



Mechanical Control of Noxious Weeds



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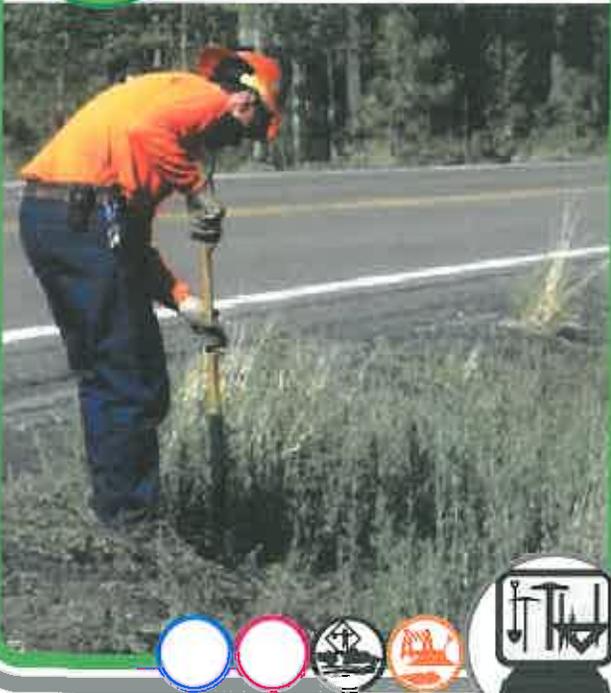
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Mechanical or physical control is a category of methods available to the Colorado Department of Transportation for controlling the spread of noxious weeds along State Highway corridors.

Mechanical control methods include: pulling, hoeing, cutting, tilling, mowing, stabbing taproots, girdling trees, dragging heavy chains across the ground, mulching, flooding, and soil solarization (i.e., covering the ground with a plastic material to trap heat and raise the soil temperature to levels that will kill the weeds).

Mechanical control methods are labor intensive but have the advantage of being able to target specific plants. They also have the potential to spread seeds, so must be scheduled only at certain times during the life cycle of the weed.

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