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NuisanceNews

A quarterly publication from the Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement Department

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Brock Palen is our new Mosquito Abatement Division Coordinator. Brock previously worked as a larvicide field technician and in our Pest Control Division.

Why We Need Mosquito Control

Improvements in public health over the years is something that separates the United States from other countries. Mosquito abatement practices have significantly improved over the last 100 years and provided the citizens of this country the peace of mind that the mosquito-borne illnesses that plague other parts of the world are no longer a concern here in America. As late as 1934 there were 125,566 cases of Malaria in the United States. Those numbers have disappeared. Without mosquito control, Malaria could easily reestablish from tourism and immigration. Throughout the 19th century there were Yellow Fever outbreaks in cities along the Gulf Coast and Atlantic seaboard, north to Boston, and into the upper Mississippi River valley during the summer months. Thanks to mosquito control, Yellow Fever no longer threatens those areas.

Public health is one problem that would be affected in the absence of mosquito control. Another would be the devastating economic impact on local economies. Popular vacation sites would be impacted and outdoor recreation would be unbearable. Reduced attendance at sporting events, recreational events and entertainment events would have a significant influence on the economy. Prime real estate locations would be inhibited because without mosquito control many people would choose to live elsewhere. Equity and land values would plummet in many areas if modern-day mosquito control were to disappear.

There would also be an increased impact on domestic animals and wildlife. During the years 2000 - 2007 there were over 25,000 horses that died from Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Western Equine Encephalitis, and West Nile virus (WNV). Large bird populations like eagles, ostriches, and emus have declined over the years due to West Nile virus. More than 300 alligators in zoos have died since 2000 due to mosquito-borne related illness. Also, the potential impact on endangered species without mosquito control would be substantial. Mosquito control is vital to keeping these numbers down and protecting our environment

Without mosquito control our quality of life would suffer greatly. It would effect where we live and how we live. Take advantage of Ada County's Mosquito Abatement services. If you have a mosquito problem in your neighborhood this summer you don't have to live with it. Give our office a call and put us to work for you. It's a service that many don't know exists, but has already been paid for through property taxes. It's a service that is available to you whenever you need it.

Source: American Mosquito Control Association

National County Government Month

Make plans to attend this year's Ada County Open House on Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ada County Courthouse. This year's theme is *"Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys Are Transportation and Infrastructure."* There will be Courthouse tours and displays, activities for the kids, free hot dogs and ice cream, and the Crime Stoppers Annual Community Shred Day for all your important documents. This annual event continues to grow and will be bigger than ever. Stop by and visit our education trailer and learn how your county is working for you.

Have You Seen This Noxious Weed?

Rush Skeletonweed

Rush Skeletonweed

Rush skeletonweed is a threat to pastures, grain fields and rangelands. Rangeland infestations displace native and beneficial forage species grazed by livestock and wildlife.

The perennial plants range in size from 1 to 5 feet tall and have a long slender taproot that can grow up to 7 feet deep. Plants begin as a basal rosette of leaves and then grow 1 to 6 branching flowering stems.

Flowerheads are 1/2 inch in diameter and grow in leaf axils and stem tips, single or in clusters. Flowerheads usually have 7 to 15 yellow ray flowers. Yellow flowers are produced at the ends of dark green, nearly leafless stems.

Plants will exude a milky latex sap when surface is injured. Stems have coarse, downward pointing brown hairs and are hairless toward the tips. Stems are wiry and have few leaves.

Plants spread by seed with each mature plant producing between 1,500 and 20,000 seeds. Seeds survive fewer than 5 years. Also spreads by shoot buds found along lateral roots.

Ada County Weed Control is available to identify questionable plants in your yard. Let us know if we can help.

WPM Announcements

Tentative 2015 Education Schedule & Trailer Events:

- 4/18 Watershed Weekend - Wetlands Discovery (Hyatt Wetlands)
- 4/25 National County Government Day (Ada County Courthouse)
- 5/18 – 5/22 Noxious Weed Awareness Week
- 6/19 Meridian Dairy Days Parade
- 6/22 – 6/26 Mosquito Awareness Week
- 7/11 Eagle Fun Days Parade
- 7/18 Boise River Ecosystem (Boise Watershed)
- 8/8 Kuna Days Parade
- 8/21 – 8/30 Western Idaho Fair

If you are a boater, fisherman, or just a water enthusiast, WPM wants to remind you to clean your boats, fishing gear, inner tubes, shoes, and animals BEFORE leaving any aquatic areas this summer. This will help ensure that aquatic noxious weeds do not hitch a ride to another location and begin to spread. Be on the look out for our signs near local boat docks reminding the public to do their part in controlling aquatic noxious weeds. Please give us a call at 208-577-4646 if you have any questions.

Place Your Work Request Orders Now

There are three ways to place a work request order for weed, pest and mosquito control. The most convenient way is to log on to our website at adacounty.id.gov and click on either Weed Control, Pest Control or Mosquito Abatement. The "Request For Service" button is on the left hand side of the page. Fill out the form and press submit. We will receive your request and put you on our work schedule. You can also place your order over the phone by calling 208-577-4646 or by stopping by our office in Meridian at 975 E. Pine Avenue. Our hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Spring time is the start to our busy season but our crews will respond to your service request as soon as possible. Depending on our work load, weed control requests are generally responded to within a week, pest control requests within two weeks, and mosquito abatement requests within one to two days. Please call our office at 208-577-4646 if you are interested in knowing when your property is scheduled to be treated.

Have A Great Summer ! ! !