



# BONNER COUNTY NOXIOUS WEEDS

1500 Hwy 2, Suite 101 • Sandpoint, ID 83864 • Phone: (208) 255-5681 ext.6  
<https://www.bonnercountyyid.gov/noxious-weeds>

## Weed of the Month

By Chase Youngdahl, *Bonner County Weeds Manager*

When spring arrives for real is anyone's best guess, but it's certainly close enough to start thinking about it, and planning for weed control activities. To assist with the cost of herbicides for controlling state listed noxious weeds, we offer the Neighborhood Cooperative Cost Share program. If your property is becoming overwhelmed with noxious weeds, but you pucker at the cost of quality herbicides, this program provides incentive to get the job done by reimbursing the herbicide expenses. Perhaps you're downwind of a neighbor with an infestation of windborne spreading species, such as Canada Thistle or Hawkweeds—consider approaching that neighbor about signing onto the program with you. If you can get at least one other neighbor onboard, you've got a neighborhood cooperative. The sign-up packet is available on our website, and we can mail you a hard copy upon request. Some restrictions apply, contact your friendly county weeds manager for details. :-)

As winter slinks away, the first weeds you'll start to see sneaking through the early spring thatch are winter annuals. A common broadleaf winter annual in our area is **Field Pennycress (*Thlapsi arvense*)**. This is a nuisance invader from Europe and has become widespread in most parts of North America. It's in the mustard family, which is a big family, so there are a few look-a-likes. Some of the look-a-likes are a much bigger problem, such as Whitetop and Perennial Pepperweed, both state listed noxious weeds with a limited presence in northern Idaho. Field Pennycress has lobed, alternating leaves with toothed margins that come off of ribbed stems and gives way to small white flower clusters—much like Whitetop. Later in the development is when it separates itself with more unique characteristics. The fruiting bodies are the giveaway; Field Pennycress produces flat, circular pods with a notch at the tip and grow in clusters at the ends of the branches. Field Pennycress infestations throughout Bonner County are in their full glory in the month of May, then will begin to senesce in June, at which point the fruit pods will transition from green to brown and disperse seed. The accompanying photos lay out a visual for each stage of development.



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Field Pennycress likes pastures, crop areas, gardens, orchards and any other site that experiences disturbance. It's abundant across the region and can create quite the weedy mess, if you let it. Winter annuals germinate in the fall, then bolt, flower, set seed and senesce (die) by the end of the following spring-beginning of summer. If the infestation is small [or on a sensitive site], mow/cut prior to flowering to prevent seed dispersal. Your most effective herbicide treatment window is going to be during the pre-bolting to bolting stage, which is usually April. A lot of fields here can be too wet for equipment through much of April, but as soon as conditions allow, you'll want to get out there. With cooler temperatures often persisting into the spring, Crossbow® (2,4-D + Triclopyr) is an effective herbicide to combat not only Field Pennycress, but many other nuisance & noxious weeds alike. The ester formulated 2,4-D in Crossbow® works faster and in a more complete fashion than their amine formulated counterparts when air and soil temperatures are lower than ideal. On the other side of the coin, ester 2,4-D formulations have a tendency to volatilize and move offsite when temperatures are high in the summer. That is a scenario with potential to turn ugly in a hurry! Ester 2,4-D's are very situational chemistries. The sulfonyleureas (Telar® and/or Escort® or generics) are documented to perform well on Field Pennycress, especially as a preemergent if there is a seedbank that needs to be beaten back. You could kill two birds with one stone and tank mix Telar® or Escort® with Crossbow® if you're needing to also control numerous other invasive mustards. This mix is also very effective on local noxious weed Common Tansy.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you're in need of additional technical advice or recommendations with your early season weed control plan.