiring a small herd of goats to eat the spurge. Linda found a contact in 4-H who is thinking about it.

Thistle –

Hugh Smith has taken on all thistle that grows on the side of our roads. He has been spraying them with products recommended by True Value folks. Hopefully this will work. Mowing repeatedly is another option – but it's hard to mow the gravel!