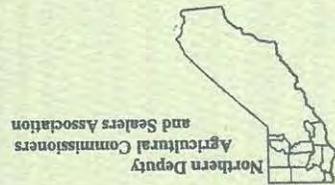




Natural Resource
Conservation Service



TUSCARORA

A PRIVATE -- COUNTY -- STATE -- FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

Honey Lake Resource
Conservation District



Selected Noxious Weeds of Northeastern California

A Field Identification Guide

“Noxious weed” means any species of plant that is, or liable to be, troublesome, aggressive, intrusive, detrimental, or destructive to agriculture, silviculture, or important native species, and difficult to control or eradicate, which the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, by regulation, designates to be a noxious weed.

Introduction

The word *weed* can be defined in several different ways. The weeds in this guide are plants that are exotic, or not native to this region. In many cases these weeds are very aggressive invaders of our native plant communities. These non-native weeds have the ability to out-compete and replace our native plants, often creating their own monotypic plant community. Uncontrolled noxious weed infestations result in decreases of native vegetation diversity, reductions in forage and wildlife habitat, and declines in agricultural crop values. Once exotic weeds become established it is extremely difficult to eradicate them and bring back the native communities that have been displaced.

In our efforts to protect agriculture and manage for natural communities, it is very important to identify infestations of noxious weeds as they first become established. To promote help from users of the land, we have developed this guide of some of the most invasive weeds found in northeastern California, as well as northwestern Nevada and southeastern Oregon which border this region. We hope that as people are in the area, they will use this guide and the forms provided in the back to identify, map, and report any and all occurrence of these weeds so that treatment programs to eradicate or control these infestations may be implemented and monitored.

References:

Weeds of the West, The Western Society of Weed Science in Cooperation with the Western United States Land Grant Universities Cooperative Extension Service. Revised 1992.

The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California, University of California Press. 1993.

How to ID Plants, H.D. Harrington, L.W. Durrell, Swallow Press, Chicago. 1957.

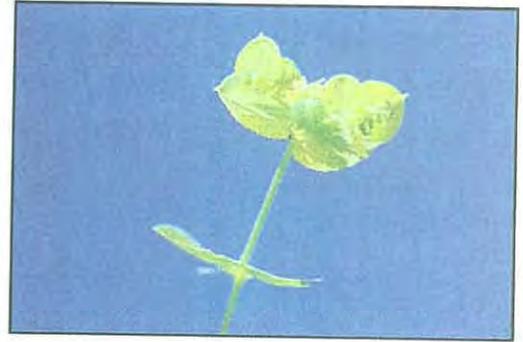


Index

Sunflower Family	
Thistles	
Bull Thistle	1
Canada Thistle	2
Musk Thistle	3
Plumeless Thistle	4
Scotch Thistle	5
Wavyleaf Thistle	6
Yellowspine Thistle	7
Yellow Starthistle	8
Knapweeds	
Diffuse Knapweed	9
Russian Knapweed	10
Spotted Knapweed	11
Squarrose Knapweed	12
Common Crupina or Bearded Creeper	13
Rush Skeletonweed	14
Mustard Family	
Dyer's Woad or Marlahan Mustard	15
Hoary Cress	16
Perennial Pepperweed or Tall Whitetop	17
Families represented by only one weed	
Dalmatian Toadflax	19
Halogeton	20
Klamathweed or St. Johnswort	21
Leafy Spurge	22
Mediterranean Sage	23
Medusahead	18
Puncturevine	24
Purple Loosestrife	25



Leafy Spurge
Euphorbia esula



Leafy Spurge
Euphorbia esula L.
Euphorbiaceae: Spurge family

A glabrous **perennial**, up to 3 feet . **Leaves** narrow, alternate, 1 to 4 inches long. Numerous clusters of small, yellow-green **flowers** subtended by paired, heart-shaped, yellow-green bracts. Entire plant contains a milky juice. Reproduces by seed and vigorous creeping root system. Flowers June to July.

Native to Europe. Occurs in fields and pastures below 5000 feet. Reported to cause severe irritation of the mouth and digestive tract in cattle and horses which may result in death. The extensive root system that contains large nutrient reserves makes it difficult to control.

The largest infestations of leafy spurge are in Butte, Scott, and Quartz Valleys (Siskiyou Co.). Small infestations of less than one acre have been found in Lookout and Tulelake (Modoc Co.), and north of Milford (Lassen Co.). There is also a sizeable infestation in the Lost River Drainage east of Klamath Falls, Oregon (Klamath Co.).

Notes and Observations:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Glossary

alternate	leaf or structure not opposite on stem
annual	completing the life cycle in one growing season
awned	a slender bristle-like appendage usually at the end of a structure
basal	of or at the base
biennial	completing the life cycle in two growing seasons
bract	a more or less modified leaf situated near a flower or inflorescence
creeping	to grow along the ground or some structure
dioecious	flowers unisexual, the male and female flowers on different plants
divided	said of leaves; deeply lobed, the sinuses extending to the base of the leaf or midrib
entire	margins smooth without teeth or lobes
floret	small flower, especially one in a dense cluster; a grass flower
flower	seed producing structure of a plant
fruit	ripened ovary and its structures that enclose it at maturity
glabrous	smooth, no hairs present
glandular	bearing glands; glandular hairs with sticky substance at the end
glumes	chaff-like bract; used for the two lower empty bracts of a grass spikelet
herbaceous	having the characteristic of a herb; leaf-like in color and texture
inflorescence	flowering part of a plant; generally used for flowering cluster
lanceolate	lance shaped; several times longer than wide with broadest toward the base and pointed at the apex
lateral	born on the side of a structure or object
leaf	flat thin part of a plant growing from the base or stem
linear	narrow and flat with sides parallel as in a leaf
lobed	bearing lobes; generally the sinuses are not half way to base of leaf or midrib as in oak leaves
monoculture	only one species present
monotypic	when referring to a vegetation community, consisting mostly of only one species of plant
oblong	two to four times longer than wide with the sides nearly parallel as in a leaf



oxalates	a salt of oxalic acid; a poisonous acid found in some plants
perennial	a plant whose life cycle extends for three or more years
persistent	remaining attached after like parts normally fall off
phyllaries	phyllary; the name of the bract on the head of a sunflower
pinnate	compound leaf with the leaflets on two opposite sides of an elongated axis
protrusion	a part of a structure that sticks out
pubescent	covered with hairs, generally short soft hairs
ray flowers	generally the showy strap shaped flower in the head of a sunflower; as opposed to the less showy disk or tube flower
recurved	curved outward, downward, or backward
reduced	lessened in size or form
rhizomatous	stem growing laterally partly or wholly beneath the soil
root	the portion of the plant, generally below ground, that anchors the plant and absorbs moisture and nutrients from the soil
rosette	dense basal cluster of leaves arranged in a circular fashion about one point usually at ground level
seed	that part of the plant containing the mature embryo from which a new plant can generate
serrate	with sharp teeth directed forward; often said of leaf edges
sessile	without a stalk of any kind; said of a leaf or flower coming right off of a stem
simple	of only one part; not divided into separate segments; not compound
sinus	the depression or recess between two adjoining lobes as in a leaf
stamens	one of the pollen-bearing organs of a flower; male part; made up of filament and anther
stem	the main stalk of a plant; supports leaves, flowers and fruit
terminal	of or at the end of something
toothed	a small marginal lobe; as on a saw, dentate
tuber	a thickened, short, usually subterranean stem having numerous buds called eyes; like a potato
undivided	not divided; of one part
whorled	with three or more leaves or other structures arranged in a circle around a stem or common axis
wings	membranous or thin expansion bordering or surrounding an organ such as a stem
winter annual	an annual plant that germinates in the fall, completing its life cycle the following year

Below you will find several **Noxious Weed Survey** forms. Each time you identify a noxious weed in a new location, please fill out the survey form as completely as possible. It is very important to also include a detailed map on the reverse side of the form so that the location may be easily found by others in order to implement the best eradication or control program for each particular site and species. A monitoring program will also be implemented in order to accurately measure each infestation's decrease in size if the treatment is successful, or any expansion or movement of the infestation if the treatment is unsuccessful. This valuable information will be used when managing other similar sites in the future.

After the survey form and map have been completed please send it to any of the addresses listed below, or drop it off at your local County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. If you mail it to any of the addresses below, the weed infestation will be logged into a master data base and then forwarded to the appropriate California County Department of Agriculture, or to the proper agency in Oregon or Nevada.

You are encouraged to use one of these survey forms as a master so that you may duplicate many forms for future use!

Lassen County Department of Agriculture
175 Russell Avenue
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8110

Modoc County Department of Agriculture
202 W. 4th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
(530) 233-6401

Bureau of Land Management
2950 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-0456

Bureau of Land Management
708 W. 12th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
(530) 233-4666

Please help us in the control of noxious weeds. Whether controlling weeds by manually hand pulling or the application of herbicides be sure to take appropriate precautions. Always read the label before pesticide use and follow the instructions! Always wear gloves and safety glasses when pulling any weeds as many species have spines and/or toxic or irritating substances.



Noxious Weed Survey

Surveyor: _____ Phone: _____
(name and affiliation) (daytime)

Weed Species: _____ Date: _____

Estimate of Infestation: _____
(area size and/or number of plants)

Descriptive Location: _____
(identifying landmarks, directions to site, etc.; please draw map on back)

Section: _____, Township: _____, Range: _____, 1/4: _____

Site Status: _____
(roadside, rangeland, pasture, forest, riparian, specific crop, etc.; ownership if known)

Eradication Action: _____
(none; or method: mechanical, biocontrol, chemical - what used and at what rate?)

Other Comments: _____

MAP



Noxious Weed Survey

Surveyor: _____ Phone: _____
(name and affiliation) (daytime)

Weed Species: _____ Date: _____

Estimate of Infestation: _____
(area size and/or number of plants)

Descriptive Location: _____
(identifying landmarks, directions to site, etc.; please draw map on back)

Section: _____, Township: _____, Range: _____, 1/4: _____

Site Status: _____
(roadside, rangeland, pasture, forest, riparian, specific crop, etc.; ownership if known)

Eradication Action: _____
(none; or method: mechanical, biocontrol, chemical - what used and at what rate?)

Other Comments: _____

MAP



Noxious Weed Survey

Surveyor: _____ Phone: _____
(name and affiliation) (daytime)

Weed Species: _____ Date: _____

Estimate of Infestation: _____
(area size and/or number of plants)

Descriptive Location: _____
(identifying landmarks, directions to site, etc.; please draw map on back)

Section: _____, Township: _____, Range: _____, 1/4: _____

Site Status: _____
(roadside, rangeland, pasture, forest, riparian, specific crop, etc.; ownership if known)

Eradication Action: _____
(none; or method: mechanical, biocontrol, chemical - what used and at what rate?)

Other Comments: _____

MAP



Noxious Weed Survey

Surveyor: _____ Phone: _____
(name and affiliation) (daytime)

Weed Species: _____ Date: _____

Estimate of Infestation: _____
(area size and/or number of plants)

Descriptive Location: _____
(identifying landmarks, directions to site, etc.; please draw map on back)

Section: _____, Township: _____, Range: _____, 1/4: _____

Site Status: _____
(roadside, rangeland, pasture, forest, riparian, specific crop, etc.; ownership if known)

Eradication Action: _____
(none; or method: mechanical, biocontrol, chemical - what used and at what rate?)

Other Comments: _____

MAP



Noxious Weed Survey

Surveyor: _____ Phone: _____
(name and affiliation) (daytime)

Weed Species: _____ Date: _____

Estimate of Infestation: _____
(area size and/or number of plants)

Descriptive Location: _____
(identifying landmarks, directions to site, etc.; please draw map on back)

Section: _____, Township: _____, Range: _____, 1/4: _____

Site Status: _____
(roadside, rangeland, pasture, forest, riparian, specific crop, etc.; ownership if known)

Eradication Action: _____
(none; or method: mechanical, biocontrol, chemical - what used and at what rate?)

Other Comments: _____

