



Interview with MOT's Ryan Spillett



The NWIPC would not be as effective without our partners. They give us the funds, the knowledge, and the support we need to continue our work. The agencies extend awareness within their organizations and the general public. Without them our projects, people, pamphlets, publicity, and pride would be very poor. We interviewed Ryan Spillett, Ministry

of Transportation's (MOT) Environmental services tech, about how our great partnership works. NWIPC: What are some of the benefits of this partnership? Spillett: It opened the doors for more cooperation between agencies. We have become familiar with each other's responsibilities, and realize that we are all working towards the same goals. NWIPC: What are some factors that affect the invasive plants on roadways? Spillett: Weeds are ideal growers in any dis-

turbed sites, including roads. Also there is lots of movement that provides opportunities for the spread of seeds. NWIPC: How do you pool your resources? Spillett: We are pooling manpower, funds, and knowledge along with other council members. During the two yearly meetings we pool our thoughts. Broad knowledge makes us better equipped to make some big decisions in the fight against invasive plants. I would like to thank all the members of the NWIPC.

Weed of the Month



Weed whacking thistle

Cirsium arvense (Canada thistle) is known to have spread with seed crops into Canada in the 1800s. It produces large root systems that creep and can resist constant mowing for several years. At the end of each plant's branches are white to purple disc flowers that produce around a thousand seeds. It grows from .3m to 2m tall. Thistle is a name used for many different families of plants that have

prickly leaves and/or sharp spines. If you step barefoot on a Canada thistle rosette you will never forget it—and neither do the Scots. Legend says that an attacking army of Vikings were sneaking up to a Scottish castle. They were heard screaming from pain thanks to a patch of thistle. It is edible, and beneficial to grazing animals. Matt Harder, one of our IPMA contractors, recommends mowing early.

Poster Girls Rock

The NWIPC and District "C" Farmers Institute would like to thank Amy & Justina Crossan, Mikayla Jackson, Tory & Bobby Kershaw, Sarrin Mueller, Rosemary & Elizabeth Ramsay, Sarah & Laurel Vohar, and Amanda Wellburn, for making the invasive plant posters displayed at the PGX.

NWIPC Events in September:

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| 7th-9th: | -Lakes Distric Fall Fair-Burns Lake |
| 8th-9th: | -Houston Tradeshow |
| 30th: | -BC Rivers Day-Prince George |
| Cariboo Central Interior Unwanted Pesticide Collection: | |
| 24th: | -Fall Fair Grounds-Smithers |
| 21st-26th: | -Glen Dale Agra Services-Vanderhoof (closed Sunday) |
| 25th: | -CN Centre S.E. Lot-Prince George |

Program Manager: Andrea Eastham
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Bright Idea!
Get my un-
wanted
pesticide
collected.

Snapshot Contest yields eye candy clips

By: Denise McLean P. Ag.



Wow what a great shot! by Kerri Ewald

For the past 2 summers the Ministry of Agriculture (MAL) has run a Student Photo Contest for its Summer Extension Assistant Program. This summer the Board initiated a Project to support the Photo contest and give extra prize money for Invasive Plant (IP) Photos. The board is always looking for great IP photos and this seemed like a good way to get some. The summer students take great photos every year and this summer was no exception. The contest brought the NWIPC

and MAL over 50 IP photos of very high quality. The photos were divided into 3 categories: close-ups, infestations and other. One photo has already appeared in the newspaper and another is now in the NWIPC display. The winner of the close-ups was Jason Patchell with a shot of Puncture Vine. Lori Vickers won the infestations category with a picture of a field of Orange Hawkweed. The "other" category was won by Kim Will with a great picture of Common Tansy.

PGX Kids' Day Survey

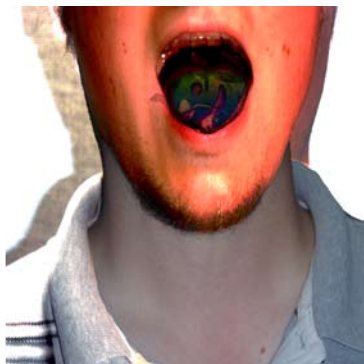
What kids think. The Prince George exhibition (PGX) was a successful event for the NWIPC. With large numbers of people, the fair was full of interested parties. While we did educate adults (400+ adults), we had something for the kids too. The NWIPC kids' day survey was put out on Friday August 10th. That Friday the PGX offered free entrance to kids 12 and under, so there were lots of

families there to enjoy the excitement. The survey asked kids 4 questions, to which there were no wrong answers. From the potted plant display they were to choose the prettiest weed, the coolest weed, the scariest weed, and the stinkiest weed. 87 kids did the survey and each was awarded a set of 11 weed ID cards attached together by a carabineer and strap that says, "Be A

Weed Warrior." The survey gave the kids a chance to get intimate with the different creepy crawlers. Luke W said "the kids looked bored and a bit overwhelmed by the fair, so we invited them to do the survey. Then the kids started smiling and seemed enlightened by the whole thing. The parents were happy for the free entertainment." The results of the survey can be found below.

We'd Say

BEIJING, August 28th (Reuters) - Pesticide showers kill 1000 fish in a Beijing Palace. What shocking news for the World Olympics Commission. This does not bode well, *seriously*. Be aware that any concentrated solution may be deadly, detrimental, and/or controlled by law. Be it water or vinegar, anything you pour on the land will undoubtedly affect it. If it has instructions, then read them first. If it doesn't have instructions do a little research. What you pour on weeds you are pouring in everyone's mouth.



"1000 Royal Fish" by Luke W.

Kids' Day Survey Results

	Age	Prettiest	Coolest
1st	11	toad flax	bluweed
2nd	9	oxeye daisy	bull thistle
		Scariest	Stinkiest
1st		bull thistle	tarweed
2nd		thistle	oxeye daisy

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council
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