



# Wheeler Weed Warriors Program

## Invasive Weed Identification

### PLEASE NOTE!

Not all invasive species are created equal. Even plants in the same family can require vastly different treatment techniques to eradicate. PLEASE BE SURE to correctly identify any weeds before attempting removal and consult professionals if you are uncertain.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP! Contact Wheeler SWCD with questions. For extra fun, check out <https://www.wheelerswcd.org/> for our bingo contest.

### Bull thistle

- Leaves: alternate, prickly-hairy above, cottony below
- Flowers: purplish-pink, tapered bracts with spines



### Canada thistle

- Leaves: spiny, alternate
- Flowers: Purplish-pink, clusters 1-5 per branch



### Russian thistle

- Stems: Woody at maturity, reddish to purplish stripes



### Scotch thistle

- Leaves: Alternate, large, sharp spikes, gray-green
- Flowers: purplish, spin-tipped bracts below
- Stems: broad-spiney wings



### Common teasel

- Leaves: opposite, rosettes, lance-shaped, spiny, large white mid-vein
- Flowers: Purplish-pink band, bracts extend past seed head



### Russian knapweed

- Leaves: gray-green, lance-shaped
- Flowers: urn-shaped, pink or purple petals



### Spotted knapweed

- Leaves: alternate to 6ft long
- Flowers: pinkish-purple, bracts with black tips, comb-like spines



### Diffuse knapweed

- Leaves: stalked divided dark green
- Flowers: white, bracts with yellow spines below



### Mediterranean sage

- Leaves: Pungent when crushed, large grayish rosette
- Flowers: yellowish-white, mint-like, wooly clusters



### White top (Hoary cress)

- Leaves: alternate, blue-green, lance-shaped
- Flowers: numerous, white, 4 petals, flat-topped



### Dalmatian toadflax

- Leaves: Bluish, thick, waxy, clasping
- Flowers: bright yellow, like snapdragons, orange centers



### Rush skeletonweed

- Leaves: almost none
- Flowers: yellow
- Stems: tough, waxy, latex-filled
- Stems: coarse, downward pointed hairs near ground



### Yellow starthistle

- Leaves: grey-green to blue-green
- Flowers: Yellow, stiff/sharp thorns



### Leafy spurge

- Leaves: alternate, narrow
- Flowers: yellowish-green, bracts below are heart-shaped
- Contains white, milky latex



### Puncturevine

- Leaves: Opposite, lance shaped
- Flowers: 5 petal yellow
- Stem: mat-forming



### Russian-olive

- Leaves: alternate, narrow-lanceolate, silvery below
- Flowers: yellow
- Thorns on branches, alternate



### Tree of Heaven

- Trunk: smooth, gray bark with chestnut brown twigs
- Seeds: helicopter



### Houndstounge

- Leaves: alternate, hairy, rough,
- Flowers: clusters, dull reddish-purple to burgundy, 5 lobes



## Know Your Noxious Weeds!

A noxious weed is any non-native invasive plant that causes negative effects to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife or property.

State government officials create a list designating these weed, using thorough inventory.



# Wheeler Weed Warriors Program


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## WEED BINGO!

_____ Thistle	_____ Knapweed	Mediterranean sage	_____ Knapweed	White top (Hoary cress)
_____ Knapweed	Tree of Heaven	_____ Thistle	Leafy spurge	_____ Thistle
Houndstounge	_____ Thistle	 <b>Free space</b>	Yellow starthistle	Dalmatian toadflax
Leafy spurge	_____ Knapweed	Puncturevine	_____ Thistle	Russian olive
_____ Knapweed	Rush skeletonweed	_____ Thistle	Tree of Heaven	_____ Knapweed

### HOW TO PLAY

#### Get outside to see what nasty weeds have invaded our county!

Using the reference guide on the back AND other resources found on ODA's Noxious Weeds website, CAREFULLY identify what invasive species are hiding in your area. Once you spot the weed, take a picture and mark it off with an X (Photos are required with Wheeler Weed Warriors **Nomination form submission**). To get 'Bingo' you must locate 5 weeds in a row, column, or diagonal. For family categories such as 'thistle' please write which type you found!