

Noxious Weeds in The Overlook

What are noxious weeds? Plant that are injurious to agricultural or horticultural crops, natural habitats or ecosystems, or humans or livestock. Most noxious weeds have been introduced into an ecosystem by ignorance, mismanagement, or accident. They are so harmful that we need to destroy or contain them to limit their spread. They can completely replace native plants

<https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/biocontrol-at-palisade-insectary/request-a-bug>
[\(970\) 464-7916](tel:(970)464-7916)

Common Mullein



The key to effective control of Common mullein is preventing the production of seeds. Biological control is not yet available in Colorado. Hand pulling or digging before the plant flowers is effective. I have found that Weed b gone is also effective but should be applied before the plant flowers.

Bull Thistle



Biannual. Can grow over 6 ft. tall. It spreads entirely by seed and can produce 100 to 300 seeds per flowerhead, with one to more than 400 flower heads per plant! As a non-native, it will outcompete all native plants once established. It's not palatable to wildlife or livestock.

The gall fly which can eradicate bull thistle is ineffective in Colorado.

Methods such as hoeing, tilling and digging are best. Sever roots below the soil surface during the first year before the plant stores energy and in the second year before seed production. These methods require consecutive years of season long treatments. Closer heads and buds must be collected, bagged and disposed of or destroyed. Seed will mature and germinate if left on the ground.



Canada Thistle

Canada thistle is a perennial weed that can grow over 6 ft. tall (more commonly ~3 ft.). Each branch of the plant typically bears 3-5 (dandelion-sized) flowers that range from white to purple (more commonly pink). Canada thistle leaves are rigid and glossy, and stems are virtually spineless.

Unlike many classical biological control agents that limit or control the spread of an infestation, the Canada thistle rust fungus has the potential to significantly decrease infestations. This rust fungus has evolved to be very effective at causing thistle mortality. In past trials, the worst case was a 45% reduction of thistles over five years, while the best case was 100% after 18 months...largely dependent on the current density of thistle and surrounding vegetation. It can't be purchased from CO dept of agriculture yet. Roundup can be used and we have had success with weed-b-gone.

Musk Thistle



A non-native biennial forb that reproduces solely by seed. Biennial. A plant that completes its life cycle within two years. A robust plant may produce 100 or more flowering heads. A prolific seed producer,

Musk thistle can produce up to 20,000 seeds per plant, and seeds can remain viable in soil for 10 years. . Because Musk thistle reproduces solely from seed, the key for successful management is to prevent seed production.

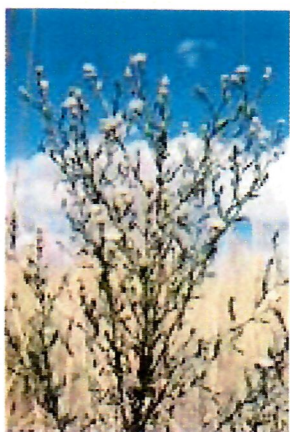
Biological control: the Musk Thistle Rosette Weevil or Crown Weevil, *Trichosiocalus horridus* . *Can be found on CO agriculture site above. Herbicides may also be helpful but are not recommended at the same time as the release of weevils. The insects may be sensitive to certain chemicals and or plant damage caused by herbicide application.*

Cheatgrass/Downy Brome



As this invasive weed begins to dominate an area, it alters native plant communities and displaces native plants thus impacting wildlife. Additional negative impacts include changes in soil properties, a decline in agricultural production, and altered fire frequencies. Cheatgrass is highly flammable and densely growing populations provide ample, fine-textured fuels that increase fire intensity and often decrease the intervals between fires. If fire should strike cheatgrass-infested land native plant communities can be inextricably altered. This may result in erosion and damage to water resources. Mowing and pulling before it turns brown and seeds drop. Roots are very shallow and the grass is easy to pull.

Spotted and Diffuse Knapweed



Spotted knapweed kills plants surrounding it by sending out a poison from its roots. *Iarinus minutus*, a seed eating beetle has very good control on acres of spotted knap weed. This insect can be purchased on the internet or through CO Agriculture website above. Spotted knapweed can also be pulled, but try to get most of the tap root. Weed Master, Milestone and Tordon work well. Read instructions carefully before applying. Don't use chemicals if you are also using insect control.

Private Land and Home Owners		
<u>Fee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Season</u>
N/A	Canada Thistle (Not Available)	N/A
	\$30 Dalmatian Toadflax	May - June
	\$30 Diffuse Knapweed	July - Aug.
	\$35 Field Bindweed	June - Aug.
	\$30 Leafy Spurge	June - July
	\$30 Musk Thistle	June - July
	\$30 Puncturevine	Sept.
	\$0 Russian Knapweed	April - May
	\$30 Spotted Knapweed	July - Aug.
N/A	Yellow Toadflax (Not Available)	N/A

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Noxious Weeds

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Need help identifying a weed?,

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