

Inland Empire Cooperative Weed Management WEED IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL HANDBOOK 2014



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WEED GUIDE



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**Kootenai County
Noxious Weed Control**



**Idaho Department of
Parks and Recreation**

Inland Empire

Cooperative Weed Management Area

WEED IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL

HANDBOOK 2014

A Citizen's Guide for Control of Noxious and Invasive Weeds Found in Benewah, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties in the Panhandle of North Idaho

PURPOSE

- Educate the public about the seriousness of noxious and invasive weeds.
- Facilitate the identification of noxious/invasive weeds on properties in North Idaho.
- Assist the landowner in controlling noxious/invasive weeds on their property.

WHAT IS A NOXIOUS WEED?

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that were brought into Idaho through human actions. Because they grow aggressively and have no natural enemies in our area, these species of plants can be destructive to wildlife habitat, competitive with crops and difficult to control.

'Noxious' is the legal description for 65 weeds found throughout the State of Idaho. This is determined by the weeds potential threat to the environment and economics of crop production.

'Toxic' (described by the symbol ☠) means the weed can poison or cause injury to humans and/or animals. Many noxious weeds are toxic, but not all toxic plants are noxious weeds.

These guidelines are not recommendations. If site-specific help is needed, land managers should contact their local weed control agency. The label will describe legal use of the herbicide for pasture, right-of-way, rangeland, etc., and it will document restrictions on reentry intervals and subsequent haying or grazing restrictions. Herbicide trade names are representative of only a minority of the total products available for purchase.

**Help protect our natural resources,
prevent noxious weeds from going to seed.**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS GUIDE

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(Front & Back) Designed by Ron Harbison and Bill Hargrave

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Information for this guide came from many sources: IECWMA Noxious Weed Identification and Control Handbook; Idaho One Plan; Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA); Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign (IWAC); Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board; Washington Noxious Weed Control Board; USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); University of Idaho Extension; XID Services.

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METHODS FOR NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

A good weed management plan uses more than one management strategy. The key to successful weed management is to create a favorable situation for desirable plant growth. Tilling, hoeing, hand pulling, mowing or mulching (mechanical methods) can be used to deal with weed problems. Herbicides are powerful tools, so they must be used with care. Herbicides can be one component of an integrated pest management (IPM) plan, not the only control method. Biological controls can be part of an IPM system, but they seldom eliminate the weed.

Prevention is the first line of defense to keep weeds from occurring or increasing in an area. Preventive techniques may include

- ✂ Education! Knowing how to identify weeds and being a good land steward will prevent weeds from entering your property.
- ✂ Planting high-quality, weed-free crops or grass seed.
- ✂ Laws, such as the Federal Seed Act and State of Idaho Noxious Weed Law, help stop weed problems before they start or spread.
- ✂ Keeping weeds from going to seed. This is particularly important for annual and biennial weeds which only reproduce by seeds. Perennials may reproduce in a variety of ways, including by seed, root stock, stolons or stem sections. Preventing weeds from reproducing reduces new weed infestations.
- ✂ Wash equipment and vehicles after use to prevent moving weeds to another location.



Cultural control methods improve desirable plant growth which helps them resist weed invasion. Some cultural methods are:

- ✂ Fertilization, which help desirable plants out-grow the weeds.
- ✂ Irrigation, or proper watering, enables vegetation to out-compete weeds.
- ✂ Planting seed to fill in a bare area will not allow weeds to grow.



Mechanical methods physically slow or kill weed growth. Mechanical weed control is the oldest and most often used method worldwide. Examples of mechanical control

- ✦ Tilling
- ✦ Hoeing
- ✦ Hand-pulling
- ✦ Mowing
- ✦ Burning
- ✦ Mulching



Biological control uses a living organism to slow weed growth. Often the organism is an insect, grazing animal or plant disease which is a natural enemy of the weed. Examples of biological control agents are

- ✦ Livestock, such as cattle, goats, sheep and llamas. However, improper livestock management (overgrazing) can be extremely damaging to the environment and make weed problems worse.
- ✦ Insects that chew various parts of a weed can damage or kill the plant over time. Usually the immature stage of the insect does the most damage. Insects may do damage to a plant by eating flower seed heads or leaves, tunneling in stems and boring into roots.
- ✦ Plant diseases, or pathogens, may also damage or kill weeds. Pathogens can be fungi, bacteria or viruses.



Chemical spraying involves herbicides, chemicals used to slow or kill weed growth. The first rule of using herbicides is to **READ THE LABEL** before using any pesticide and follow all directions and warnings.



BUGLOSS



Common Bugloss



Common Bugloss



Small Bugloss



Small Bugloss

BUGLOSS

Boraginaceae, the borage family

BUGLOSS, COMMON (*Anchusa officinalis*) A noxious weed in Kootenai County

- ✦ A **perennial** plant with a deep taproot. Spreads by seed.
- ✦ Grows 1 to 3 feet tall.
- ✦ Leaves and stalks are covered with bristly hairs that arise from warty bumps on the leaf surface.
- ✦ **Blue to purple** flowers are arranged along the ends of the tightly curled branch ends. The flower stem straightens as the flowers bloom. Flowers appear May through July.
- ✦ Prefers dry, sandy to gravelly soils. Often found in open pastures and roadsides.

BUGLOSS, SMALL (*Anchusa arvensis*)

- ✦ A weedy annual that spreads by seed.
- ✦ Grows 6 to 12 inches tall.
- ✦ Both leaves and stems appear rough and wrinkled and are covered with bristly hairs that arise from warty bumps.
- ✦ Leafy coiled flower stems bear small blue flowers June to September.
- ✦ Found in pastures, along roadsides, and cultivated fields.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: Spray before bloom with (dicamba + 2,4-D), (metsulfuron), or (chlorsulfuron). Fall application of these products to new rosettes (before a killing frost) gives good control. A surfactant is recommended to increase the effectiveness of any of the herbicides used.

Non-Chemical:

- ✦ Bugloss cannot withstand regular cultivation.
- ✦ Prevent seed production by cutting and destroying flowers. Plants may be pulled or roots dug out - take special care to sever the roots below the root crown.



READ THE LABEL - The Label is the law.

COMMON TANSY



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

COMMON TANSY

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

COMMON TANSY (*Tanacetum vulgare*) A noxious weed in Kootenai County

- ✦ A **perennial** plant that spreads by seed and root stalk.
- ✦ Grows to 6 feet tall.
- ✦ The leaves are **fern-like** and emit a **strong odor** when crushed.
- ✦ Clusters of **small yellow, button-like flowers** bloom from June until heavy frost.
- ✦ A problem in pastures, roadsides, abandoned property and along stream banks.

Note: Sheep and goats may graze young plants, although common tansy is not very palatable.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: Use (aminopyralid + metsulfuron), (metsulfuron), or (dicamba + 2,4-D) before the plants reach the bud stage. A fall treatment before a killing frost can also be effective if seed heads are removed.

Non-Chemical:

- ✦ Seed dispersal can be prevented by mowing or pulling plants before they bloom.
- ✦ Dig roots out or cultivate at regular intervals.



READ THE LABEL - The Label is the law.

HAWKWEED



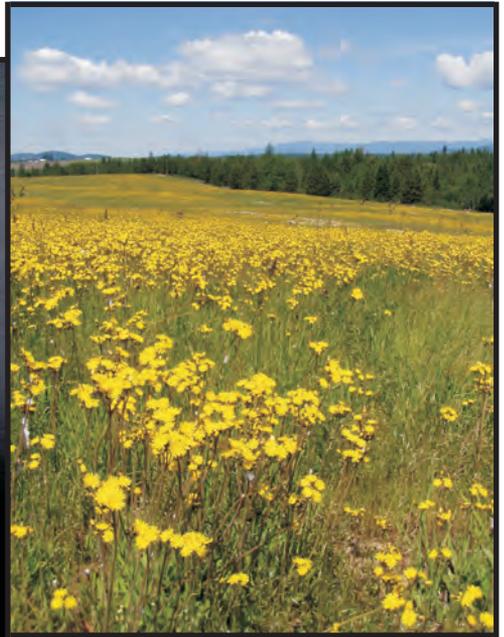
Orange Hawkweed



Hawkweed Rosette



Yellow Hawkweed



Field of Hawkweed

HAWKWEED

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

YELLOW (*Hieracium caespitosum*)

ORANGE (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)

✂ A **perennial** that spreads by root, above ground stolon and by feathery, airborne seeds.

✂ Grows 1 to 3 feet tall.

✂ The single stalk and leaves are hairy.

✂ Flowers are **yellow/orange**, look similar to a dandelion flower, but slightly smaller and in clusters. They bloom late May to mid June.

✂ Found in moist pastures, forest meadows, abandoned fields, clear cuts and roadsides.

Note: There are native hawkweeds that grow in our region. These hawkweeds are **not** invasive. If you are unsure, please call your Noxious Weed Control Office for assistance.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: Treat with (aminopyralid), (clopyralid + 2,4-D), (aminopyralid + metsulfuron), (clopyralid + triclopyr) or (2,4-D) before bloom.

Non-Chemical:

- Annual cultivation will control these weeds.
- Pasturelands must be healthy to recover from infestations and treatments, so fertilization is important.

Biological: There are no biological controls available in Idaho at this time. Hawkweeds are unpalatable, although sheep or goats may eat the plant.

HOARY ALYSSUM



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

HOARY ALYSSUM

Brassicaceae, the mustard family

HOARY ALYSSUM (*Berteroa icana*) ☠

- ✂ Can be an **annual**, biennial or short lived perennial that spreads by seed.
- ✂ Grows to 3 feet tall.
- ✂ The leaves are covered with fine, **whitish hairs** giving the plant a gray-green appearance.
- ✂ Clusters of **white flowers** appear May through September.
- ✂ This plant prefers dry, sandy soil and can be found in pastures, on road shoulders and along railroad tracts.

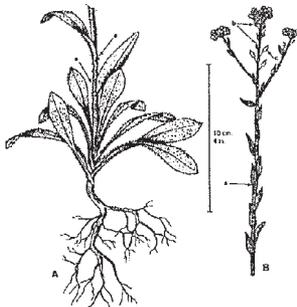
Caution: This plant can be toxic to horses. Consumption of large quantities can cause diarrhea, leading to dehydration, and can cause abortions in pregnant mares.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: (aminopyralid + metsulfuron), (dicamba + 2,4-D), (metsulfuron), and (chlorsulfuron) have shown acceptable control when applied individually. Applications are most effective when done during spring and fall. A surfactant is recommended to increase the effectiveness of any of the herbicides used.

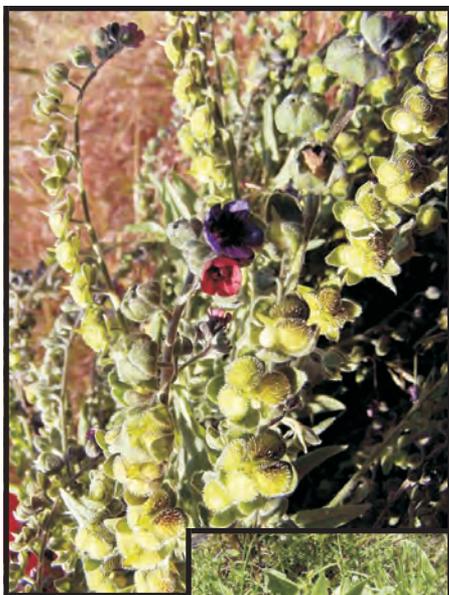
Non-Chemical:

- Hand pulling is effective on small infestations; plants should be pulled before they go to seed.
- Hoary alyssum can be mowed when the plants are in flower to help control seed production.



READ THE LABEL - The Label is the law.

HOUNDSTONGUE



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

HOUNDSTONGUE

Boraginaceae, the borage family

HOUNDSTONGUE (*Cynoglossum officinale*) ☠ The Velcro™-like seeds easily attach to animals and are then spread to new sites.

- ✂ A **biennial** plant that spreads by seed.
- ✂ Grows 1 to 4 feet tall the second year.
- ✂ Leaves are **hairy**, have distinct veins and are shaped like a hound's tongue.
- ✂ **Reddish-purple** flowers are small and develop a Velcro™-like seed that sticks to almost anything it touches.
- ✂ Found in pastures, disturbed areas and roadsides.

Caution: Houndstongue is toxic to animals. It contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids, causing liver cells to slowly die. Animals may live for six months or longer after consuming a lethal dose. Sheep are more resistant to houndstongue poisoning than are cattle or horses.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: Apply (aminopyralid), (aminopyralid + metsulfuron), or (metsulfuron) in early spring while plants are actively growing but before bloom stage. A surfactant is recommended to increase the effectiveness of any of the herbicides used.

Non-Chemical:

- Hand pulling can be done on small sites in the spring before the plants produce their seeds. Always wear gloves.
- Mowing will reduce seed production. Make sure to mow before the plant blooms.
- Pasturelands must be healthy to recover from infestations and treatments, so fertilization is important.



READ THE LABEL - The Label is the law.

KNAPWEEDS



Spotted Knapweed



Diffuse Knapweed



Meadow Knapweed



Knapweed Rosette

KNAPWEEDS

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

KNAPWEEDS ☠

SPOTTED (*Centaurea stoebe*)

- ✂ A perennial plant that spreads by seed.
- ✂ Grows 3 to 5 feet tall.
- ✂ **Pink to purple flowers** and blooms from June to October.
- ✂ Each flower head has stiff bracts, which are **black tipped**, giving the flower head its 'spotted' appearance.
- ✂ Found on any disturbed site and thrives under a wide range of environmental conditions.

OTHER K NAPWEEDS OF CONCERN:

DIFFUSE K NAPWEED (*Centaurea diffusa*) Sometimes called tumble knapweed, it is spread by the tumbling of windblown mature plants.

MEADOW K NAPWEED (*Centaurea pratensis*) Flowers are large pink to purplish-red heads at the end of the branches.

Caution: Animals will not typically graze the plant due to the unpleasant taste. Horses may develop brain, respiratory, or liver damage due to carcinogenic compounds.

CONTROL METHODS

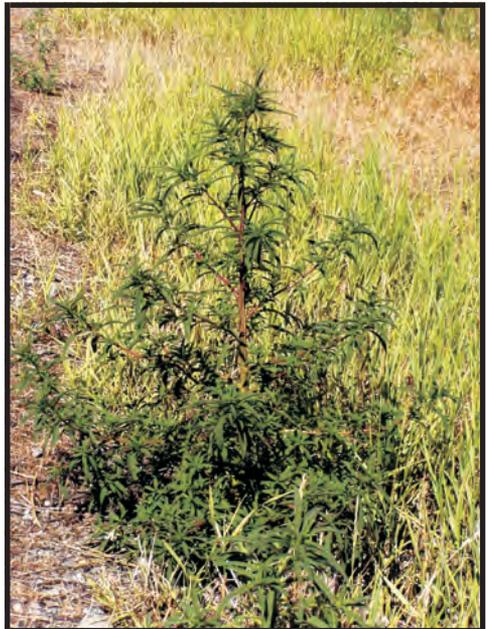
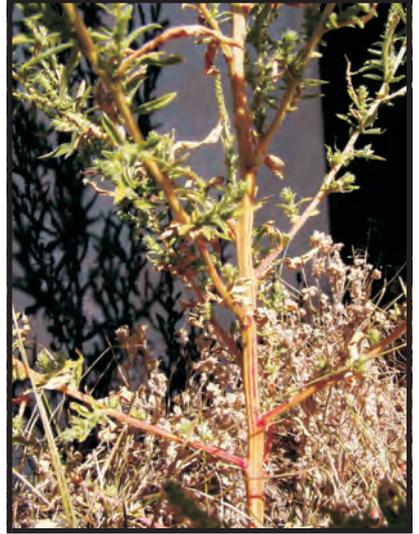
Chemical: Spray with (aminopyralid), (clopyralid + 2,4-D), (clopyralid + triclopyr) or (2,4-D) in the spring when the plant is actively growing but before flower heads form. In the fall, spray newly emerging rosettes before a killing frost.

Non-Chemical:

- Mowing or cutting plants will produce low-growing flowers, although the potential seed production is reduced.
- Knapweed does not survive cultivation at regular intervals.
- The plant may be pulled (**be sure to wear gloves**) to remove most of the taproot; it is easiest after a soaking rain.

Biological: Biological control agents are available for this plant and may already be present in North Idaho infestations including seed head flies, weevils and moths and root feeding weevils.

KOCHIA



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

KOCHIA

Chenopodiaceae, the goosefoot family

KOCHIA (*Kochia scoparia*) This plant breaks off and becomes a tumbleweed as it dies in the fall. A noxious weed in Kootenai County.

- ✂ A bush-like **annual** that spreads by seed.
- ✂ Grows 1 to 6 feet tall depending on growing conditions.
- ✂ Leaves turn purplish-red as the plant ages.
- ✂ **Small green flowers** produce up to 14,000 seeds per plant.
- ✂ This drought tolerant plant can be found along roadsides and other dry areas.
- ✂ Also known as: Mexican Fire Weed.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: (aminopyralid + metsulfuron), (chlorsulfuron), (dicamba + 2,4-D), or (triclopyr + 2,4-D) can be effective when the plants are very small. As the plant ages, it becomes resistant to chemical treatment.

Non-Chemical:

- Pulling the plant can be effective in small areas.
- Mowing will prevent seed production and spread.
- Tilling several times per season will reduce seed production.

LARGE KNOTWEEDS



Giant



Giant



Japanese



Bohemian



Bohemian

LARGE KNOTWEEDS

Polygonaceae, the buckwheat family

Because of knotweeds extensive root system, once this weed is established it is difficult to control.

- ✂️ Woody, upright **perennial** that spreads from long creeping roots and stem pieces.
- ✂️ Found along roadsides, ditch banks, waste areas and pastures.
- ✂️ Grows from 4 to 9 feet tall.
- ✂️ **Bamboo-like stems** are green with **red or purple** spots.
- ✂️ Small **greenish-white flowers** in early autumn.

➤ **JAPANESE KNOTWEED** (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

- Small, greenish-white to cream colored drooping flower clusters appear at the end of stems and in leaf axils.

➤ **GIANT KNOTWEED** (*Polygonum sachalinense*)

- Distinguished by large heart-shaped leaves up to 12 inches long.

➤ **BOHEMIAN KNOTWEED** (*Polygonum X bohemicum*)

- A hybrid of Japanese and giant knotweed.
- Greenish-white to cream upright flower clusters.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: (triclopyr), (imazapyr) or (dicamba) can be applied when the knotweeds are actively growing and have reached the bud to early flowering stage of growth.

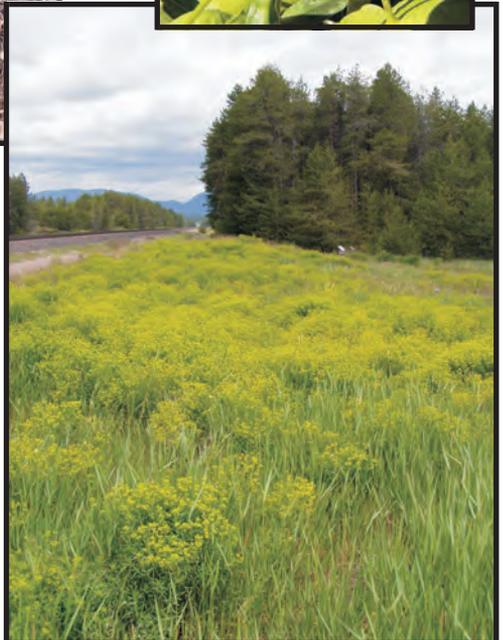
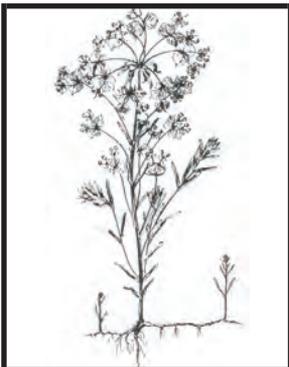
Non- Chemical:

- Never transplant pieces of knotweed into your home landscape.
- Digging is a good option when the plant is small.
- Cutting it back to the ground at least twice a month during the growing season for several years may control it. It is best to remove, rake or carefully dry all knotweed vegetation you cut because stems or stem fragments can sprout creating new plants.



READ THE LABEL - The Label is the law.

LEAFY SPURGE



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

LEAFY SPURGE

Euphorbiaceae, the spurge family

LEAFY SPURGE (*Euphorbia esula*) ☠

- ✂ An aggressive **perennial** that spreads by rootstalks and seeds.
- ✂ Grows 1 to 3 feet tall.
- ✂ Narrow **bluish-green** leaves are up to 4 inches long.
- ✂ Flowers are small and enclosed by **yellowish-green, heart-shaped bracts** and bloom from May into the fall.
- ✂ Stems, leaves and flowers contain a **toxic milky latex sap**.
- ✂ It can be found in any type of soil and is commonly found in rangeland, pastures, roadsides, waste areas and wetland sites.

Caution: Horses and cattle should not graze the plants; the toxic sap causes blisters or ulcerations.

CONTROL METHODS

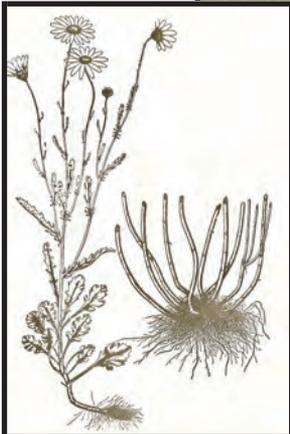
Chemical: (picloram) applied in late spring or fall will give season-long suppression of leafy spurge. (2,4-D), (dicamba + 2,4-D) or (triclopyr + 2,4-D) will provide some control, but must be applied 2 to 4 times each growing season.

Non-Chemical:

- **Fertilization** and pasture health are extremely important.
- **Mow and pull** to prevent seed production. The sap of leafy spurge is **toxic**; skin and eye protection are needed when handling this plant.
- **DO NOT CULTIVATE;** new plants can begin from the cut root segments.

Biological: Several insect biological control agents are available for this plant and may be present in North Idaho infestations including flea beetles whose adults feed on leaves and flowers and the larvae feed on root hairs or roots. Sheep, goats, and hogs will graze leafy spurge. It is not only satisfactory forage for these animals, but they actually prefer it. Constant grazing slows the weed's spread and starves out the root system.

OXEYE DAISY



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

OXEYE DAISY

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

OXEYE DAISY (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

- ✂ A short-lived **perennial** that spreads from seeds (2,000 to 4,000 per plant) and from the spreading roots.
- ✂ Grows 1 to 3 feet tall.
- ✂ The **glossy green** leaves get smaller as they grow up the stem.
- ✂ Daisy-like flowers are made up of **white petals** with a golden center and blooms appear June through September.
- ✂ Likes to grow in abandoned meadows and overgrazed pastures.

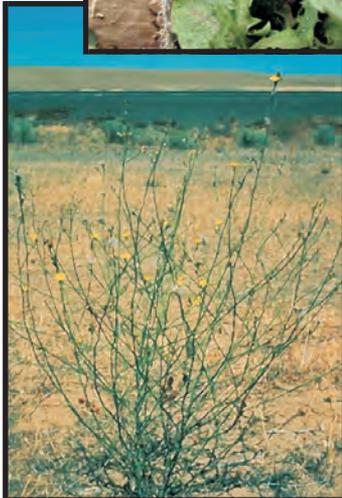
CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: (aminopyralid), (metsulfuron) or (clopyralid + 2,4-D) are effective before bloom.

Non-Chemical:

- Dig plants when the soil is moist.
- Grazing - sheep, goats and horses may eat oxeye daisy.
- Applications of nitrogen fertilizer are effective in encouraging strong grass growth leaving no room for oxeye daisy seeds to germinate.

RUSH SKELETONWEED



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

RUSH SKELETONWEED

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

RUSH SKELETONWEED (*Chondrilla juncea*)

- ✠ A **perennial** which spreads primarily by seed, but also by creeping roots.
- ✠ Grows 1 to 4 feet tall.
- ✠ Leaves at the base look like a dandelion rosette. Stems are bare, except the lower 4 to 6 inches which is covered with **coarse brown hairs**. Stems and leaves produce a **milky latex juice**.
- ✠ Flower heads are **yellow** and scattered among the branches.
- ✠ Found in disturbed areas.

CONTROL METHODS

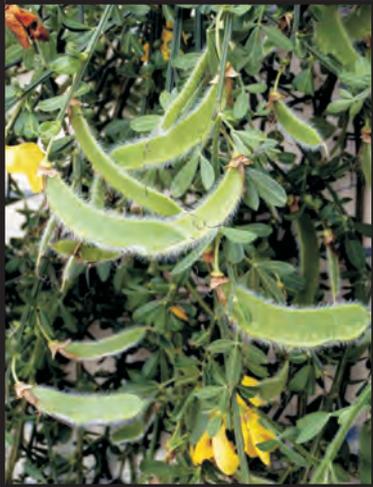
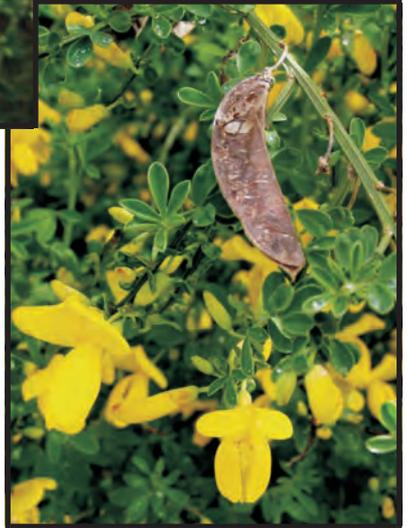
Chemical: Spray with (aminopyralid), (aminopyralid + metsulfuron), (metsulfuron) or (clopyralid + triclopyr) preferably to rosettes in spring or fall.

Non-Chemical:

- Constant hand pulling or digging two to three times per year for 6 to 10 years can be effective for small infestations.
- Mowing and cultivation are ineffective; mowing does not prevent root spread and cultivation actually spreads root fragments.
- High nitrogen fertilizer assists in minimizing the effects of rush skeletonweed.
- Competitive legume plantings, such as alfalfa, may reduce rush skeletonweed through increased soil fertility and competition for soil moisture, as well as shading the rush skeletonweed plants.

Biological: Control agents may already be present in North Idaho infestations including the skeletonweed gall midge, which feed on leaves and stems. The skeleton gall mites feed on auxiliary and terminal buds. Rush skeletonweed rust attacks the leaves, stems, buds, and flowers of these plants. Continuous moderate grazing by sheep can reduce densities.

SCOTCH BROOM



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

SCOTCH BROOM

Fabaceae, the pea family

SCOTCH BROOM (*Cytisus scoparius*) ☠

- ✦ A **perennial** shrub that spreads by seed. It has an average life span of 17 years.
- ✦ Grows to 10 feet tall.
- ✦ Stems are erect, woody, **green to brownish green and five-angled**. Leaves are small (1/2 inch) and fall off in times of stress.
- ✦ Pea-like flowers are **bright yellow** and bloom in June.
- ✦ Found in pastures, waterways and along roadsides.

Caution: Goats will browse the plants with no ill effect; however, it has been reported as toxic to other livestock.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: Spray with (triclopyr), (aminopyralid + triclopyr), or (triclopyr + 2,4-D) any time the plants are actively growing. Basal bark application is an effective control method.

Non-Chemical:

- Plant crowns can be dug out.
- Repeated cultivation will destroy seedlings.
- Mowing and burning are not effective.

Biological: Biological control agents are available for this plant and may already be present in North Idaho infestations including the gorse or broom tip moth, Scotch broom seed weevil and the Scotch broom twig miner.

TANSY RAGWORT



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

TANSY RAGWORT

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

TANSY RAGWORT (*Senecio jacobaea*) ☠

- ✂ A **biennial** or short-lived perennial that spreads from fleshy **root fragments** and by **seed**.
- ✂ Grows 1 to 6 feet tall.
- ✂ Leaves are **dark green** on top and a **whitish-green** underneath and have a **ruffled** look.
- ✂ Numerous flowering stems on each branch, showy **bright yellow**, daisy-like flowers appear at the ends of each stem.
- ✂ Thrives in low-fertility soils, disturbed areas, forests and overgrazed pastures. Tansy ragwort can grow in sun or shade.

Caution: This weed is toxic to livestock, causing irreversible liver damage.

CONTROL METHODS

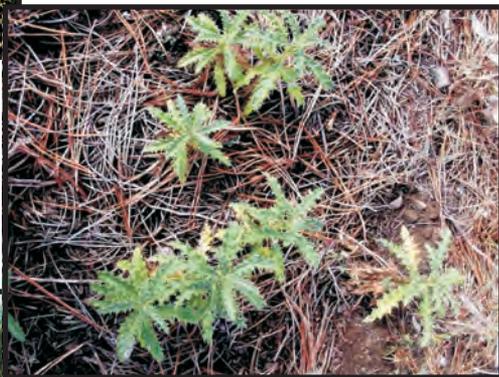
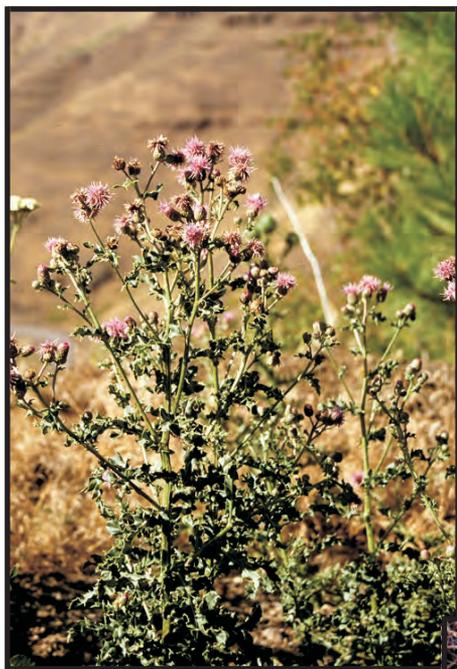
Chemical: Spraying should be done in the spring before the flowers appear and in the fall to new rosettes. Effective herbicides include (2,4-D), (aminopyralid), (dicamba + 2,4-D) or (triclopyr + 2,4-D).

Non-Chemical:

- Cultivation is moderately effective if done repeatedly through the season.
- Hand pulling is effective before flowering; plants need to be removed from the site. Gloves should be worn because of lasting odor of plants.

Biological: Biological control agents are available for this plant and may already be present in North Idaho infestations including the ragwort flea beetle and the Cinnabar moth. Animals should not be allowed to graze the plant.

THISTLE, CANADA



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

THISTLE, CANADA

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

THISTLE, CANADA (*Cirsium arvense*)

- ✦ A **perennial** that spreads by horizontal roots and by seed. Each plant is capable of producing more than 40,000 wind-borne seeds.
- ✦ Grows 1 to 5 feet tall.
- ✦ **Hollow stems** branch near the top. Leaves are wavy, **dark green** and shiny with sharp spines.
- ✦ Flowers are **light lavender** to **rose-purple** and bloom June through August.
- ✦ Can be found in cultivated fields, meadows, pastures and waste areas.

CONTROL METHODS

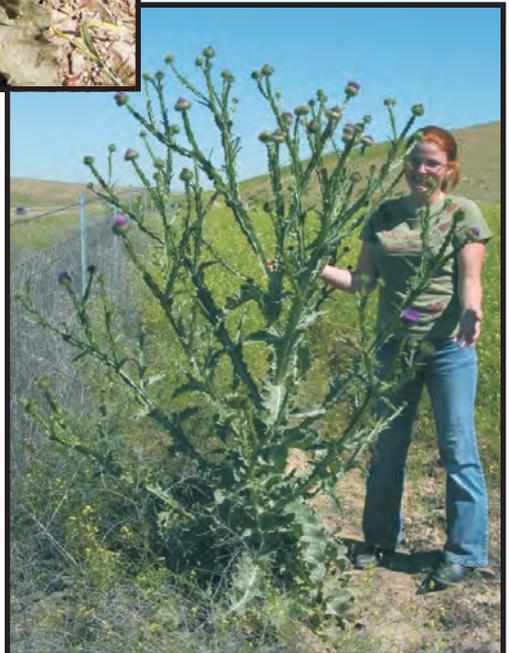
Chemical: Spray while plants are actively growing but before development of buds with (clopyralid + triclopyr), (aminopyralid), (clopyralid + 2,4-D) or (dicamba). Fall application to green leaves before a killing frost gives good control.

Non-Chemical:

- Cultivation should occur every 10 days through the growing season for two years. Remove flower heads to prevent seed production.
- Tilling or mowing will stress Canada thistle and force it to draw upon stored root nutrients. The key to control perennials is to exhaust stored up nutrients in the roots, regardless of the control procedure used.
- Improve fertility to favor grass or other desirable plant growth.

Biological: Biological control agents are available for this plant and may already be present in North Idaho infestations including a stem weevil, a bud weevil and a stem gallfly. Most animals will not graze thistles, although some will occasionally consume flower heads.

THISTLE, SCOTCH



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

THISTLE, SCOTCH

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

THISTLE, SCOTCH (*Onopordum acanthium*)

Also known as cotton thistle.

- ✂ A **biennial** that has a thick, fleshy taproot that may extend down 1 foot or more. Scotch thistle reproduces only by seed.
- ✂ Grows to 12 feet tall
- ✂ Leaves are large (up to 2 feet long and 1 foot wide), spiny, and covered on both sides with fine woolly hairs, giving the plant a **silvery-gray look**.
- ✂ **Purple** flowers appear July through September.
- ✂ Thrives in sunny, moist areas along rivers and streams but can also be found in pastures, fields, and along roadsides. It prefers light, well-drained, sandy or stony soils.

CONTROL METHODS

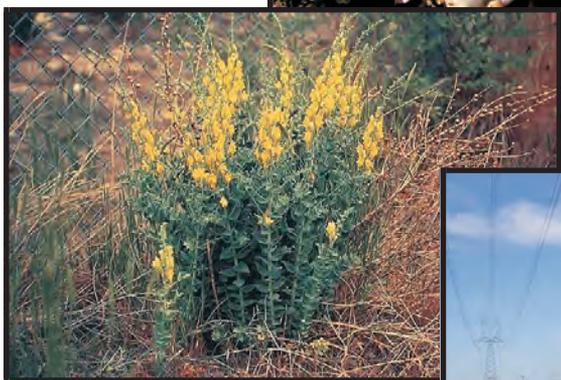
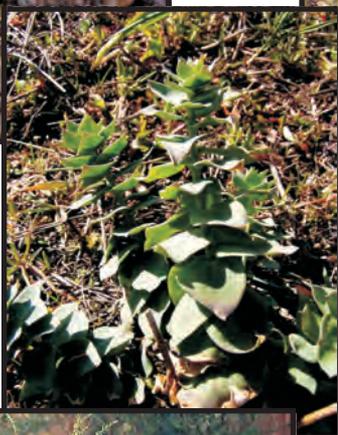
Chemical: Spray with (aminopyralid), (dicamba), (clopyralid + triclopyr), or (clopyralid + 2,4-D) in the spring before flower stalks lengthen or in the fall on rosettes.

Non-Chemical: This thistle is biennial. The key to successful management is to prevent seed formation.

- Digging up or tilling the rosettes are effective methods, however, it is important to remove the entire crown.
- Mowing is not a good option and may actually add a year to their life span.
- Plants that are cut or pulled while flowering must be removed from the site to prevent the seeds from reintroducing new plants.
- Fertilize pastures to keep them in optimum condition so grasses can compete.

Biological: Biological control agents are available for this plant and may already be present in North Idaho infestations including the thistle seed head weevil. Most animals will not graze thistles, although some will occasionally consume flower heads.

TOADFLAX, DALMATIAN



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

TOADFLAX, DALMATIAN

Scrophulariaceae, the figwort family

TOADFLAX, DALMATIAN (*Linaria dalmatica*) ☠

- ✂ A perennial plant that spreads by **creeping roots** and by **seed**.
- ✂ Grows to 4 feet tall.
- ✂ Leaves are **thick and waxy**, have no stems and are **blue-green**.
- ✂ The **yellow snapdragon-like flowers** are often tinged with orange or red and are located along the flower spikes at the top of the plant. Plants flower from midsummer to fall.
- ✂ An aggressive weed of pastures, roadsides and abandoned lots.

Caution: Toadflaxes contain cyanogenic glucosides which can cause cyanide poisoning if grazed, although large amounts must be ingested in a short period of time.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: (metsulfuron), (dicamba), (picloram), or (chlorsulfuron) gives control when applied before bloom.

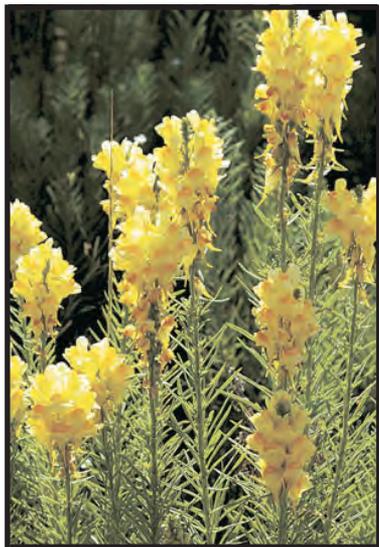
Non-Chemical:

- Cultivation at 10-day intervals can be a viable control method.
- Small infestations can be pulled and the root systems dug out.

Biological: Biological control agents are available for this plant and may already be present in North Idaho infestations including the toadflax flower-feeding beetle; the defoliating toadflax moth; the toadflax capsule weevil and the toadflax stem mining weevil.



TOADFLAX, YELLOW



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

TOADFLAX, YELLOW

Scrophulariaceae, the figwort family

TOADFLAX, YELLOW (*Linaria vulgaris*) ☠

- ✦ A **perennial** plant that spreads by **creeping roots** and by **seed**.
- ✦ Grows to 3 feet tall.
- ✦ Leaves are **long, narrow** and **pale green** in color.
- ✦ **Snapdragon-like flowers** are **yellow** with an orange throat, clustered at the top of the stem. The plant flowers June through August.
- ✦ An aggressive weed of pastures and roadsides.

Caution: The toadflaxes contain cyanogenic glucosides which can cause cyanide poisoning if grazed, although large amounts must be ingested in a short period of time.

CONTROL METHODS

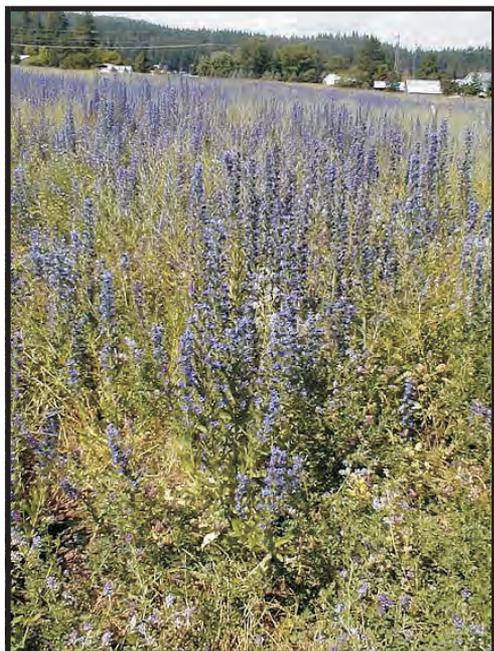
Chemical: (metsulfuron), (dicamba), (picloram), or (chlorsulfuron) gives good control when applied before bloom.

Non-Chemical:

- Cultivation at 10-day intervals can be a viable control method.
- Small infestations can be pulled and the root systems dug out.

Biological: Biological control agents are available for this plant and may already be present in North Idaho infestations including the toadflax flower-feeding beetle, the toadflax moth and the toadflax capsule weevil.

VIPER'S BUGLOSS



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

VIPER'S BUGLOSS

Boraginaceae, the borage family

VIPER'S BUGLOSS (*Echium vulgare*) ☠

Also known as blueweed.

- ✦ A **biennial** plant with a thick, black taproot that spreads by seed. Each plant may produce up to 2,800 seeds.
- ✦ Grows to 5 feet tall.
- ✦ The leaves and stems are covered with **stiff hairs**.
- ✦ **Bright blue flowers** with hot pink-colored stamens bloom June to September.
- ✦ Grows best in open meadows, overgrazed pastures and poorly drained slopes and roadsides.

Caution: Animals will normally not graze the plant; chronic ingestion (whether fresh or in hay) can cause liver failure in horses, cattle and sheep.

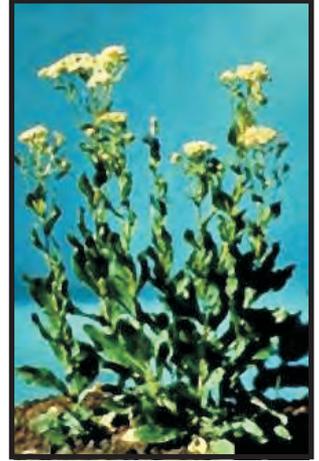
CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: Spray before bloom with (dicamba + 2,4-D), (metsulfuron), or glyphosate. Fall application of these products to new rosettes (before a killing frost) provides good control. A surfactant is recommended to increase the effectiveness of any of the herbicides used.

Non-Chemical:

- Blueweed cannot withstand regular cultivation.
- Prevent seed production by cutting and destroying flowers; roots will die out after the second season.
- Plants may be pulled or roots dug out - take special care to sever the roots below the root crown.
- Mowing is not a good control option because taproots are still viable and regrowth usually occurs.

WHITETOP



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

WHITETOP

Brassicaceae, the mustard family

WHITETOP (*Cardaria draba*) ☠

Also known as hoary cress and pepperwort.

- ✂ A **perennial** plant spreading both by **seed** and **creeping roots**.
- ✂ Grows 3 feet tall.
- ✂ **Grayish green** leaves are arrow-head shaped and clasp the stem.
- ✂ **White** flowers bloom in April and May and grow in dense clusters.
- ✂ Seed pods are **heart-shaped**.
- ✂ Grows in cultivated fields, pastures, waste areas and roadsides.

Caution: Hoary cress, as with all mustards, can cause stomach problems in all class of animals.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: Spray with (metsulfuron), (chlorsulfuron), or (2,4-D), in the spring prior to bloom. (metsulfuron), or (chlorsulfuron) may be applied in the fall to rosettes.

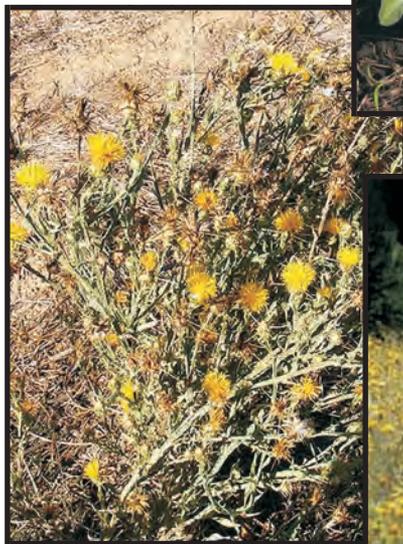
Non-Chemical:

- Cultivating will eventually eliminate this weed if repeated within 10 days of weed emergence.
- Close mowing will reduce seed production.
- Roots may be dug out.
- Competitive crops will assist in suppressing hoary cress.



READ THE LABEL - The Label is the law.

YELLOW STARTHISTLE



SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

YELLOW STARHISTLE

Asteraceae, the sunflower family

YELLOW STARHISTLE (*Centaurea solstitialis*) ☠

- ✂ An **annual** that reproduces by seed.
- ✂ Grows 2 to 3 feet tall.
- ✂ Very rigid branches covered with fine, soft hairs.
- ✂ Flower heads are **yellow**, located singly on the ends of branches and armed with outwardly pointed **stiff yellow spines** up to 1 inch long.
- ✂ Found along roadsides and in waste areas.

Caution: Plant causes "chewing disease" in horses and may also cause liver and brain damage due to carcinogenic compounds.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: Spray in the rosette stage or before bud formation with (aminopyralid), (aminopyralid + metsulfuron), (clopyralid + triclopyr), or (clopyralid + 2,4-D).

Non-Chemical:

- It is possible to control small infestations by hand pulling and cultivation. This weed is difficult to handle, so good gloves and tools will make this task easier.
- Mowing can help stop seed spread over a wide area, but it usually has a negative effect. When mowed, yellow starthistle becomes denser.

Biological: Biological control agents are available for this plant and may already be present in North Idaho infestations including the yellow starthistle bud weevil, the yellow starthistle peacock fly, the yellow starthistle hairy weevil, the yellow starthistle flower weevil and the yellow starthistle gall flies.



READ THE LABEL - The Label is the law.

WATERWEEDS, SUBMERGED

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Haloragaceae, the watermilfoil family

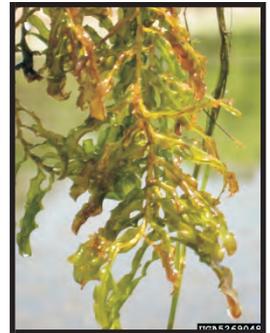
An aquatic, underwater plant that can be confused with native milfoils. The time to identify Eurasian watermilfoil is mid-June through September.



- ✂ A **perennial** plant that grows 35 feet, creating mats of floating vegetation. It reproduces by **roots, seed and fragment** (the fragmentation occurs in late summer and fall).
- ✂ Leaves are **feather-like** and tend to collapse around stem if removed from the water (native milfoil leaves do not collapse when removed from the water).
- ✂ Small flowers appear on leafless, **reddish spikes** that stand above the water surface by a few inches.
- ✂ Found in water shallower than 25 feet deep, depending upon light penetration.

CURLYLEAF PONDWEED (*Potamogeton crispus*) Potamogetonaceae, the pondweed family

- ✂ Introduced as an aquarium plant.
- ✂ A **perennial** plant that starts to grow in early spring and usually dies back in midsummer.
- ✂ The leaves are **reddish-green**, oblong, and about 3 inches long, with distinct **wavy edges**. The stems are flat, reddish-brown and grow from 1 to 3 feet long.



CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: Chemical control is limited to herbicides labeled for aquatic use. Report any suspected infestation in a public waterway to your County Noxious Weed Department. **Aquatic herbicides can only be applied to public waterways by government agencies with permits.**

Non-Chemical:

- All water weeds can be raked, pulled or cut and disposed of on dry land.

Biological: No effective biological control is available at this time.

SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

WATERWEEDS, MARGINAL

Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) Butomaceae, the flowering rush family.

- ✂ Aquatic perennial; emerged or submersed plants grow to 5 feet tall and form dense stands. It was brought in as an ornamental.
- ✂ **Roots** are thick, fleshy and has fleshy rhizomes. Leaves are triangular in cross section and up to 40 inches long.
- ✂ **Pink** flowers with 3 sepals and 3 petals; arranged in umbels.
- ✂ Likes to grow in permanently to seasonally flooded areas; survives in water up to 20 feet deep.



Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) Poaceae, the grass family

- ✂ Perennial, warm-season grass from 6 to 15 foot tall.
- ✂ **Fibrous roots**; rhizomes more than 0.6 inch in diameter. Leaves are flat, hairless and 6 inches to 2 feet in length and 0.4 -2.4 inches wide.
- ✂ Flowers are tawny-colored **spikelets** with tufts of silky hairs.
- ✂ Likes to grow in wet areas, often seasonally flooded.



CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: Chemical control is limited to herbicides labeled for aquatic use. Report any suspected infestation in a public waterway to your County Noxious Weed Department. **Aquatic herbicides can only be applied to public waterways by government agencies with permits.**

Non-Chemical:

- All water weeds can be raked, pulled or cut and disposed of on dry land.

WATERWEEDS, MARGINAL

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) Lythraceae, the loosestrife family

- ✂ This plant is often mistaken for fireweed or pink spirea.
- ✂ Roots are spreading rhizomes. Leaves are lance-shaped with smooth margins.
- ✂ Flowers are bright pinkish-purple spikes.
- ✂ Likes to grow in wetlands, streambanks, canals, ditches and pond edges.



Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) Iridaceae, the iris family

- ✂ Brought in as an ornamental
- ✂ Roots are stout rhizomes 0.25 -1.5 inches in diameter. Basal leaves are erect and upper part arches; leaves are flattened and 3-4 feet long.
- ✂ Large, pale to deep yellow flowers have 3 large sepals that look like petals and 3 small petals; on stalks up to 4 feet high with several flowers per stalk.
- ✂ Likes to grow in wetlands, edges of ponds, irrigation ditches and slow moving streams up to 10 inches deep.



CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: Chemical control is limited to herbicides labeled for aquatic use. Report any suspected infestation in a public waterway to your County Noxious Weed Department. **Aquatic herbicides can only be applied to public waterways by government agencies with permits.**

Non-Chemical:

- Plant crowns can be dug out.
- Repeated cultivation will destroy seedlings.

Biological: Only purple loosestrife has biological control agents available including the black-marginal loosestrife beetle and the golden loosestrife beetle. Both feed on the buds and the foliage, while the loosestrife root weevil larvae feed on roots, the adults on the foliage. The blunt loosestrife seed weevil reduces seed production and the loosestrife seed weevil feeds on unopened flower buds.

SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

WEEDS OF CONCERN

In addition to the noxious weeds in our region, there are a few additional weeds that the County Weed Superintendents encourage landowners to look for and control if they find them.

- St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- White Bryony (*Bryonia alba*)
- Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*)
- Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)



St. Johnswort



White Bryony



Poison Hemlock



Puncturevine

TOXIC PLANTS

Most poisonous plants have an unpleasant taste that animals avoid if they have other food to eat. Ensure that your animals have plenty of hay and/or healthy pasture to graze. If you suspect a poisoning, call a veterinarian as quickly as possible.

Toxic in Hay:

Dogbane	Nightshades
Fiddleneck	Poison or Water hemlocks
Field Horsetail	Red/Alsike clover (for horses)
Jimsonweed	Russian knapweed
Johnsongrass	Spurges
Milkweeds	Sweetclover (if moldy)
Mustards	Yellow starthistle

Toxic Range Plants:

Arrowgrass	Kochia
Bouncingbet	Larkspurs
Brackenfern	Locoweeds
Buttercups	Lupine
Chokecherry	Monkshood
Curly dock	Ponderosa pine
Death camas	Puncturevine
False hellebore	Tall fescue
Halogeton	Wild Onion

Websites with pictures and more information:

www.spokanecounty.org/weedboard

www.horseforcleanwater.com

www.ansci.cornell.edu

www.mtwow.org

www.vet.purdeu.edu

IDAHO WEED LAW

IDAHO STATUTE TITLE 22, CHAPTER 24 NOXIOUS WEEDS

- **What is the purpose of the Idaho Noxious Weed Law?** The purpose of the Idaho Noxious Weed Law is to protect lands within the state from invasion by noxious weeds.



- **What does the law require?** The Idaho Noxious Weed Law requires landowners to eradicate noxious weeds on their land.

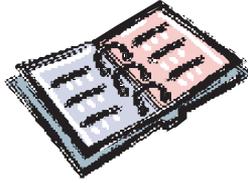
Legally, eradication means: the elimination of a noxious weed based on the observation that the weed is no longer in the area during the growing season (even though weed seeds will last much longer in the area).

A provision of the law is that the counties are required to enforce that weed law, and the State of Idaho is required to ensure that counties do so. The Idaho Noxious Weed Law has many other provisions.

The law may be found in the Idaho Code, available at libraries, city and county courthouses, from county weed superintendents, and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture website:

www.agri.state.id.us/Categories/LawsRules/sub_laws/lawstitle22.php.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



active ingredient - in an herbicide, the chemical that effectively controls or kills a weed.

alternate – leaves that are arranged singly up the stem, not opposite each other.

annual - a plant that completes its life cycle in one year.

aquatic weed - a weed that grows in the water or on the edge of soils that are next to water, for example, weeds on a riverbank.

axil - the angle formed between a leaf and a stem.

basal - at the base of a plant.

biennial - a plant that completes its life cycle in two years.

bract - leaflike structure at the base of flowers or leaves.

clasping leaves - leaves that appear to wrap at the leaf base around the stem.

contact herbicide - chemical that affects just the part of the weed that is sprayed.

disk flower - tiny flowers in the central portion of flower head of certain composite plants, such as daisy.

dissected - deeply and repeatedly divided into smaller parts.

elliptic - narrowly oval, broadest at the middle and narrower at the two ends.

eradication -the elimination of a noxious weed based on the observation that it is no longer in the area during the growing season.

fragmentation - a part broken off or detached. Some weeds break into sections and those pieces can grow into more weeds.

inert ingredient -in an herbicide, the carrier or substance that contains the active ingredient, for example clay, oil or water.

inflorescence - a group or cluster of flowers arranged on the stem; a flower cluster.

lanceolate - lance-shaped; much longer than wide.

SEE CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PAGE 57

lobed - leaf cut into shallow segments.

nodding - a flower that is not pointed upward, bent sidewise to the stem.

non-selective herbicide - chemical that will control or kill any green, living plants.

opposite - leaves situated directly across the stem from each other.

ovate - egg-shape in outline.

perennial - a plant that lives more than two years.

plant competition - when many different grasses and weeds live in a particular area, they all struggle for room, food and water.

pubescence - the hairs on a leaf, stem, or flower.

ray flower - flower at the edge of a flower head of certain composite plants, such as the daisy; each ray flower resembles a single petal.

rhizome - an underground, creeping stem that resembles a root.

rosette - compact cluster of early leaves of a plant, before flower formation.

RTU - ready to use.

selective herbicide - chemical control that will only effect a particular plant or weed, not all plants.

spines - a sharp pointed modified leaf.

spreader-sticker - see 'surfactant'.

stamens - flower structure in which pollen forms.

stolon - a creeping, above ground stem.

surfactant - a material, that when added to herbicide can improve the spreading/sticking properties of the liquid or slow evaporation.

systemic herbicide - chemical that controls or kills a weed by being absorbed through the plants system (leaves or roots).

taproot - a thick, central root with minimal branching.

whorled - 3 or more leaves from a single node on a stem.

winged stem - a flattened out, 'wing like' structure of plant tissue that surrounds a plant stem.

winter annual - an annual that germinates in the fall and completes its life the following year.

DIRECTORY OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

County Weed Control Offices:

- Benewah County Noxious Weed Control (208) 245-2234
carlrichel@hotmail.com
- Bonner County Noxious Weed Control. (208) 255-5681
1500 Hwy 2, Ste 101, Sandpoint, ID 83864
bbluemer@co.bonner.id.us
- Boundary County Noxious Weed Control (208) 267-5341
PO Box 267, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
tguthrie@boundarycountyid.org
- Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control (208) 446-1290
10905 N Ramsey Road, Hayden, ID 83835
kcnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us
www.kcweeds.com
- Latah County Noxious Weed Control (208) 882-7210
220 E. Fifth Street Rm 339, Moscow ID 83843
amarinson@latah.id.us
- Shoshone County Noxious Weed Control (208) 753-5475
700 Bank St. Ste 35, Wallace ID 83873
cyoung@co.shoshone.id.us
www.shoshoneweeds.org

Agriculture and Natural Resource Conservation, Water Quality, Forestry and the Farm Program:

- Rural Development Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Kootenai-Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District (KSSWCD) (208) 762-4939
- Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District (208) 263-5310
- Idaho Department of Lands, Bonners Ferry (208) 267-5577
- Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene (208) 769-1577
- Idaho Department of Lands, Deary. (208) 877-1121
- Idaho Department of Lands, Kingston (208) 282-4611
- Idaho Department of Lands, Sandpoint (208) 263-5104
- Idaho Department of Lands, St. Maries (208) 245-4551
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Coeur d'Alene (208) 769-1422
- Lewiston (208) 799-4370

- U of I / Benewah County Extension Office (208) 245-2422
- U of I / Bonner County Extension Office (208) 263-8511
- U of I / Boundary County Extension Office (208) 267-3235
- U of I / Kootenai/Shoshone Extension Office (208) 446-1680
- U of I / Latah County Extension Office (208) 883-7161

Pesticide Licensing and Education:

Idaho Department of Agriculture . . . (208) 762-9586 Or (208) 762-9598
<http://www.idahoag.us/index.php>

Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Program:

Noxious Weeds Program Specialist (208) 332-8528
www.agri.idaho.gov/

Idaho State Weed Law:

Idaho Noxious Weeds Program (208) 332-8667
www.agri.state.id.us/Categories/LawsRules/sub_laws/lawstitle22.php

CHEMICAL SUGGESTIONS

This noxious weed handbook does not recommend any product or company.

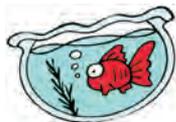
All brand names listed are for resource purposes only.

CHEMICAL	NON-CROP LANDS	HOME LANDSCAPES
2, 4-D	Hi-Dep® and other generic brands	Hi-Dep®
2, 4-D + dicamba	Weedmaster® Range Star® Brash®	Weed-B-Gon Weed Killer®, Weed Stop 2X®, Turf Plus 2®, Lawn Weed Killer®
2, 4-D + clopyralid	Curtail® Commando®	
Aminopyralid	Milestone	
Aminopyralid+ metsulfuron	Opensight®	
Aminopyralid+ triclopyr	Capstone®	
Picloram	Tordon RTU®, Tordon 22K® (restricted use)	
Glyphosate	Roundup® and other generic brands	Roundup®, and other generic brands
Clopyralid	Stinger®, Transline®	
Dicamba	Banvel®, Vanquish®	
Chlorsulfuron	Telar®	
Metsulfuron	Escort® and other generic brands	
Imazapyr	Arsenal®, Habitat® and other generic brands	
Triclopyr	Garlon 3A® Garlon 4® and others	Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover & Oxalis®, Ortho Max Poison Ivy/Brush Killer®, Blackberry-Brush Killer®
Triclopyr + Clopyralid	Brazen®, Prescott®	Confront®
Triclopyr + 2, 4-D	Crossbow®	



Always power wash heavy machinery, i.e. mowers, tractors, excavators to remove weed seeds/parts before moving to other sites.

Don't dump aquarium plants or fish in our waterways!



Check camping/hunting gear for weed seeds/parts, before you leave camp site!

Always clean boats and trailers of all plant parts before leaving the boat launch.



Before buying/donating plants and seeds at garden club plant sales: be sure you're **not sharing** noxious weeds!

Always **Use** Noxious Weed Free Forage on Federal lands to stop the spread of weeds!



Purchase Noxious Weed Free feeds and seeds for wild and domesticated animals along with crop and garden seed plantings!

Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.