

A noxious weed is defined as any plant that has been designated by a governing authority as harmful to natural habitats, ecosystems, humans, crops, or livestock. These weeds usually grow very aggressively, multiply rapidly, and are often highly invasive with little or no natural controls. Noxious weeds are a significant problem in large parts of the world and greatly affect areas of agriculture, forest management, and many other industries as well. They can also be toxic to humans and livestock, and once established they can be destructive to an ecosystem and very difficult to control.

Economically, noxious weeds cost the U.S. billions of dollars each year in the efforts to control them, as well as cause degradation of land value. Because they aggressively compete for water, nutrients, and sunlight, they can severely reduce crop production and quality. These plants can smother pastures, cause wind and water erosion, clog waterways, and increase wildfire threats in communities. Noxious weeds may also harm recreational activities by reducing the accessibility to native landscapes and can cause serious health issues to humans and other animals if contacted or ingested. While some species of noxious weeds are native, most have been introduced into ecosystems either by accident, mismanagement, or a lack of awareness about the threats they pose to the environment.

For a list of noxious weeds in your local area, you can visit this site:

<https://plants.usda.gov/java/noxious>

