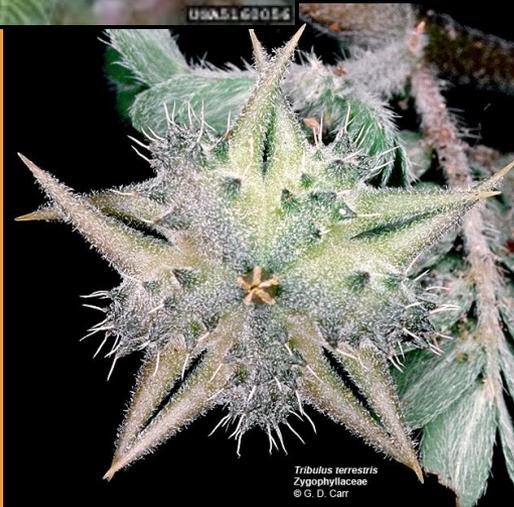


## **\*\* Most Wanted Weeds \*\***

### **Puncture Vine** *Tribulus terrestris*



F. & K. Starr, USGS,  
forestryimages.org



*Tribulus terrestris*  
Zygophyllaceae  
© G. D. Carr

G.D. Carr

## **Puncture Vine**

- Also known as “goathead”
- Fruit consists of 5 capsules, each with up to 4 seeds and 2 sharp spines
- A single plant may produce up to 400 fruits
- Seeds can remain dormant in the soil for many years
- Plant can flower within two weeks of sprouting and will produce seeds within 4 weeks
- Native to north Africa and Europe (area surrounding the Mediterranean Sea)
- Spiny seeds are easily spread by animals, humans, and vehicles
- Plant is toxic to livestock

## **\*\* Most Wanted Weeds \*\***

### **Himalayan Blackberry** *Rubus discolor*



R. Old, XID Services, Inc., forestryimages.org



Joseph O'Brien, USDA, Forest service, bugwood.org



R. Old, XID Services, Inc., forestryimages.org

## **Himalayan Blackberry**

- Reproduces by seeds. Also sprouts from root crown. Stems can form roots when they contact the ground
- Can produce up to 4,500 seeds per square foot
- Thicket can widen by 10 feet or more each year
- Seeds spread by birds, humans, and other mammals
- Dense thickets may prevent animals from getting to water
- Thickets pose a serious fire hazard when growing around barns or other buildings
- Native to Western Europe (no evidence of growth in Himalayan region)

## **\*\* Most Wanted Weeds \*\***



Linda Wilson, University of Idaho, forestryimages.org



## **Purple Loosestrife**

- Can produce up to 2.5 million seeds per plant
- Has a greater than 90% germination rate
- Produces new shoots each spring from buds on the roots
- Stem pieces produce new plants when they float downstream and become lodged against the bank
- Tiny seeds are spread by wind, water, and animals
- Native to Eurasia. Brought here in the ballasts of ships in 1800's and later by gardeners and beekeepers
- Replaces native plants that wetland species require for food and habitat
- Clogs waterways used for boating and other recreational activities

## **\*\* Most Wanted Weeds \*\***

### **Yellow Starthistle** *Centaurea solstitialis*



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J.K. Clark



## **Yellow Starthistle**

- One plant can produce as many as 100,000 seeds that can survive in the soil for up to 10 years
- Produces 2 types of seeds: one carried by wind and one that drops to the ground
- Humans are the main cause of spread; birds and animals also contribute
- Causes “chewing disease” in horses that can be fatal
- Native to Eurasia, brought to California in the mid-1800’s in alfalfa seed from Chile
- Threatens Cook’s desert parsley (*Lomatium cookii*), a globally rare plant, found in the Agate Desert, as well as other native plants, wildlife, and livestock habitat

## **\*\* Most Wanted Weeds \*\***

### **Scotch Broom** *Cytisus scoparius*



© Ann Bowman [www.weedbluemountain.org..au](http://www.weedbluemountain.org..au)



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## **Scotch Broom**

- A mature plant can produce up to 3,500 seed pods per year, with each pod containing up to 9 seeds
- When pods burst open, they shoot seeds up to 12 feet in the air
- Seeds can also be carried by water, birds, humans, and other animals
- Native to the British Isles and parts of Europe. Brought here for landscape purposes
- Thick stands pose a serious fire hazard
- Competes with tree seedlings and native plants in forest clearings and other disturbed areas
- Invasion threatens endangered ecosystems, such as the Oregon white oak woodlands

## **\*\* Most Wanted Weeds \*\***

### Canada Thistle *Cirsium arvense*



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UGA1459760

Steve Dewey, Utah State University, forestryimages.org

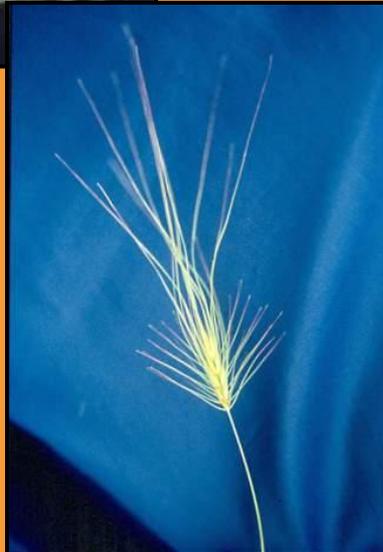
## Canada Thistle

- Introduced to the U.S. from Europe in the early 1600's
- Seeds dispersed by wind and can remain viable in soil for up to 20 years
- Seeds can also be spread by water, humans, animals, and in contaminated seed crops
- Replaces native plants (including native thistles) in prairies, fields and other non-forested areas
- New plants can regenerate from a root piece as small as 1/4 inch long
- Root is capable of sending out lateral roots as deep as 3 feet below ground from which shoots sprout out frequently

## **\*\* Most Wanted Weeds \*\***



Steve Dewey, forestryimages.org



©OSU Jed Colquhoun & Larry Burrell Photo Collection

## **Medusahead Rye**

- Native to Spain, Portugal, South France, Morocco, and Algeria
- Introduced to the U.S. in the late 1800's
- Reproduces by seeds that are spread by wind, water, humans, and other animals
- Dead plants create a dense mat that prevents native plants from growing and increases fire danger
- Medusahead seeds are adapted to germinate in this dense mat
- Plant is high in the mineral silica which is unpalatable to livestock and wildlife
- Invades rare plant communities such as oak savannah and oak woodland, as well as grasslands and chaparral

## **\*\* Most Wanted Weeds \*\***

### **English Ivy** *Hedera helix*



Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., forestryimages.org



UGA1237027  
Chuck Bargeron, University of Georgia, forestryimages.org



Carol Farmer

## **English Ivy**

- Native to central Eurasia
- Toxic to pets
- Popular garden ornamental and ground cover
- Spread by birds who eat seeds when other berries are not available
- New plants form when stems contact soil and from cuttings
- Forms dense cover along ground and prevents sunlight from reaching other plants
- Infests woodlands, forest edges, fields, coastal areas, salt marsh edges, and other upland areas
- Causes death of infested trees by blocking sunlight, breaking limbs or trunk by adding weight (heavy vines), and by housing the plant disease bacterial leaf scorch

## **\*\* Most Wanted Weeds \*\***

### **Leafy Spurge** *Euphorbia esula*



R. Old, XID Services, Inc., forestryimages.org



Elizabeth J. Czarapata

Elizabeth J. Czarapata

## **Leafy Spurge**

- Can produce up to 200 seeds per plant. Up to 80% will germinate
- When seed capsules ripen, they burst and shoot seeds up to 15 feet away from parent plant
- Can spread up to 4 feet per year through underground roots that produce shoots every few inches
- Introduced from Europe
- Out-competes native plants by consuming available nutrients and water and by secreting toxins that inhibit the growth of plants nearby
- Forms dense stands in spring that shade out native plants
- Milky sap can cause skin irritations or blindness (if put into eyes) in humans and digestive problems or death in grazing livestock

## **\*\* Most Wanted Weeds \*\***

### **Meadow Knapweed** *Centaurea pratensis*



Cindy Roche, forestryimages.org



Ken French, ODA

## **Meadow Knapweed**

- Native to Europe. Originally introduced as a potential forage species but now considered a weed because of low nutritional yield and it is disliked by most grazing animals
- Reproduces by seeds that are carried in water, in hay, or by vehicles along roadsides.
- Can also resprout from root and crown fragments after a disturbance
- Invades native prairie and oak savannah, as well as industrial sites, tree farms, and grasslands.
- Out-competes grasses and other pasture species
- Grows along roadsides, sand or gravel bars, river banks, irrigated pastures, moist meadows, and forest openings.