

Meet Your Davis County Weed Department

By: Brandon Hunt, Jeremy Pundt and Amber Mendenhall



Davis County Weed Supervisors
Brandon Hunt (Right) and Jeremy
Pundt (Left)

Utah State Law requires all counties to supervise and control listed noxious weeds. We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to your weed department. Davis County employs two supervisors to assist in weed control in our area.

Brandon Hunt has been controlling noxious weeds for 27 years. In that time, he has enhanced the weed treatment program by building a team of county weed experts. Jeremy Pundt, the assistant weed supervisor, has been with the county for 14 years. As a team, Brandon and Jeremy have built relationships with local landowners

through outreach and spray days. The innovation in the weed department helps to accomplish our many goals.

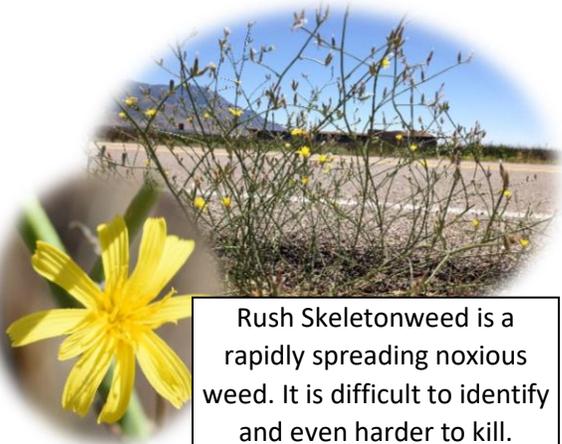
Some of our priorities include integrated weed control using herbicide, mechanical and biocontrol treatments. We work with experts like the Utah Department of Agriculture and Utah State University to attack weeds in the most efficient manner possible. Davis county has an integral relationship with our municipalities to assist in identification and treatment of noxious weeds. We also bring in additional funding using grants and special statewide projects to help in our efforts. There are currently fifty-five state listed noxious weeds. Some of the priorities in Davis County include:



- ❖ Rush Skeletonweed
- ❖ Russian knapweed
- ❖ Toadflax
- ❖ Loosestrife
- ❖ Phragmites
- ❖ Knapweed
- ❖ Puncturevine
- ❖ Russian Olive
- ❖ Myrtle Spurge
- ❖ St. Johnswort
- ❖ Dyer's Woad



St. Johnswort can crowd out desirable vegetation in rangeland and parks. It is toxic to livestock.



Rush Skeletonweed is a rapidly spreading noxious weed. It is difficult to identify and even harder to kill.

One of the most important things is our early detection and rapid response program (EDRR). Many invasive weeds are at our doorstep and we are constantly fighting to keep them out. Rush Skeletonweed has been found in all of the counties to our north. It is choking out important grazing land and moving into our fields and pastures. We are working to control its movement along the Davis County Causeway and prevent Rush Skeletonweed from invading.

Some of our biggest success has been with the control of purple loosestrife. Purple loosestrife is a riparian weed impacting migratory birds and waterways. Our main control effort comes through biocontrol. We are currently deploying millions of defoliating beetles to reduce this noxious weed. Biocontrol insects are specialized insects that have been studied and shown to only feed on the target weeds. We have reduced the purple loosestrife population in Davis County by over 90% using this method. We currently only apply herbicide when purple loosestrife escapes onto our Great Salt Lake tributaries. Biocontrol has also been used to successfully control Russian knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax, and St. Johnswort in Davis County.



Biocontrol has helped reduce purple loosestrife by 90% in Davis County.



Yellow starthistle is found in canyons to our south and east. We work to keep it off of trails in Davis County.

Collaboration with along the Bonneville Shoreline trail is a very high priority. This trail passes through several counties and cities including state, private and federal lands. We are developing a strategic plan to control the spread of yellow starthistle, dalmatian toadflax, additional thistles and dyer's woad through mapping, herbicide treatment and education.

A large-scale collaborative project is the treatment of Phragmites along the Great Salt Lake shoreline. We work with Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR) along with many other interested groups to facilitate the treatment of over 300,000 acres of Phragmites. The DNR uses tracked machinery called the "Marsh Master" to treat phragmites on swampy terrain. Other



A "Marsh Master" like the one used to treat phragmites.

collaborative projects include working with the Conservation District in their efforts to fight Russian Olive.



Commonly planted in xeriscaping, Myrtle spurge contains a toxic sap that burns your skin.

It is our responsibility to control some of the most prevalent weeds such as dyer's woad and Myrtle spurge along county properties and rights-of-way. Our efforts help to keep these common weeds out of natural lands and private properties.

Weeds do not stay inside fence lines and we have learned that weeds are everybody's problem. Davis County is part of a region and statewide project to promote our goals controlling weeds. The Utah Weed Supervisor's Association was formed to bring each county together. Davis County attends statewide spray days to learn about and treat our most difficult weed infestations. We work with our neighbors within the community and throughout Utah to help each other in the battle against noxious weeds.



For More Information Visit:

<https://utahweedsupervisors.com/>