

# Fighting landscape weeds mean chemical warfare

Keeping the home landscape weed free is a tiresome but essential task for the homeowner who wants to maintain that well-manicured look around lawns, flower beds and shrubs.

The easiest way to control weeds is to remove them by hand or with a hoe or rake. However, where weeds are widespread and well-established, some chemical weed control may be needed.

"Chemical weed control is easier if you identify the weeds before starting the control program," says Ray McNeilan, Oregon State University Extension home gardening agent.

Some weeds that can cause problems in the home landscape are field bindweed (morning glory), Canada thistle, poison oak and wild blackberries.

Repeated treatments with

glyphosate, 2,4-D amine or dicamba (Banvel) work best for control of field bindweed. Many desirable plants are susceptible to these herbicides, so be careful when applying, McNeilan says. Do not apply dicamba where the roots of desirable plants may be growing.

Canada thistle also can be controlled with glyphosate, 2,4-D amine or

dicamba. Painting or daubing the leaves of weeds with the herbicide is effective for treatment in areas where spraying is not possible or practical.

Control of poison oak is best accomplished by using glyphosate. Repeated treatments may be required for complete eradication. Apply the herbicide when poison oak is

fully leaved out. Glyphosate also is recommended for control of wild blackberries. Repeated treatments may be necessary.

Of course there are many more weed-controlling compounds on the market than those listed here. Many

types of herbicides are available at garden stores. The labels on the various products should list the types of weeds the product may be used on. McNeilan stresses that careful adherence to the label instructions for use of herbicides must be followed for effective weed control.

## Western peach borers need quick treatment

If plants could talk, the appearance of western peach tree borers in the neighborhood would have peach and plum trees yelling for help.

Homeowners with flowering plum trees or fruiting plum, peach or prune trees should be on the lookout for peach tree borers. They commonly are called peach and prune root borers, said Ray McNeilan, Oregon State University Extension home gardening agent.

In the adult stage, the borer is a steel blue moth (the female has an orange stripe around the abdomen) that lays eggs on or near the tree trunk. Once hatched, the larvae then bore into the trunk, crown and roots of the tree, leaving sawdust and amber to reddish gummy secretions by the entry holes.

"Borers seldom attack a tree higher than 12 inches on the trunk above ground level and they may attack tree roots up to three inches below the soil line," McNeilan said.

Once they are under the bark, the borers can girdle the tree and kill it. The borer can be particularly damaging to new plantings and young trees.

Control of the peach and prune root borer is best accomplished from mid-July to early August. Sprays containing lindane or thiodan should be drenched on the lower limbs and trunk and allowed to puddle up on the ground at the base of the tree.

Allow one to two pints per tree. Neither insecticide should be used within 21 days of harvest. Applications two weeks apart are necessary and timing is important. Once the larvae have bored into the tree, they are protected from the drench.

Gardeners who object to using chemical preventatives can uncover the trunk to get at the burrows. Then poke a flexible wire in the hole to puncture the cream-colored larvae.

"It can be a tedious process, but should be effective," McNeilan said.

## Feds review county flood plan maps

Federal Emergency Management Agency officials will participate in a hearing concerning flood plain maps and designations in Clackamas County.

The meeting is set for 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the Department of Transportation and Development office, 902 Abernethy Road, Oregon City, in conference room A.

The federal officials will review the most recent flood plain maps and flood insurance program for all of unincorporated Clackamas County.

"Since zoning ordinances put restrictions on development within flood plains, accurate maps are essential to both the property owners and the county," said Gary Naylor, county planner. "The Aug. 21 review is an opportunity to nail down precise lot-by-lot locations."

The study includes flood plain maps showing areas that would be inundated by a 100-year flood, flood elevation profiles and flood insurance rate maps for the use of financial institutions and insurance agents in determining who must purchase flood insurance and the cost of the insurance.

"People with hard engineering data about flood plain locations can insure that the FEMA maps are accurate," he said. "People who own or live on property along streams can learn about insurance."

## Class of 1981 sets five-year reunion

The Sandy Union High School class of 1981 will hold its five-year reunion at noon on Saturday, Aug. 23 in Meinig Park.

For more information, call Wanda Boswell Witt, 668-8504, or June Huber, 668-4347, evenings.

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