

Weed Tour focuses on knapweed strategies



Jim VanWinkle, Morrow County Weed Supervisor (in striped shirt), shows weed tour members the effects of Tordon on knapweed on Don Bennett ranch south of Heppner.

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Jim Swanson, Monica Swanson, Ron Palmateer, Nancy Brownfield, and Cathy McCabe

Knapweed, one of the worst weeds in Morrow County, was the main attraction at the recent county weed tour.

The tour, sponsored by the Morrow County Weed District showed how Diffuse and Russian Knapweed has invaded thousands of acres of rangeland in south Morrow County.

Test plots showed how effective the chemicals Weedmaster, Banvel and Tordon are in controlling the weed. All three were more effective when sprayed early in the rosette stage of the plant.

Jim VanWinkle, Morrow County weed supervisor, said the knapweed control program may take two to three years of treating and that can get expensive.

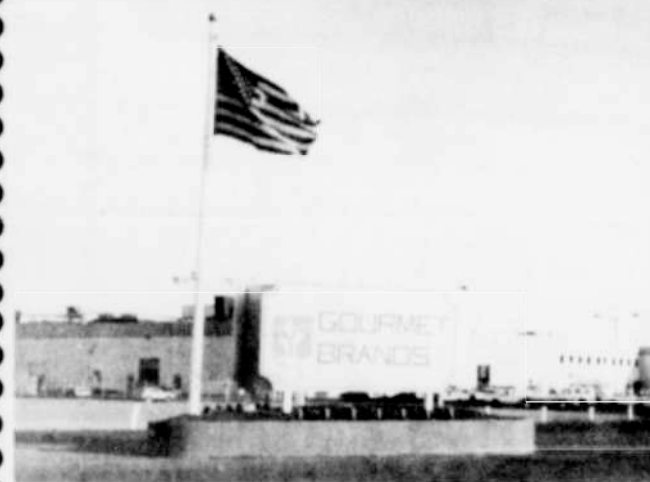
An overnight success story was witnessed at the Don Bennett ranch just south of Heppner. A hillside was literally devoured by knapweed in four years. Last spring Tordon 22 K was sprayed and today there's hardly a weed anywhere on the hillside.

A problem in controlling the weed is trying to gain support from

neighbors in establishing an eradication program.

Cheat grass test plots in dryland wheat and irrigated fields were also viewed. The chemicals Atrazine and Tycor were applied to control wheatgrass and broadleaves. Both chemicals proved to have good control.

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