



Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District

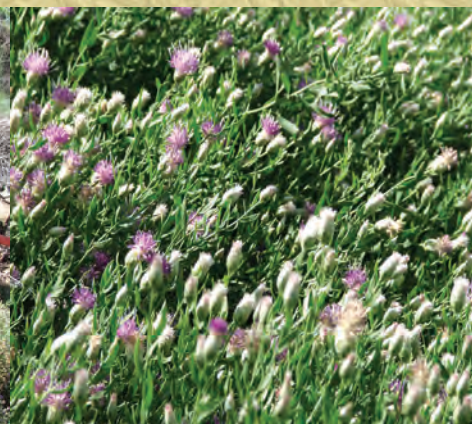
Socorro's Soil & Water Conservation Leaders Since 1944

April 2019 Newsletter

Spring is here, and the above average winter moisture has the weeds poking their nasty little heads out at a record pace. Keep an eye out for the ones we have listed below, they can cause havoc in your alfalfa or grass. Please contact us if you find these weeds, and we will visit your property to form a management plan.

African Rue

Peganum harmala, commonly known as African Rue, is a deep rooted perennial that contains 4 different toxins affecting cattle, sheep, and horses. Control without herbicide is nearly impossible, and can still take years to accomplish, as it's roots can reach 20 feet deep! This small infestation was found near Box Canyon.



Russian Knapweed

Acroptilon repens, is a long lived, rhizomic, creeping perennial. It exudes allelopathic chemicals into the soil as it spreads, making the soil unsuitable for almost anything else to grow in. It is toxic to horses, and if you get it in your alfalfa, it will be a difficult and expensive row to hoe. This infestation is on Bosquecito Road, and unfortunately the landowners cannot be convinced to treat it, so it continues to grow unchecked.

Spiny Cocklebur

Xanthium spinosum is a very invasive annual that will completely overtake any area of bare ground available. Although it can be managed by mowing or disking, it spreads so quickly that it can be difficult to keep ahead of it. It can also be pulled when small, but those yellow spines will go right through the thickest leather gloves. Like common cocklebur, the seeds will stick to nearly everything, and will quickly ruin the value of wool. It is also toxic to all domestic livestock, although they won't graze it unless they have to. This infestation is in one of dozens of earthen retention dams on the Chupadera Mesa, and the cattle continuously track it everywhere, making management nearly impossible. It seeds are viable for years, further complicating management.



Salt Cedar Removal Project 2019

For the eighth year in a row, we received an appropriation from the state to mechanically treat Salt cedar on private land. These important projects are focused on riparian areas in our district, and often are the first step in reclaiming agricultural land lost to the noxious tree.

We have quite a long waitlist for this 100% funded program, but if you have Salt cedar on your property that you need assistance removing, please contact our office.



Upper Left: We have found that a root plow is the most effective way to treat Salt cedar. It is essentially a giant knife that is hydraulically forced underground, where it severs the roots. Its slight angle will “pop” the root balls of the trees towards the surface, where they are raked into piles.

Upper Right: A large bulldozer (D6 or larger) pulls the root plow through the soil 18-24 inches below the surface, depending on soil type and tree size. We require the contractor to plow in 2 directions to ensure thorough coverage.

Lower Left: The above and below ground material is raked into piles by the bulldozer to prepare for burning. Contractors will make the piles and then root plow between them. Following this, they push the piles onto the plowed areas to expose the area underneath, then plow those rows. This movement also helps to shake dirt out of the piles, making them easier to burn.

Lower Right: After piling, the material is burned, then, when possible, re-raked into piles again and burned again. This completes our portion of the project, and the landowner will take over from here, removing the smaller material and managing the inevitable re-sprouts. In the case of re-claimed agricultural land, we will then survey the property and provide the landowner with a contractor-ready design for laser leveling. They can then apply for our cost share program to receive some financial incentive to complete the project.



Important Upcoming Dates

April

5-Cost Share Applications Due

8-Monthly Board Meeting

15-Tax Day

21-Easter

May

10-Cost Share Applications Due

12-Mothers Day

13-Monthly Board Meeting

27-Memorial Day (office closed)

June

7-Cost Share Applications Due