



# News Release

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## Deal Weeds a Losing Hand – Become a Weed Warrior!

Pretty plants can be deceptive. In fact, some plants with attractive blooms and flowers are invasive, noxious weeds. Unfortunately, many people don't know what they look like.

To help people identify these alien weeds, the Regional District of Central Okanagan Noxious Weed program has come up with a novel idea, creating a deck of playing cards. There are 48 colour pictures of invasive weeds on the backs of the 52 card deck. Rhoda Mueller, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer responsible for the program says, "We came up with the playing card deck because people can actually use them and at the same time they can see what these invasive weeds that masquerade as pretty plants, look like."

Mueller adds, "A photo of the Puncturevine is duplicated on the back of the four ace cards in the deck. That's because I consider it to be our ace weed, enemy number one. Puncturevine burrs can pop a bike tire or injure you or a pet if you step on one. In the past year it's become more prevalent throughout the south Okanagan and I would hope that more people become aware of it and help stop its spread. Early detection and rapid response will help our overall environment."

The creation and production of the weed card deck was made possible thanks to a 2007 grant to the Regional weed control program from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to increase awareness of invasive weeds that don't belong in the Central Okanagan.

Mueller says, "Not only do invasive alien weeds harm the environment, but they affect our economy because there are costs associated with mowing and other weed control measures. They also displace natural plant species and with our changing climate, we're seeing the growth of more weeds that haven't been in the area before."

The Weed Warrior Playing Card decks will be distributed by the Regional Weed Control program at its displays, public information meetings and in limited numbers at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's Environmental Expo in Mission Creek Regional Park (Springfield and Durnin Roads) this Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup> (9:00 am – 2:00 pm) and Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> (11:00 am – 3:00 pm).

The Regional District Noxious Weed Control Bylaw requires property owners to prevent the growth of noxious weeds and tall grasses and provides for the cutting of them in the two Electoral Areas as well as in the City of Kelowna, Westside District Municipality, District of Peachland and District of Lake Country. Information about the program, noxious weeds and the bylaw is available on the Regional District website:

[www.regionaldistrict.com/departments/inspections/inspections\\_noxweeds.aspx](http://www.regionaldistrict.com/departments/inspections/inspections_noxweeds.aspx)

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