

## NEWS COLUMNS

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### Take Precautions Against Mosquitoes

With recent rains in Lincoln County the added possibility of standing water can provide a breeding environment for mosquitoes.

Individuals can follow some simple steps to protect themselves from the mosquitoes that can carry West Nile Virus.

- Use personal insect repellents, wear loose-fitting, long-sleeve shirts and pants, and avoid times of peak mosquito activity such as dusk or dawn. These are the most effective steps in reducing risk. Repellents containing DEET or Picaridin have been shown to be most effective in preventing mosquito bites. Find more information about West Nile Virus and personal repellents by referring to SDSU Extension Fat Sheet 920, "Personal Mosquito Repellents." Ask for it at your local Extension office, or find it online at <http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/articles/FS920.pdf>.

A list of other considerations.

- Eliminate standing water, where possible. Consider treating stagnant water that cannot be drained with an approved larvicide.
- If outdoor activities are planned, consider chemical control for adult mosquitoes. Many insecticides for use around the home and yard may be used for mosquitoes. Check the pesticide label carefully to be sure it can be used in your backyard. Always follow label directions, and be sure to wear proper protective clothing.
- Homeowners can consider residual treatments-applying pesticides to shrubs, tall grass, siding, eaves, and other areas where resting mosquitoes are likely to come in contact with the pesticide. Homeowners can also refer to SDSU Extension Fact Sheet FS923, "Controlling Mosquitoes Around the Home and Yard," available online in pdf format at <http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/articles/FS923.pdf>. Or ask for it at your county Extension office.

### Noxious Weed Guide Online

An updated guide to noxious weeds of South Dakota is available online at a South Dakota State University Web site.

South Dakota Cooperative Extension Special Series 34, "Noxious Weeds of South Dakota," features color photographs to help in identification. Find it online at this link:

<http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/articles/ESS34.pdf>.

Hard copies will be available later this summer in county Extension or weed and pest supervisor offices.

SDSU Extension Weeds Specialist Mike Moechnig said more than 4 million acres in South Dakota are infested with noxious weeds in South Dakota, causing losses of more than \$140 million annually.

The guide summarizes information about Canada thistle, leafy spurge, perennial sowthistle, hoary cress, purple loosestrife, saltcedar, and Russian knapweed, all of which are considered noxious statewide.

In addition the guide discusses "local noxious weeds" that pose problems in some areas of the state. Those include spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed, musk thistle, plumeless thistle, bull thistle, Scotch thistle, field bindweed, absinth wormwood, Dalmatian toadflax, yellow toadflax, houndstongue, common tansy, St. Johnswort, puncturevine, common mullein, common burdock, giant knotweed, chicory, and poison hemlock.

European common reed, a locally noxious weed added in 2008, is worth singling out because it sometimes poses identification problems. It closely resembles the native common reed often seen in wet areas around eastern South Dakota, which is not considered a restricted noxious weed. Unlike the native common reed, European common reed can be highly invasive and dominate marsh areas or riparian habitats. A few infestations have been identified in western and eastern South Dakota, but patches are not currently widespread across the state.

Distinguished professor emeritus Leon Wrage, Extension Integrated Pest Management Coordinator Darrell Deneke, and Extension Weeds Specialist Mike Moechnig wrote the publication. Program support came from the South Dakota Weed and Pest Control Commission.