

Hello,

It's the time of year when noxious weeds begin to go to seed and can spread beyond your property onto your neighbor's. Why is this important?

- Mitigation of Noxious Weeds is required according to the Utah Noxious Weed Act and the Summit County Code, Title 4, Chapter 4: *Property with excessive weeds may be found to be a Public Nuisance, at which point the county will control the problem at the owner's expense and without consent. If mitigation expenses are not paid within 90 days the charges become a lien against the property.*

- Summit County takes weed mitigation very seriously due to the economic impact weeds have on agriculture, loss of native habitat, and impact on local flora and fauna.

- Mitigating weeds costs time and effort and money. If weeds spread from your property to your neighbor's, you are transferring those costs directly to them.

- The only way to effectively eradicate noxious weeds is through a group effort. Allowing weeds to go to seed on your property mitigates the hard work your neighbors may be doing to prevent them on their property.

In the spirit of community and being a good neighbor, please make an effort to control the spread of noxious weeds on your property. Below are some helpful hints to hopefully make the process easier:

- Hire a professional weed abatement company. These are specialists and can work with you on a long term solution to weed control:

<https://groundsolutionsutah.com/>
<https://ecolawnutah.com/park-city/>

If you want to save the cost of hiring a professional here are some tips:

- Spraying weed killer this time of year is **not effective** and will yield poor results and require excess use of chemicals. It's better to pull or cut weeds before they go to seed and dispose of them in orange weed bags (available through the County and HCOA).

- **Spraying is best done in the spring** when the weeds are rosettes, and **spraying requires less use of chemicals to get the job done**. Early May is when most weeds are florets in the Hidden Cove neighborhood.

- To further improve success, plant native grasses and flowers in the fall to compete with weeds. The best time to plant is after the first snowfall. Spreading seeds on-top of the first couple inches of snow yields good results. After the grasses have sprouted, spray can be used on the weeds without affecting the native grass.

- This is a multiple year process depending on the level of weeds on your property. Even with professional help it will likely take two to three years of pulling, cutting and if necessary, spraying weeds to finally eradicate them from your property.

- There are lots of resources to help identify and control weeds on your property. The Summit County Weed Division has a website with lots of resources and they are happy to answer questions:

<http://summitcounty.org/155/Weed-Division>

Lastly, being a good neighbor goes both ways! Often times property owners simply don't know what is a native species versus what is a noxious weed. If you see noxious weeds on your neighbor's property, politely point them out (or ask your HCOA to do so) and direct them to some of the educational and informative resources on this page. Also, keep in mind that this is a **multi-year process**. Your neighbor may be in the act of formulating an abatement plan with a professional. All the more reason to have an open and respectful conversation. And, who knows, it may lead to a positive future partnership towards noxious weed control. We are all in this together.

Thank you all in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Your HCOA Board of Trustees

P.S. See below, for the top five invasive weeds in our neighborhood as well as an overview of the best times to take specific actions.

Top Five Invasive in Hidden Cove

Garlic Mustard – [Summit County Weed Guide](#)



Photo – Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ. of Conn.

Description:

- Young leaves have strong garlic odor when crushed
- Kidney shaped leaves with scalloped edges
- Second year plants produce small white flowers with four petals

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Spray	Spray					Spray	Spray
Pull	Pull	Pull	Pull	Pull	Pull	Pull	Pull
Plant	Plant					Plant	

Spray - Chemical Spray works best in spring and late fall, not as effective in summer

Pull - Small outbreaks are best controlled by regularly pulling throughout the year

Plant - Plant native grass seed in the late fall or early spring to compete with invasive

Musk Thistle - [Summit County Weed Guide](#)



Photo – Colorado State University

Description:

- Rosettes form in early spring and late fall. This is the ideal time for chemical eradication
- Second year plants bolt in May – June producing long stems with large bracts beneath purple flowers with sharp spines.
- Flowers produce seed roughly 45-55 days after bolting, generally July – August
- During the bolting and seed stage, pulling and cutting are the best way to remove

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Hoary Cress - [Summit County Weed Guide](#)



Photo – Nathan Belliston

Description:

- Perennial in the mustard family that grows 1-2 feet tall
- Soft, light green leaves that attach closely to the stem
- Flowers occur June – July, four very small white petals per flower that grow in tight clusters
- Small batches are easy to remove by pulling
- Spraying is best done as rosettes in April – May

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Common Burdock - [Summit County Weed Guide](#)



Description:

- First year rosettes have large, heart shaped leaves growing close to the ground
- Year two sprouts a branched stalk, 2-6 feet tall with abundant purple burs
- Spreads easily as the burs stick to clothing, pets
- Deep roots should be dug out of the ground and plants that have gone to seed should be bagged and disposed of

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Dyer's Woad - [Summit County Weed Guide](#)



Description:

- Biennial or short-lived perennial
- Grows 2-3 feet tall with clusters of bright yellow flowers
- Basal rosette leaves have noticeable pale veins
- Leaves are slender and alternate, attaching directly to the stem
- Fruit is a dark pod attached by a fragile stem
- Spraying is most effective in the spring, before roots have fully established

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