PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED

Aka Tall Whitetop

Lepidium latifolium L.

A perennial that grows 1 to 4 feet tall but may reach 7 to 8 feet in wet areas. Lance-shaped leaves are bright green to gray-green, entire to toothed. Basal leaves are larger than upper leaves. White flowers form dense clusters near branch ends. Flowers from June to August. Reproduction occurs by seed and rootstocks.

This weed expands by creeping underground roots that grow 3 to 10, or more, feet long and sends up shoots to form new plants. Plants can grow from parts of perennial roots as small as one-tenth of an inch in thickness. A deep, spreading root system and prolific seeds make this weed very difficult to control. It crowds out native vegetation, forming its own pure stand.

DYER'S WOAD

Isatis tinctoria L.

A winter annual, biennial or short-lived perennial that grows 1 to 4 feet tall. Bluish green leaves are alternate, lance-shaped, and clasp the stem with short basal lobes. All leaves have a cream colored midrib on the upper surface from the base to the tip. Flowers are small and bright yellow at the tops of multi-branched stems. Flowers from April to May. Plant forms clusters of flattened black or purplish-brown seed pods that ripen in June and July. A thick tap root may exceed five feet in depth.

Forms a dense stand that crowds out desirable vegetation. Thrives on rocky soil with limited water-holding capacity. Many weeds get their start in disturbed areas, such as along roadsides. Dyer's woad does well at getting established in undisturbed areas.

MEDITERRANEAN SAGE

Salvia aethiopis L.

An aromatic biennial, growing 2 to 3 feet tall with a squarish stem and stout taproot. Starts as a large wooly-leaved rosette that bolts the second year into multi-branched plant with blue-green wooly leaves. The leaves emit a pungent sage-like odor when crushed. Flowers are whitish, borne in clusters on many branched stems resembling a candelabra in June and July.

One plant can produce thousands of seeds. The seeds are easily spread because the mature plant forms a tumbleweed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT NOXIOUS WEED SIGHTINGS:

USDI - Bureau of Land Management
Surprise Field Office
P.O. Box 460/602 Cressler Street
Cedarville, CA 96104 • (530) 279-6101

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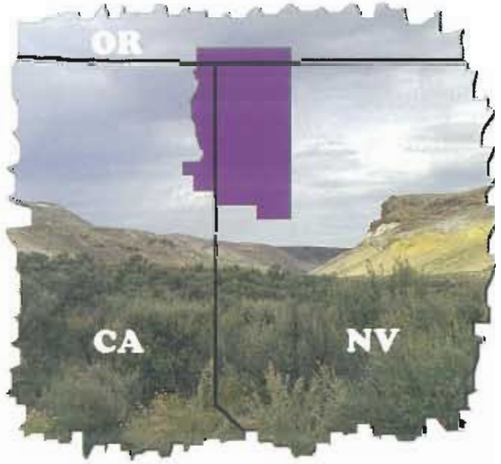
Noxious Weeds

of the Surprise Collaborative/ Integrated Noxious Weed Management Area



Surprise Valley Resource Conservation District
Serving Surprise Valley Since 1959

Vya Soil and Water Conservation District

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

HELP STOP THE INVASION!

Noxious weeds are introduced plants that are aggressive invaders of our native plant communities. While there are hundreds of weeds in the United States, only a portion are designated "noxious" by law. If you do not recognize these enemies in our area, you should learn to do so.

Invasions of these weeds are devastating to our native rangelands, riparian areas, wildlife habitat and agricultural croplands. They spread rapidly to outcompete and replace desirable plants reducing livestock forage, wildlife habitat, and crop production/values. Wildlife and grazing animals do not often eat noxious weeds because of thorns, spines or chemical content. Some noxious weeds can cause illness or even death if grazed by animals. Quick, effective control is critical to stop their spread.

KNOW THEM! DON'T GROW THEM!

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE NOXIOUS WEEDS!

It is very important to identify and report infestations of noxious weeds to local land management agencies or cooperative extension services.

STAY OUT OF NOXIOUS WEEDS!

Many weeds are spread by vehicles, pets, pack animals, and on clothing. If you know you have been in an infested area, watch for hitchhiking seeds and remove them before leaving the area, or securely dispose of them in the trash.

DON'T COLLECT THEM!

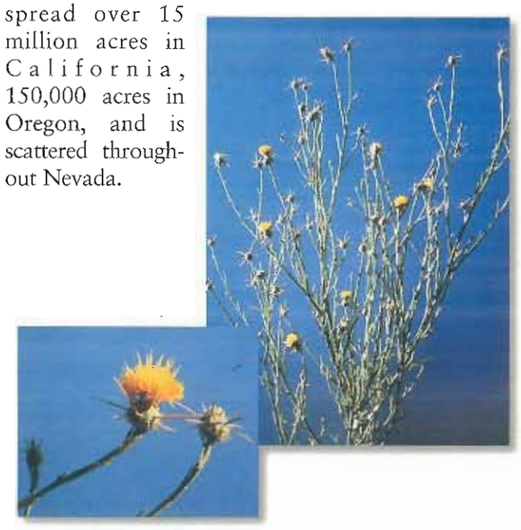
Many noxious weeds have pretty flowers.

YELLOW STARTHISTLE

Centaurea solstitialis L.

A gray-green winter annual with a long taproot and bright yellow flowers. Flowerheads are single on the end of short branches. The flowerhead consists of many individual flowers and bracts. Each bract is armed with a stout, straw-colored spine 1 to 2 inches long. Basal leaves are deeply lobed with upper leaves entire and sharply pointed. Stems range from 4 inches to 5 feet tall. Flowers from May to October. In late fall and winter the mature flowers on the grayish-white plant skeletons look like small cotton balls.

Yellow starthistle invades various soil types on disturbed areas, roadsides, rangelands and pastures. Once it invades a site it may lay dormant for years before spreading rapidly. Best eradicated when populations are small. The yellow spines can be vicious, impacting wildlife, recreationists, and livestock. Toxic to horses by causing "chewing disease." Yellow starthistle is estimated to have spread over 15 million acres in California, 150,000 acres in Oregon, and is scattered throughout Nevada.



RUSSIAN KNAPWEED

Centaurea repens L. or *Acroptilon repens L.*

An aggressive perennial that grows 1 1/2 to 3 feet tall, with widely spreading black bark-covered roots that can penetrate 23 or more feet deep. Lower leaves are often lobed and toothed, 2 to 4 inches long; upper leaves are both entire and serrated on the upper leaf margin. Pink to lavender flowers form on the end of a solitary cone-shaped head. Flower bracts have papery margins, which differentiate it from other knapweeds. Flowering occurs from June to September.

This weed spreads by creeping underground roots, forming dense colonies which invade cultivated fields, pastures, roadsides and rangelands. It secretes alleopathic chemicals that inhibit the growth of other plants. Once established it can take over native rangelands as well as irrigated croplands creating a monoculture. Disking or plowing only serves to further spread this plant as it will sprout from adventitious shoots from the roots.

SCOTCH THISTLE

Onopordum acanthium L.

Biennial that grows up to 12 feet tall with a large, deep taproot. Stems are robust with broad, spiny wings. Leaves are large, spiney, and covered with fine dense hairs, giving a grayish appearance. Basal leaves are up to 2 feet long and 1 foot wide. Upper leaves are alternate and coarsely lobed. Solitary flowerheads are numerous and terminal on primary and axillary shoots. Flowers are violet to reddish and flowers from mid-June to September. Reproduces by seeds which can lay dormant for over 30 years.

Invades roadsides, pastures, rangelands, dry meadows, and disturbed areas. Forms dense stands which are impenetrable by animals and humans. Best controlled in the rosette stage. Mechanical removal at an early stage works well for control but cutting plants at the flowering stage can still produce viable seeds.