

What are the responsibilities of the Weed Department?

The main responsibilities of the Weed Department are to:

- ◆ Manage noxious weeds on County properties
- ◆ Assist county residents in managing noxious weeds by providing information, material, and technical assistance
- ◆ Work with other Agencies on cooperative projects
- ◆ Take complaints and enforcement and compliance of the noxious weed law

Why doesn't the County spray for weeds on the roads in my subdivision?

The road system in Montana can be divided into four main categories:

- 1) Federal roads (such as the I-90 Interstate)
- 2) State roads (such as Highway 191)
- 3) County roads (such as Thorpe Road or Cottonwood Road)
- 4) Public roads

The Weed Department manages the County road system for noxious weeds.

Road systems within subdivisions are deeded for public use but are not officially designated County roads. The Weed Department does not control noxious weeds along the road systems of subdivisions. The management of noxious weeds along the road systems of subdivisions is either the responsibility of the subdivision's Home Owners Association (HOA) or, if the HOA is not active, the responsibility of the landowner adjacent to the road.

My neighbors will not control the noxious weeds on their property. What can I do?

According to state law it is unlawful to allow noxious weeds to propagate or go to seed on your property.

Talk to your neighbor and see if you can resolve the situation informally. Most people are unaware of noxious weeds and do not realize how big a problem they are.

If you live in a subdivision and have an active home owners association, that is the first place to start. Newer subdivisions are required to have noxious weed control as part of the covenants.

If the above does not resolve the issue, you can request a complaint form from the Weed Department office. The Weed Department has to follow the state noxious weed law. This process can take as long as 50-70 days depending on the cooperation received.