



BONNER COUNTY NOXIOUS WEEDS

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

Weed of the Month

By Chase Youngdahl, *Bonner County Weeds Manager*

2019 was a great field season, both internally and with the general public. We had an above average turnout with our Neighborhood Weeds Cost Share Program (get in touch with me if you are unaware of this program but wish to learn about it), we distributed over 400 of our new noxious weed handbooks, attendance was above average at our annual Weeds Seminar, visitors at our fair booth were nonstop and call volume at the office was up with folks looking for professional advice and recommendations related to weed control. Thank you all for taking interest and doing your part to clean up the landscape of plants that do not belong in Bonner County!!

The November weed of the month is dedicated to the hardcore weed control warrior, and those that seek a pristine looking lawn. **Wild Violet (*Viola papilionacea*)** is a persistent, nuisance weed in turf. This is not a noxious weed at any level, so there's no obligation to get rid of it—only an OCD duty if you're a perfectionist with your lawn (like me). And if you're a turf/lawn care professional, this may be one that is generating calls. It's a relatively low growing, short-lived perennial with purple flowers that resemble a Pansy. The leaves are heart-shaped and slightly cupped. The root system is impressive, as it has a strong taproot along with a network of fibrous roots.

Wild Violet favors shade to partial sun sites, but it can tolerate full sun in relatively cooler climates like northern Idaho. Ideal growing conditions are during cool weather; April/May in our neck of the woods. It grows on forest floors where sunlight is filtered, but is also cultivated in landscapes as an ornamental. It takes a while to become established, but if it escapes from a landscaping feature and invades your lawn, it will be one of the most challenging weeds to eliminate.



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Wild Violet is best managed in the fall. If you start a new lawn and keep it healthy, you're not likely to have an issue with it. This one is not too difficult to prevent since it is native to North America, and is not a problem anywhere except for turf, where it has become well adept. There are a number of broadleaf herbicides labeled for turf that can be used; Trimec® (2,4-D + Dicamba) & Crossbow® (2,4-D ester + Triclopyr) are a couple of examples. If a product contains any combination of 2,4-D, MCPA, MCPP, Dicamba, Fluroxypyr or Triclopyr and is labeled for use in turf, you will have a tool to achieve good control. In addition, mix an MSO surfactant with the herbicide for better penetration of the waxy leaf cuticles.

Application timing is key. Turf weeds such as Dandelions, Plantains, Clovers, etc. will get wiped out in the first wave if you're just starting a lawn treatment regimen. Wild Violet, and oftentimes Mouseear Chickweed, will withstand that initial treatment and require a second [or third] treatment. Treatments in the spring may suppress growth for the summer, but the roots will remain unscathed. September – November is the time to tackle Wild Violet, when nutrients are moving downward [into and throughout the roots]. This can still be done, provided there's no snow nor a deep frost layer. At the time this is published, who knows, with the way this fall has gone so far... Using cultural practices in conjunction with the herbicide treatments is important to sustain long term control—keep your lawn as healthy as possible. Apply a balanced fertilizer at least 3 times per year; first thing in the spring, early in the summer, and mid-late fall. Also, run sprinklers during the summer to avoid drought stress; that is a vulnerable time period when opportunistic invaders can “take advantage.” Thatching and aerating as needed is a great bonus to round out your overall turf treatment plan.

I wish you all a fantastic holiday season. Cheers!