Frequently Asked Questions

- **Question: Is there a law in Montana that requires landowners to control the noxious weeds on their property?**
  Answer:

  Yes. You may access the Montana statute at: http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/mca/7/22/7-22-2116.htm

- **Question: I thought the Lewis & Clark County Weed District took care of all the weeds in the County?**
  Answer:

  The Lewis & Clark County Weed District sprays county roadsides and State right-of-ways in Lewis & Clark County. It is the responsibility of the landowner to control the weeds on their property.

- **Question: Who takes care of the noxious weeds on private roads?**
  Answer:

  The landowner(s) or homeowner's association is responsible for controlling the weeds in these areas.

- **Question: I want to spray. What herbicide should I use?**
  Answer:

  Herbicides are species and location specific. Some will damage trees, native species and have restrictions for use around water and certain soil types. Select broadleaf herbicides are recommended for non-native broadleaf invaders. You may contact our office or your local ranch supply store for recommendations. It's important to always READ THE LABEL before applying any herbicides. THE LABEL IS THE LAW.

- **Question: Can I use Roundup?**
  Answer:

  Round-Up is a non-select broadleaf herbicide and will kill grasses and other desirable competitive vegetation. Roundup is recommended for gardens or along driveways for total vegetation control. Reseeding any bare areas to promote competition is recommended.

- **Question: What do I use to kill Cheat Grass?**
  Answer:

  Plateau provides control of Cheat Grass and its selective activity allows for many desirable native grasses and forbs to re-establish after treatment. Late summer or fall applications, pre-emergent to germination is recommended. Check with your local ranch supply store for other herbicide recommendations.

- **Question: My neighbor cuts but won't spray his Spotted Knapweed. Is he/she in compliance?**
  Answer:

  Yes. The Lewis & Clark County Weed District can't force landowners to use herbicide. The concern with cutting Spotted Knapweed is that it adapts to the cutting and will flower at ground level. When this happens the landowner is no longer in compliance and must use other control methods, at least around the perimeter, to prevent spread to neighboring properties.

- **Question: I sprayed and it didn't work. Why?**
  Answer:

  There are a number of reasons. It's possible the timing of the application was poor. Late May to early June is a good rule of thumb for most broadleaf weeds. Weather must be warm and dry. Mixture rate may not have been correct or equipment wasn't properly calibrated.

- **Question: Do I have to spray every year?**
  Answer:

  No, but a single application isn't sufficient for long term control. Depending on the severity of the infestation and type of weed, we recommend spraying for at least 2 to 3 consecutive years. After 3 years you should see a noticeable difference and native species will re-establish. Re-seeding bare areas will accelerate the process. Annual inspections and spot treatments should be conducted as many noxious weeds seeds remain viable in the ground for 10-15 years.

- **Question: I called your office about the certified notice I received regarding the noxious weeds on my property. I just received another one. Why?**
  Answer:

  One of two reasons. Either we haven't received the Volunteer Compliance Proposal Form that was enclosed with the letter, or the second notice went out before a completed plan arrived at our office.

- **Question: Why do I need to complete or submit a Volunteer Compliance Proposal Form with your department?**
  Answer:

  It's requested by law. **MCA Section 7-22-2116: It is unlawful to permit noxious weeds to propagate or go to seed on the person's land, except that any person who adheres to the noxious weed management program of the person's weed district or who has entered into and is in compliance with a noxious weed management agreement is considered in compliance with this section.**