

Conservation News

Roosevelt & Border SWCDs

USDA/NRCS Portales – Farm Service Agency

050 NM Highway 467, Portales, NM 88130 – (575) 356-6629

December 2016

Introducing the High Plains Weed Cooperative Weed Management Area

Help us locate and eradicate this noxious weed. It is called African Rue. It is a perennial, half-shrub, bright green, succulent, and grows 1' tall to 2'-3' wide. It is toxic to humans and livestock if ingested. Do Not Plow! Each root piece grows into a new plant.

Call 575-356-6629 if you see this weed.



BORDER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Landowners within the Border SWCD can apply for financial help with conservation projects. This program covers up to 50% of your project up to \$2,000.

For an application, contact Deena at (575) 760-1273 or wdkinman@gmail.com

NRCS CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

Sign-up deadline is February 3, 2017.

FSA DEADLINES:

NAP coverage for rangeland – January 30, 2017

Report of Spring planted crops – July 15, 2017

2017 ARC/PLC enrollment – August 1, 2017

**Have a Healthy, Happy,
& Prosperous New Year
in 2017!**

“An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer”



Russian Knapweed

Russian Knapweed is an invasive perennial that is common throughout our area as it is adapted to most soil types (whether it be rangeland, cropland, roadsides, or your backyard). A single knapweed plant can produce over a thousand seeds in a year. Although, it's most successful way of spreading is through shoots that grow up from the root system. A positive characteristic of this invasive plant is it may be difficult for it to establish in a new area. But once it has established a few plants, it has a tendency to create a monoculture due to its rapid reproduction and allelopathic compounds that inhibit competing native plants and grasses. Cattle tend to avoid this plant due to its bitter taste. It is poisonous to horses.

The best way to fight Russian Knapweed is prevention through good management and healthy croplands and rangelands. Good ground cover will prevent establishment. Tillage practices for control are discouraged as they may cause knapweed to spread through surviving root fragments. Mowing can be successful for suppressing growing shoots but will not kill individual plants. Mowing can be used during the growing season with a follow up chemical application in the fall. Hand pulling can be effective on smaller communities but may take several years to be successful. Chemical treatment is the most effective method in treating a well-established knapweed community. It is most successfully treated in the fall when the mature plants appear dormant.

SHADE BALL WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

Roosevelt & Border SWCDs have been measuring evaporation, water temperatures, rainfall, and ice formation in our Shade Ball Water Conservation Project for the past year. We have recorded significantly less evaporation and ice formation with the ball-covered tank. We are currently pursuing grant money and match-funding partners to establish a cost-share program to assist landowners with the cost of covering their livestock tanks.



To receive future newsletters delivered to your e-mail, please send an email to RooseveltSWCD@gmail.com.

Visit our Website at <http://rooseveltswcd.wixsite.com/mysite/contact>.

"An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"