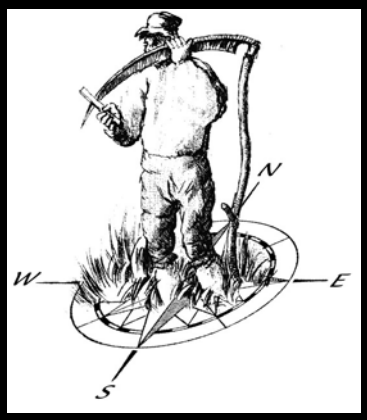

The Weed Roundup

Newsletter of the North Fork Weed Cooperative

Fall 2009 Vol 10, No. 2

Notice!!

The NFWC has a new address and telephone number—P.O. Box 176, Livermore, CO 80536; 970-218-6369. Due to the closure of The Nature Conservancy satellite office in Livermore we no longer have a shared office there. We are currently renting a small space for the equipment and library. See next page for what is available and how you may arrange to borrow it. Business operations are being handled through the Council members. To contact NFWC call the above number or go to our website northforkweedcoop.org

A Great Big Thank You!
To Heather Knight and The Nature Conservancy

Heather Knight was instrumental in organizing the community meetings, which led to the formation of the NFWC. She was the force behind the MOU that created the NFWC and provided funding that laid a firm foundation for the early years of the NFWC. The Nature Conservancy has provided an office and financial support and encouragement for these past ten years. Heather served on the committee that formed the Council, served on the Council, helped formulated the mission and the Constitution and By-Laws, and was a leader in obtaining non-profit status, which was awarded to the NFWC in June 2003. Thank you Heather and The Nature Conservancy of Colorado!

NFWC Council Members:

Cliff Hoelscher-Private Landowner, President
Tim D'Amato-Larimer County, Vice President
Kim Obele,-USFS, Treasurer
Arlene Yusnukis-private landowner, Secretary
Phil Westra-Private Landowner
Justin Foster-CDOW
Gary Packard-Phantom Canyon Landowners Assoc.

We encourage your participation in the NFWC. The Council meets the second Wednesday of the month. To participate in any of the NFWC activities or committees or for information call 970-218-6369 or go to www.northforkweedcoop.org

Coop Resources for Loan
A reminder to all of our members

The NFWC has available the following equipment and resources for loan to its members: 2 gas powered weed eaters, 2 3-gallon backpack sprayers, 8 Garmin GPS units and a library of over 14 reference books. We can also arrange for the use of a portable electric fence. To borrow these resources, call the NFWC at 970-218-6369.

You're Invited!

Colorado State University Weed Science Plot Tour
Thursday, September 24, 2009

A tour of CSU weed management and restoration field plots is planned in conjunction with the Colorado Weed Network and Larimer County Weed District. Please RSVP to Tim D'Amato 970-498-5769, or tdamato@larimer.org for a head count for lunch and refreshments. Transportation will not be provided and the itinerary will require a lot of driving, so attendees should try to arrange car-pooling prior to the time of the tour. Agenda:

8:00 - Native grass re-vegetation and Russian knapweed control
Commerce City Open Space near DIA – west side of Tower Road, just north of USAirport Parking.

10:30 – Dalmatian toadflax and cheatgrass control plots, native forb herbicide tolerance study
Rabbit Mountain Open Space in Boulder County – north of Hwy 66, 2 miles east of Lyons

12:30 – lunch provided at CSU Agriculture Research, Development and Education Center
4616 NE Frontage Rd, Ft. Collins – I-25 to Mountain Vista exit (3 miles north of Ft. Collins), frontage road 3 miles north to ARDEC

1:30 – tour of nearby CSU field plots investigating noxious weed management, native grass tolerance, and new herbicide technology.

3:30 – end of tour

NFWC Demonstration Projects

The goal of the demonstration projects is to exemplify and test different methods of management on weed species in the community.

Current Demonstration Projects:

- **Livermore Fire stations #1 & 2—restoration.**
- **Rabbit Creek—stream bank restoration.**
- **Roberts Ranch—Dalmatian toadflax/Grazing Project**.
- **Phantom Canyon Preserve and TJMac Cheat Grass Plots**.
- **Andrews Park—Leafy Spurge**
- **Antelope Canyon—Spring Development**
- **The Abbey of St. Walburga—noxious weed management**

If any landowners or managers in the watershed would like to partner with NFWC in an integrated weed management project please contact us at 970-218-6369.

Note: Planning is underway for a new demonstration project, which will focus on leafy spurge. More details will be available later this fall on our website or at the annual meeting in February of 2010.

Insect Bio-control for Dalmatian Toadflax Management

The Larimer County Small Grants Program approved funding for Colorado State University to conduct an insect bio-control project on the Abbey of St. Walburga property. The insect, *Mecinus janthinus*, is a stem-boring weevil that feeds exclusively on Dalmatian toadflax and can potentially reduce toadflax density to a tolerable level and reduce or eliminate spread of the invasive weed species.

Dr. Andrew Norton, insect bio-control specialist from CSU, released 2,000 of the insects on various sites infested with Dalmatian toadflax on the Abbey property in May of 2009. Dr. Norton and his graduate students will monitor the spread and impact of the weevils over the next couple years. Hopefully the bio-control project will show success and become an effective weed management tool in Northern Larimer County

Noxious Weed Management

By Tim D'Amato

Don't give up on weed control for the season, perennial weeds and cheatgrass can be effectively controlled in the fall. While biennial weed species such as musk thistle, houndstongue, common mullein, diffuse & spotted knapweed are best managed in the spring or early summer prior to seed production, fall is a great time to get after Canada thistle, leafy spurge, Dalmatian toadflax, Russian knapweed and cheatgrass with an herbicide application. Perennial weeds can be controlled spring, summer or fall with an herbicide application, but late summer or early fall is an opportune time to attain control. Perennial species transport carbohydrates from above-ground plant tissue to storage in extensive underground root systems prior to winter dormancy. Application of an herbicide during this translocation process places the herbicide deeper within the root system, allowing for more effective control. Don't wait too long, as autumn weather advances above-ground plant tissue will die back following a hard frost of 25 degrees Fahrenheit or colder. At this point it is no longer worthwhile to apply an herbicide.

Cheatgrass (downy brome, Japanese brome) is a troublesome species prevalent in the Rocky Mountain west from montane elevations to the prairie. Cheatgrass follows a winter annual life cycle, meaning the plants germinate in August or September following late summer rains then over-winter as short flattened clumps, green up early in the spring and set seed in May or June. By July the prickly seed heads become a nuisance to hikers, pets and livestock. The dry grass is also a fine fuel and a frequent cause of wildfires. The best time to control cheatgrass with an herbicide is at the early emergence stage, soon after the initial flush in August or September. Glyphosate (Roundup and others) can selectively control cheatgrass mid-winter when applied at low rates that don't injure desirable perennial grasses that are dormant but will control cheatgrass. Recommended products for controlling specific species are listed below. Be sure to read the product label. For best results always use the recommended surfactant

Canada Thistle	**Dalmatian toadflax**	**Leafy Spurge**
Milestone	Telar	Tordon
Transline	Tordon	Plateau
Redeem		Paramount
Curtail		
Tordon		

Russian knapweed	**Cheat grass**
Milestone	Plateau
Transline	Matrix
Redeem	Roundup (applied at low rate,
Curtail	mid-winter when native
Tordon	grasses are dormant)
Plateau	
Telar	

Notes:

Milestone is most effective on the listed perennial weeds when applied at 7 oz product/acre

Tordon is a restricted use product requiring the purchaser and user to be certified as an applicator with Colorado Department of Agriculture

Plateau can be injurious to cool season grasses when applied at the recommended rate for leafy spurge of 12 .oz product/acre rate, spot-spray for minimum injury

Plateau effectively controls cheatgrass when applied at 4-6 oz product/acre with no cool season grass injury at this rate

Paramount should be applied at 16 oz product/acre for most effective leafy spurge control

Paramount is not labeled for Range & Pasture meaning no livestock grazing for 12 months after application

Roundup applications for cheatgrass control should be applied January - March at a 16– 24 oz product/acre rate.

Wacky Weeders

The 2009 Wacky Weeder event was held on August 13, 2009. The focus was again on Dowdy Lake. The Wacky Weeders were able to identify and de-flower patches of yellow toadflax that will be sprayed later by a USFS crew. They also eliminated a lot of common mullein and bagged seed heads from houndstongue and musk thistle. After the morning's work a picnic lunch was enjoyed by all.

Website: In addition to being president of the Coop, Cliff Hoelscher, is also the webmaster for our website: www.northforkweedcoop.org. Suggestions can be sent to him at choelscher@fcgov.com.

Membership forms are available on our website
Please join the NFWC!

North Fork Weed Cooperative
P.O. Box 176
Livermore, Colorado 80536

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula)

Leafy spurge, as well as other noxious weeds, has been very visible this summer. The great moisture that we have received has helped the weeds grow well and profusely. Fortunately that same moisture helped our native grasses and other plants to thrive also.

In the North Fork watershed, leafy spurge is one of the most difficult noxious weeds to control. It has an extensive underground root mass that is capable of living for several years without above ground foliage. Ongoing herbicide research is producing some promising results. A product that is very effective is currently in field trials and may be available for general use as early as next year. We will have more information in our late fall flyer or at the annual meeting in early 2010.

For information call 970-218-6369 or visit the website northforkweedcoop.org

Larimer County Weed List

Bull thistle (Cirsium vulgare)
Canada Thistle (Cirsium arvense)
Common teasel (Dipsacus fullonum)
Dalmatian toadflax (Linaria dalmatica)
Diffuse knapweed (Centaurea diffusa)
Houndstongue (Cynoglossum officinale)
Leafy Spurge (Euphorbia esula)
Musk Thistle (Carduus nutans)
Russian knapweed (Acroptilon repens)
Scotch Thistle Onopordum acanthium)
Spotted knapweed (Centaurea maculosa)
Tamarisk or Saltcedar (Tamarix ramosissima)
Yellow toadflax (Linaria vugaris)