

## RAC Forestry Grant – Invasive Weeds



**Weeds in Our Garden Workshop**

In 2007, the Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D was awarded a forestry RAC grant in the amount of \$57,000.00 to implement a weed management area in East-Central Arizona and to survey 15 sites on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest as to where certain invasive weeds were moving into those sites. Other measurable tasks included, producing a weed management plan, providing workshops, produce educational material to hand out to interested citizens and to establish an executive committee for the Little Colorado River Weed Management Area. One hundred and three acres of National Forest land was surveyed for invasive weeds such as Canada Thistle, Musk Thistle, Bull Thistle, Yellow Star Thistle, Salt Cedar, Russian Olive, Mullein, and Reed Canary Grass. This task was accomplished by volunteers who have an interest in our National Forest lands. When those species of weeds were found, the area was entered into a GPS system so that control and monitoring could continue. Several weed publications were produced. One being the Field Guide to Noxious and Invasive Weeds produced by the US Forest Service. Another included a pocket ID card of invasive weeds of the area. Over the two year course of the grant, several workshops were held to help people identify invasive weeds, learn what control measures work and don't work, and how to calibrate sprayers that herbicide applications are done in accordance to the herbicide label. One of the most successful workshops was entitled "Weeds in our Garden". The workshop was held at the Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D Coordinators home – Dennis Chandler. He described how he was gardening using containers and raised beds to control weeds in his garden. Mike Hauser, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Agent for Apache County discussed with the group many facets of gardening and how several processes could be incorporated to significantly help control weeds in their gardens. Twenty Five people were in attendance to the conference. After it was over, the group wanted another workshop to be planned.