

October 9, 2015

Contact Alison Halpern, Executive Secretary, at ahalpern@agr.wa.gov or 360-902-2053 for more information or photos of proposed noxious weeds.

For immediate release

State Noxious Weed Control Board sets public hearing to consider changes to the 2016 noxious weed list

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCBC) will hold a public hearing on Nov. 3 in Wenatchee to take comments on proposed rule-making changes to the 2016 state noxious weed list.

When: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3

Where: The Confluence Technology Center, 285 Technology Center Way, Wenatchee, WA 98801.

How to comment:

- Mail written testimony to: WSNWCBC; P.O. Box 42560; Olympia, WA 98504-2560.
- Send comments by email to noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov.
- Attend the public hearing to provide written or verbal testimony in person.

Written testimony should be submitted by 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2, 2015 or brought to the public hearing on November 3. At the hearing, verbal testimony will be limited to three minutes per person, with additional opportunities to speak if time allows.

At this same location, the WSNWCBC will vote on the proposed rule changes during its regular board meeting, Wednesday, November 4. This meeting begins at 9 a.m. and is also open to the public.

There are three proposed Class C additions to the 2016 state noxious weed list. The WSNWCBC does not require control of Class C weeds, but this listing raises awareness about these invasive species and how to control them. County noxious weed control boards have the option of requiring control of Class C weeds where they are a local concern.

- English hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is a long-lived small tree that has been used in landscaping because of its white, showy flowers, bright red fruit, and sharp spines that made it useful as a hedgerow. It has been escaping cultivation in western Washington, most particularly on San Juan Island, where it is encroaching on agricultural land and in natural areas. It is also capable of hybridizing with the native western hawthorn. Adding this species as a noxious weed would not prohibit its transport or sale in the state of Washington.
- Ventenata (*Ventenata dubia*) is a weedy, nonnative, invasive, annual grass that has rapidly expanded in perennial grass systems and in disturbed areas and managed areas in the past two decades throughout the Pacific Northwest. In Washington, it is most prevalent in the

southeastern region. It is a particular problem in pasture, CRP, and hay production systems, where it can significantly reduce hay yields.

- Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) is another weedy, nonnative, winter annual grass with long awns that can be somewhat spreading and twisting, and are covered in small barbs. The unpalatable grass invades many ecosystems, including grasslands and sagebrush steppe, where it significantly reduces native plants and valuable forage.

Additionally, the WSNWCB will consider:

- Removing lepyrodiclis (*Lepyroclis holosteoides*) from the noxious weed list. Originally added in 1988, this weedy species does not appear to pose the same threat to grain and pea fields as it once did.
- Undesignating the Class B noxious weed common bugloss in a portion of the Entiat River Valley in Chelan County
- Changing the scientific name of spikeweed from *Hemizonia pungens*, to *Centromadia pungens*

Please contact Executive Secretary Alison Halpern for more information about the listing proposals and how to testify at the hearing at ahalpern@agr.wa.gov or at 360-902-2053.