

Invasive Weed Management

One of the many benefits of living in Highlands Ranch is the ability to enjoy the more than 2,500 acres of natural open space and nearly 70 miles of trails that traverse through our community. When aggressive, non-native plants threaten our open space, the Metro District responds to ensure the invasive weeds don't interfere with the native vegetation and wildlife that exists today.

The Metro District complies with the Colorado Noxious Weed Act (3.5-5.5-101-119 C.R.S.) which enables County and City governments to implement management programs aimed at combating invasive weeds from taking over. For a complete list of species on the Noxious Weed List, visit the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Web site www.colorado.gov/ag/csd.

What we're doing

The Metro District has a comprehensive program to combat persistent weeds that involves mechanical, biological and chemical management practices.

Mechanical – Metro District open space staff selectively remove communities of invasive weed species through weed whipping and spot mowing. These techniques remove the seed head to limit seed dispersal.



Biological – Metro District open space staff disperse various insects supplied by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The insects put stress on the invasive weeds, causing them to die back allowing the Metro District staff to gain control of the impacted area.



Chemical – Metro District open space staff spray invasive weeds in the spring and fall with non-restrictive herbicides to help gain control of those communities.



If you are a homeowner who backs to open space and you think invasive weeds are growing behind your property, contact Scott Nelson, the Metro District's open space supervisor, at 720-240-5924 or snelson@highlandsranch.org.