

WANTED

NOT!

Pass the Weed Word

You are now ready to get others involved in fighting noxious weeds. Recruit other NWVs. Organize class or community projects explaining or demonstrating how noxious weeds spread and about the damage they can do to our environment. These suggestions may help you:

Develop a Science Fair Project

Use a topic below or create your own.

1. Develop a battle plan for an imaginary noxious weed infested ranch or national park. Which weeds might be involved? Which method, or methods, would you use to fight the noxious weeds? Why?
2. Set up an Amazing and Scary Facts About Noxious Weeds corner. Measure and mark a 17 foot line. That's as far as a leafy spurge can throw a seed. Can you or your classmates throw a bean bag that far? Try it!

Jar of Beans, Rope and Measuring Tape.

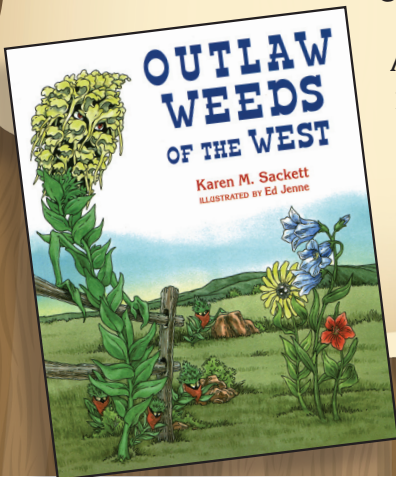
What does a jar of 1000 beans, 26 feet of rope, and a measuring tape have to do with noxious weeds?

First, measure and cut a length of rope 26 feet long. Then roll it up. Challenge others to guess how deep a leafy spurge plant's main root can grow. Ask them to unroll the rope and measure it. Do you think anyone will guess correctly?

What about the jar of beans? Another amazing and scary fact is that each mature yellow toadflax plant can produce up to 50,000 seeds in one year. To show what 50,000 looks like, ask a classmate to help you fill a jar with 1000 beans. How many more jars of the same size would you need to have 50,000 beans?



Karen M. Sackett



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Note: A yellow toadflax seed is smaller than 1/8th of an inch on the measuring tape. Is it larger or smaller than one of the beans in the jar?

If you think 50,000 is a big number, each Dalmatian toadflax plant, a cousin of the yellow toadflax, produces about 450,000 seeds each year! That's amazing and scary! As crazy as that is, purple loosestrife is truly scary. One mature purple loosestrife plant can produce 2 1/2 million seeds in one season! If you did the same demonstration that you did for the yellow toadflax, would you have room for all of the jars? Besides, how long would it take you to count 2 1/2 million?

3. Set up a display about poisonous plants. What makes them poisonous? Can some really kill? Poison hemlock, giant hogweed, absinth wormwood, silky crazy weed (also called locoweed) are some suggestions, but there are many others.



Poison hemlock

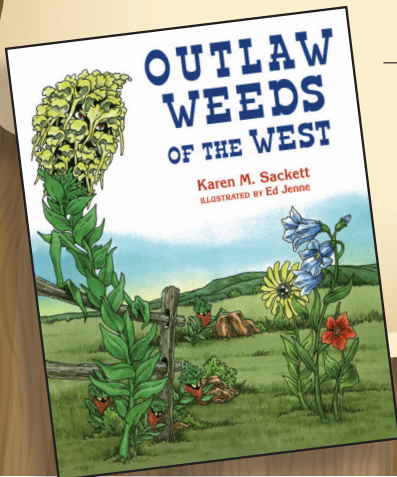


Poison hemlock in bloom

4. Develop and distribute a Bounty Hunter list of noxious weeds for your county.

Your county weed agent will be a great resource. Also, check out the U.S.D.A. (United States Department of Agriculture) and forest service websites.

Your Ideas:



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Develop an Art Project

1. Paint or draw a BEAUTIFUL, BUT BAD picture or poster.
2. Create a craft project about noxious weeds.

Develop a Performing Arts Project With a Noxious and Obnoxious Weed Theme

1. Write a classroom skit.
2. Write a booklet of poems or essays.
3. Write a song, or change the words to a well-known song, like Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star, to share what you have learned.
4. Plan a performance for your classroom or school assembly to inspire others to become an NWV. For example, you could perform this rap, but writing your own would be better.

A NOXIOUS WEED IS LIKE NO OTHER.

IF YOU DON'T WATCH OUT, IT'LL CHOKE AND SMOTHER.

A NOXIOUS WEED CAN CAUSE GREAT HARM TO THE NATIVE PLANTS ON YOUR RANCH OR FARM.

AND IF YOU LET IT TAKE ITS COURSE IT JUST MIGHT POISON YOUR COW OR HORSE.

SO PLEASE CONTROL THE NOXIOUS WEEDS.

DESTROY THEIR ROOTS. DON'T SPREAD THEIR SEEDS.

KEEP THEM FROM SPREADING—DON'T LET THEM ROAM.

THE WILDLIFE WILL THANK YOU FOR SAVING THEIR HOME.

3

