

Communities in Bloom

Weed Control Act of Saskatchewan 2014

There are three schedules in our Weed Control Act in Saskatchewan which is designed to control weeds that are identified as problems.

The first schedule is **PROHIBITED** weeds. There are 27 weeds listed here. These weeds need to be eradicated because of their highly competitive nature. They pose a problem to our environment and ecosystems as they spread rapidly and are difficult to control. You may be familiar with Toad Flax on this list. It is like a miniature yellow snap dragon, but once established is a major problem due to its deep roots. Leafy Spurge is listed here, too. This list contains the bad boy weeds

The second schedule lists 37 **NOXIOUS** weeds. They may be non-native and their impact is on agricultural and horticultural crops, natural habitat or ecosystems, humans and livestock. They have aggressive growth, multiply quickly without controls and display adverse effects through contact or ingestion. Due to their rapid growth, they impact wildlife by replacing vegetation that is utilized for food and shelter. These weeds readily compete for water, sunlight and nutrients normally available to native plants. Two plants on this list were noted by CIB judges in local flower gardens. Common Tansy has numerous yellow button-like flower heads and leaves that have a strong odor. It reproduces with many seeds and creeping roots so can be hard to control. It is somewhat poisonous to livestock. Purple Loosestrife was also noted. This perennial plant is very attractive with its spikes of pinkish purple and horticultural uses have facilitated its growth. It is a major concern as it produces many seeds (3 million per plant) so spreads rapidly replacing all native vegetation, especially in wetlands, along canals and rivers where it can interfere with the water flow. You may be familiar with Baby's Breathe, which has been banned from the Horticultural Show and Scentless Camomile, both noxious weeds.

The third schedule of 7 plants is termed **NUISANCE** weeds. These weeds are most common and widespread in our province, can cause economic loss, but are so biologically suited to their environment that they are not likely to be successfully eradicated. Dandelions, Quack grass and Russian thistle are listed as nuisance weeds. It is, however, wise to continue your efforts to control them.

Contact: www.publication.gov.sk.ca for a free download of the Weed Control Act for Saskatchewan.