

Yellow Starthistle
(*Centaurea solstitialis*)



Yellow starthistle in bloom



Basal rosette of yellow starthistle



Winter skeleton of yellow starthistle

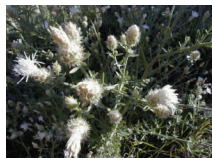
Diffuse Knapweed
(*Centaurea diffusa*)



Diffuse knapweed in bloom



Basal rosette of diffuse knapweed



Bloom close-up of diffuse knapweed

Malta Starthistle
(*Centaurea melitensis*)



Malta starthistle in bloom



Basal rosette and floral bud



Winter skeleton of Malta starthistle

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HOW DO NOXIOUS WEEDS CONTINUE TO SPREAD?

A weed is noxious pursuant to state and federal laws. They have the ability to spread exponentially and cause significant negative environmental and economic impacts.

Noxious weeds continue to spread, in large part, because people are often oblivious to the consequences of their actions:

1. Weed seeds can be spread to new areas by attaching to vehicles, clothing, camping gear, and pack animals.
2. Weed seeds contained in livestock feed and roadside cover (e.g., hay and grain) can be spread along trails and roads.
3. Weed seeds eaten by livestock can remain viable while passing through their digestive tract, & later be deposited with a fresh batch of fertilizer (i.e., dung) in non-infested areas.
4. People may unknowingly spread noxious weeds by picking and taking them home for flower arrangements which are later discarded in non-infested areas.
5. Some seed companies sell noxious weed seeds for use as ornamentals (e.g., purple loosestrife).
6. Some flower shops sell noxious weeds as garnish in flower arrangements (e.g., white top).

7. Some pet shops sell noxious weeds for use in aquariums (e.g., hydrilla).

What you can do to HELP FIGHT WEEDS

The best way to control noxious weeds is to stop them from spreading. It's not always possible to keep weed seeds from drifting down rivers, floating with the wind or hitching rides on wildlife. But we can avoid spreading weeds, and help snuff new invasions before they become epidemic. Here are a few suggestions on how each of us can help control, contain and eradicate invasive, exotic plants:

- Learn to identify plants common to your area and favorite hunting country, so you can recognize potential invaders and report them to land and wildlife managers.
- If you travel with pack animals, carry only certified weed-seed-free forage (pellets, hay, alfalfa) into the backcountry.
- Feed pack animals only weed-seed-free forage for several days before heading into the backcountry.

- Thoroughly clean vehicles and livestock before entering the backcountry, to ensure they are free of weed seeds.
- Avoid traveling through weed-infested areas so as not to pick up and spread seeds.
- Camp only in weed-free areas.
- Pull and pack out weeds, placing the plants in sealed containers.
- Do not pick and transport pretty flowers you can't identify—you may inadvertently spread seeds of an attractive noxious weed.
- Be aware of what you sow in your yard and gardens and avoid inadvertently planting invasive exotics. (Purple loosestrife, an invasive plant that is altering riparian habitat throughout the West, is still sold as an ornamental at many nurseries.)
- Support county, state and federal efforts to control and eradicate noxious weeds.
- Get involved in local weed-control projects.
- Spread the word about the dangers of noxious weeds and what people can do to help.