

# Goats Control Knapweed

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Extension specialists in the southwest region are again monitoring the locations of spotted knapweed. I have observed that it seems to be spreading faster than previously thought. The 2008 Missouri Legislature did approve adding knapweed to the noxious weed list.

Kevin Bradley our state extension weed specialist has passed along some research he found from Idaho. It concluded that goats can be used as a tool to control spotted knapweed. They grazed the plants at various stages and over a

series of 3 years found the best time to graze it was in the bud to bloom stage.

Now, all we need to do is get the highway departments, railroad folks and anyone else with spotted knapweed invasions to stake goats out along their infested areas. In the research trials, the goats were allowed to graze for 2 to 5 days. Researchers are also aware of some insect predators that may prove useful as well as herbicide control. In the meantime, keep your eyes open for knapweed and let me know if you find it. Δ