FEBRUARY 2026

Goshen County Weed & Pest NEWSLETTER

Goshen County Weed & Pest

APPLYING GLYPHOSATE AROUND TREES

Glyphosate is a useful tool when controlling unwanted plants in driveways and mostly bareground treatments. GCWP is frequently asked if Roundup can be used around trees as alternative to weed eating or pulling. The answer is, yes. Yes, you can use Roundup around trees, with CAUTION. Ensure the product being used contains the active ingredient glyphosate.. Some Roundup products don't even contain glyphosate. Glyphosate is a systemic herbicide that moves through the phloem and accumulates in the roots. That is why it kills the roots of plants too, breaking down quickly in the soil. However, when accidentally over-sprayed onto the thin bark of young trees, glyphosate accumulates in the phloem and can take years to break down. Don't risk it with young trees. Young trees that have thin bark and often have chlorophyll in their bark, are at risk to herbicide damage. The glyphosate won't always kill the tree instantly, When sap rises the following spring, it carries the glyphosate along with it, causing various symptoms: witches brooms, cupping, stunted growth, chlorosis, and bark splitting.

Witches Brooms

It is important to hand pull any weeds in close proximity to tree trunks and surface roots. Make sure application timing is a cooler summer day with no wind. You don't want the herbicide to hit tree leaves, trunk, above ground roots or branches. When spraying around the tree trunk a person can use a piece of cardboard to guard the tree trunk from the herbicide. Or use a shield on the spray wand to minimize off-target damage. These can be purchased or made from a two-liter soda bottle. Never use glyphosate to remove suckers growing from the rootstocks of grafted trees. They are directly connected to the tree's vascular system, and such applications will damage the tree or possibly kill it. If you know you damaged a tree by glyphosate, the best course of action is to protect them from further stress. Provide irrigation during hot, dry weather, and control any insect or disease problems.

Cupping on Trees

WHAT IS IT ABOUT SPURGE??

GCWP has been controlling leafy spurge along Bear Creek and Horse Creek Drainage for over thirty five years. Thirty five years? And still annual application, why is that? Leafy spurge is the definition of an invasive plant. Because of its growth characteristics and the habitat the plant isn't easily eradicated.

Characteristics - because of its massive, deep root system (up to 15+ feet deep), the plant can regrow from fragments and resist mechanical removal or herbicides. It has a prolific seed production (140+ seeds/plant) that can remain viable in soil for years and is spread explosively. Yes, this plants seeds shoot from the plant like a dart gun. It doesn't need the wind to get far. Last but not least, it has a caustic sap, which deters livestock, giving it less competition, along with its ability to thrive in many environments makes it a resilient, invasive pest.

Habitat - Leafy spurge can essentially grow anywhere. In Goshen County it is found near creek bottoms that are thick with trees with rough terrain and hay meadows that are irrigated thoroughly. This making the weed extremely difficult to get to, along with choosing the correct herbicide that can be applied near water and trees. The herbicides that are proven to control spurge are not necessarily tree friendly.

Bait Your Prairie Dogs!

March 15th is the last day to put Kaput prairie dog bait in the ground. Remember! Goshen County Weed & Pest has a huge cost-share program to help with control of prairie dogs. Jump on it and let us help you get on top of the prairie dog infestation in Goshen County.

PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAININGS NEAR YOU!

PLATTE VALLEY BANK TORRINGTON, WY

Call 307-532-2436 with questions

February 3rd 8 AM - NOON

February 26th 1 PM - 5 PM

STAY IN THE KNOW

- Feb 12th - GCWP Board Meeting
- Feb 16th - Presidents Day Office Closed

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