

# “B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,  
but may have limited distribution in some counties

**Pheasant's eye**  
*Adonis aestivalis*

**Other common names:** Summer pheasant's eye,  
little glowing coal, Adonis' flower, blooddrops

**USDA symbol:** ADAE  
**ODA rating:** B



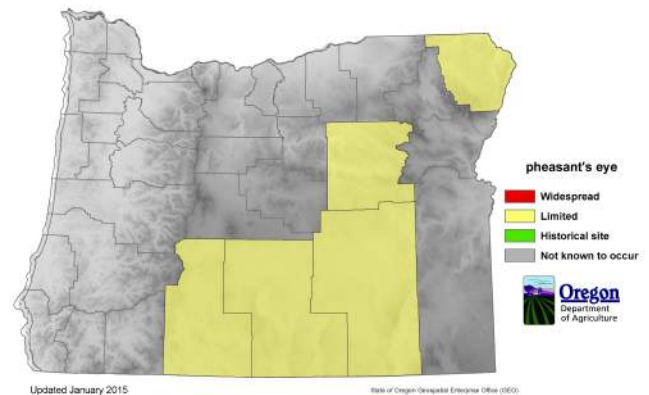
**Introduction:** Pheasant's eye is native to Eurasia and known to exist in a wide geographic range. It was introduced in the U.S. as an ornamental and for use in the herbal market trade. Populations throughout the west are reported to be increasing though associated reports of livestock poisoning are limited to a few cases. Flowers are showy and can form thick stands on roadsides and in irrigated alfalfa.

**Distribution in Oregon:** Counties reporting wild populations of pheasant's eye include Klamath, Lake, Harney, Wallowa, and Grant. In California, two northern counties, adjacent to the Oregon border, report infestations.

**Description:** Pheasant's eye is a herbaceous annual with erect one-foot tall stems terminated with solitary, red-orange and black cup-like flowers. Bloom-time is in mid summer. The fern-like leaves are simple and alternate with blades two to three times pinnately dissected into linear segments. It prefers moist, well-drained soils but is adapted to seasonally dry soils also. Populations can be highly variable from year-to-year.

**Impacts:** Irrigated alfalfa fields are at risk from pheasant eye invasion. With millions of acres of suitable habitat in the western U.S., pheasant's eye can be expected to increase significantly in the future. Horses and pigs are very susceptible to pheasant's eye poisoning. The dried plant material found in hay is more toxic to grazing animals than green plant material. A few horse deaths have been recorded in northern California. Pheasant's eye contaminated alfalfa and grass hay can be of limited or reduced value as a commodity.

**Biological controls:** No approved biological control agents are available at this time.



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