

Invasive weed of the week

By Jeffrey Pettingill

The enemy

Spotted knapweed (Centaurea stoebe (maculosa)).

The strategy

This biennial and mostly perennial aster is native to Europe. It tends to grow to a height of 3 feet and has a single tap root that can go as deep as 18 inches. This plant has a pink flower (seldom with white) with brown bracts (spots) on the flower head. The plant has heavily lobed leaves and can produce over 25,000 seeds per plant. It is found from Sumpter to Halfway and a few well-traveled places such as McCall, Idaho.

Attack

This is probably the most widely distributed weed in North America. Due to its ability to be spread by the wind it can quickly establish itself in dry and moist areas. The plant releases a chemical which prevents other plants from growing near it (allelopathic) and the seed can remain viable for up to 8 years. The plant is rarely fed on by livestock and will replace the grasses and forbs in pasture and range situations.

The defense

This plant is not difficult to control, it just grows fast and everywhere, thus people have a tendency to give up on it. Mechanical control is very effective and is why we do not see it in cultivated crops (except hay). Numerous insects have been released to control the flowers as well as the root growth of the plant. Sheep and goats can be made to eat the invader. Herbicides such as Grazon, Milestone, Open-Sight, and Curtail offer great control in the spring, at bud stage, or even up to very late fall. 2,4-D and Banvel have



Spotted knapweed. The biennial plant is a prolific seed producer.

been used with unsatisfactory results. Multi-year programs including replanting of desirable species is a must to control this plant. Many species of knapweed exist so make sure you know your pests prior to controlling them. Call your county weed supervisor for positive identification and recommendations.

Series Continues

Jeffrey Pettingill, weed control supervisor for Baker County, will be writing an occasional article about a common noxious weed in the area. Pettingill encourages people to call him if they have weed questions or see a species they're not familiar with. His office number is 541-523-0618 and his cell is 541-519-0204.

YMCA offers events for kids

By Sam Anthony
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With Little League baseball and softball and many other sports being cancelled, and schools closed for the spring term, kids have been left without access to the normal activities and social interactions during the pandemic.

The Baker County YMCA is trying to address the situation.

“Recognizing the shortage of healthy and engaging activities for youth

during the COVID-19 emergency, the Baker County YMCA is working to fill that gap while continuing to provide safe environments and conditions,” the YMCA said in a press release.

The YMCA is offering a volleyball camp for kids ages 8 to 11 the week of July 20-24, a basketball camp in August, and fitness classes for ages 10 and up (yoga, tai chi, Zumba and cycling).

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New At The Baker County Library

Patrons can reserve materials in advance online or by calling 541-523-6419. Drive-in hours at 2400 Resort St. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

FICTION

- “Cajun Justice,” James Patterson
- “A Walk Along the Beach,” Debbie Macomber
- “The Only Good Indians,” Stephen Graham Jones
- “Forest of Souls,” Lori M. Lee
- “Careful What You Wish For,” Hallie Ephron

NONFICTION

- “Black Lives, Native Lands, White Worlds,” Jared Hardesty
- “Arguing With Socialists,” Glenn Beck
- “The Room Where It Happened,” John Bolton
- “Influenza,” Jeremy Brown
- “American Uprising,” Daniel Rasmussen

DVDS

- “Emma” (Comedy)
- “Garth Brooks: The Road I’m On” (Documentary)
- “The Invisible Man” (Sci-Fi)
- “Onward” (Family)
- “The Way Back” (Drama)

DELAY

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Johnson, 32, died at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center where she had been taken by her boyfriend, Brandon Ray Davis, 33, of Baker City, in the early morning hours of July 5. Davis was driving the vehicle from which Johnson fell, Baxter said. Last week the district attorney said he would ask a grand jury to decide whether charges should be brought against Davis or whether Johnson’s death was “a sad accident.”
On Friday Baxter said he would prefer to wait until more complete information is available before proceeding.
The case might be ready for further review by next week, he said.

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