

WHY ARE INVASIVE PLANTS A PROBLEM?

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Are **NON-NATIVE, INVASIVE** plant species that directly or indirectly injure or cause damage to agriculture, livestock, irrigation, navigation, recreation, natural resources, public health or the environment.



nox·i·ous
/'näkSHes/

adjective

harmful, poisonous, or very unpleasant.
"they were overcome by the noxious fumes"

Similar:

DID YOU KNOW?

- Noxious weeds threaten biodiversity and ecosystem stability, sustainability of Colorado's natural resources, and beautiful aesthetics.
- Each year in Eagle County, hundreds of acres of rangeland, wildlife habitat, recreational areas, and native plant communities are being destroyed by noxious weeds.
- Noxious weeds, often transplanted from other parts of the world, lack natural enemies that would otherwise curtail their growth, causing them to be highly destructive, highly competitive, and very difficult to control.
- These aggressive, invasive species tend to create a mono-culture which only provide one type of food, habitat, breeding ground. (Would you want to eat only one type of food the rest of your life?) Native wildlife and aquatic life are finely tuned to the nutrients and habitat provisions that native plant species provide.
- Per state and local regulations, it is the responsibility of all private property owners and public land managers to control noxious weed infestations.
- Invasive species in Colorado are listed as List A, B, or C species depending on the extent of their encroachment.

RUSSIAN OLIVE

- Provides inferior wildlife habitat to that of native riparian vegetation.
- Is a nitrogen-fixing plant, and can interfere with nutrient cycling and ecosystem hydrology.
- Out-competes native plants (takes over).

HOARY CRESS (WHITETOP)

- Completely displaces desirable vegetation, forms dense mono-cultures unpalatable to livestock, contains glucosinolates which can be toxic to cattle.
- Decomposes into allelopathic compounds that can impede germination and growth of desirable species.

THISTLE (all noxious species)

- Highly competitive.
- Contributes to soil erosion and stream sedimentation as their taproots don't stabilize the soil.
- Sharp spines/spikes deter livestock and wildlife from grazing.
- Displaces desirable vegetation, drastically reduces availability of quality forage.
- Nuisance plant that impacts recreation and access.
- Canada thistle spreads through its roots and disruption (chopping or incomplete removal efforts) actually makes it come back worse!

TOADFLAX (Yellow/Dalmatian)

- Highly adaptable, out-competes native species for soil moisture.
- Reduces availability of quality forage.
- Contains glucoside compounds that are poisonous to animals.

TAMARISK

- Grow in such abundant volumes that they consume more water than native riparian vegetation (leaving less in-stream for fish and recreational activities.)
- Extremely long taproots that can invade further upland than native riparian vegetation can grow.

NOXIOUS NO-NO'S

- Many of us have found the velcro-like seeds from the houndstounge plant on our shoes after a hike. DO NOT throw them on the ground after you remove them - destroy the seeds and throw away in a plastic trash bag so they cannot reproduce and spread.
- General use chemicals, such as Round-Up, often just burn the top of the plant and don't accurately deal with the problem - allowing the invasive species to pop right back up.

NATIVE PLANT LOOK-ALIKES

Oxeye daisy Shasta daisy



Looks like



How to Tell

Shasta daisy in general is larger (larger flowers & leaves, grows 6-12" taller). Shasta daisy grows from a root ball, whereas Oxeye Daisy is from a creeping root system.

Native Thistle



There ARE native thistles in Colorado. Most, in our valley, are at higher elevations and above treeline, but the next time you hike a mountain, don't go ripping out all the thistle.

Purple Loostrife



Looks like

Fireweed



How to Tell

Fireweed typically does not grow in wet or saturated soils. It has narrow, lance-shaped leaves and the stem is rounded. It is a great pollinator plant!