



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.