

Have you noticed weeds popping up on your property and wondering what to do about them?









While some weeds may look pretty, these non-natives can cause a lot of harm. Non-native weeds are classified as noxious if they aggressively invade native plant communities or crops; can poison livestock; can carry damaging insects, diseases, or parasites; or are detrimental to the environment. These nasty invaders displace native vegetation, threatening wildlife habitat, valuable natural resources, and recreation areas. Besides the ecological impacts, noxious weeds also cost Coloradans millions in harvest losses, damage to livestock, and lost productivity.






Preventing the establishment of noxious weeds is the best method of control, and can be done by supporting healthy native plant populations and maintaining healthy pastures. But if you have already seen some weeds springing up, dealing with them sooner rather than later save you a lot of time, trouble, and money over the long term.

Explore the resources below to find more information about weed mitigation:

[Colorado Department of Agriculture](#)

- [Colorado County Weed Programs](#)
- [Colorado State University Extension](#)
- [Coalition for the Upper South Platte Weeds Page](#)
- Contact CUSP at [719-748-0033](tel:719-748-0033) or [cusp@uppersouthplatte.org](mailto:cusp@uppersouthplatte.org)

Noxious Weed	Characteristics	Hazards	Control Methods
 <p>Canada Thistle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grows 1 to 4 feet tall</li> <li>• Flowers are lavender to purple</li> <li>• Prickly leaf edges with hairy stems</li> <li>• Spreads by seed &amp; creeping roots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can cause skin irritation - wear gloves &amp; long sleeves when handling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Never till or break roots, as root disturbance propagates growth</li> <li>• Continually stress Canada thistle, through spring grazing, mowing, and other methods</li> </ul>
 <p>Musk Thistle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grows 4 to 6 feet tall</li> <li>• Flowers are purple to rose color &amp; up to 3 inches in diameter</li> <li>• Long, sharp spiny leaf edges with hairless stems</li> <li>• Spreads by seed, with a single tap root</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can cause skin irritation - wear gloves &amp; long sleeves when handling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bag blossom heads when in bloom</li> <li>• Severing the root below the soil will kill musk thistle</li> </ul>
 <p>Oxeye Daisy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perennial herb</li> <li>• Grows to 24 inches tall</li> <li>• Leaves are fine &amp; thread-like</li> <li>• Reproduces by seed, which can remain viable for years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can cause blistering of muzzles &amp; skin rashes in livestock</li> <li>• Displaces native daisies, which have smaller flowers with narrow petals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pull up &amp; bag oxeye daisies, ensuring all roots are pulled up</li> <li>• Goat or sheep grazing</li> </ul>
 <p>Scentless Chamomile</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Escaped ornamental</li> <li>• Grows 1.5 to 2 feet tall</li> <li>• Leaves are fine &amp; thread-like</li> <li>• Reproduces by seed, which can remain viable for years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can cause blistering of muzzles &amp; skin rashes in livestock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mowing will assist in the short-term by limiting seed production</li> <li>• Hand pull &amp; bag small infestations</li> </ul>
 <p>Yellow Toadflax</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also known as butter &amp; eggs</li> <li>• Grows up to 2 feet tall</li> <li>• Creamy yellow flowers with an orange throat</li> <li>• Extensive root system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains a glucoside poisonous to livestock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent establishment with robust native vegetation populations</li> <li>• Predatory insects are available from the Colorado Department of Agriculture 970-464-7916</li> </ul>
 <p>Common Mullein</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grows 2 to 6 feet tall</li> <li>• Yellow flowers are located on terminal spikes, which may reach up to 20 inches in length</li> <li>• Light green, hairy leaves</li> <li>• Not to be confused with Miner's Candle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Displaces native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand pull or dig out prior to flowering &amp; seed production</li> <li>• Bag flowering heads, ensuring seeds do not scatter or spread</li> </ul>
 <p>Myrtle Spurge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grows 4 to 6 inches tall &amp; can spread 18 inches laterally</li> <li>• Yellow-green pod-type flowers</li> <li>• Spreads by seed</li> <li>• Grows annually from taproot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milky sap is toxic - wear gloves, long sleeves, &amp; eye protection when handling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand pull or dig out, ensuring all roots are pulled up</li> </ul>
 <p>Leafy Spurge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grows up to 4 feet tall</li> <li>• Yellow-green pod-type flowers</li> <li>• Bluish leaves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All parts of the plant have a milky latex that can be damaging to the eyes and skin - wear gloves, long sleeves, &amp; eye protection when handling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheep or goat grazing</li> <li>• Predatory insects are available; contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture 970-464-7916</li> <li>• Mowing every 2 to 4 weeks will reduce seed production</li> </ul>

Noxious Weed	Characteristics	Hazards	Control Methods
 <p>Orange Hawkweed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also known as devil's paintbrush</li> <li>• Grows up to 24 inches tall</li> <li>• Flowers are red-orange with strap-shaped, notched-tipped petals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Displaces native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent establishment of this new invader with robust native vegetation populations</li> </ul>
 <p>Bouncingbet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grows up to 3 feet tall</li> <li>• Flowers are light pink to white &amp; have 5 petals</li> <li>• Leaves are smooth, narrow, &amp; 2 to 4 inches long</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be poisonous to humans &amp; livestock, causing gastrointestinal irritation &amp; destroying red blood cells when absorbed in the blood streams of grazing animals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand pull or dig out only single plants or new infestations when soil is moist, ensuring the entire root system is removed</li> </ul>
 <p>Diffuse Knapweed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grows 1.5 to 2 feet tall</li> <li>• Flowers are mostly white &amp; solitary</li> <li>• Has a sharper spine at the end of the bract (modified leaf just below the flower)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dried, rough bracts can damage the skin</li> <li>• Produces a chemical herbicide that prevents the growth of surrounding plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severing the root below the soil will kill diffuse knapweed</li> <li>• Remove &amp; bag flowering heads</li> </ul>
 <p>Spotted Knapweed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grows up to 4 feet tall</li> <li>• Flowers are pink to lavender &amp; solitary</li> <li>• Leaves are hairy</li> <li>• Seed head bracts are black tipped</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produces a chemical herbicide that prevents the growth of surrounding plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dig out, ensuring the entire root system is removed</li> <li>• Remove &amp; bag flowering heads</li> </ul>
 <p>Hoary Cress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also known as whitetop</li> <li>• Grows 10 to 24 inches tall</li> <li>• Small, white flowers</li> <li>• Leaves are about 4 inches long, with fine white hairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Displaces native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize disturbance &amp; seed dispersal</li> <li>• Mow repeatedly before flowering</li> </ul>
 <p>Field Bindweed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grows low to the ground</li> <li>• Funnel-shaped flowers are white to pink</li> <li>• Arrowhead-shaped leaves</li> <li>• Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 40 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Displaces native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut below the surface in the early seedling stage</li> <li>• Predatory gall mites are available from the Colorado Department of Agriculture 970-464-7916</li> </ul>
 <p>Purple Loosestrife</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grows up to 8 feet tall</li> <li>• Purple flowers on long, vertical heads</li> <li>• Spreads by seed; pieces of roots or stems can also produce new plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Displaces native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand pull or dig out before going to seed, ensuring all roots are pulled up</li> <li>• Remove &amp; bag flowering heads</li> </ul>
 <p>Black Henbane</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grows 1 to 3 feet tall</li> <li>• Small flowers are brownish on the outside, with purplish center &amp; veins</li> <li>• Leaves are coarsely toothed with stick hairs</li> <li>• Foul odor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All parts of the plant are poisonous to livestock and humans when ingested</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand pull or dig out, ensuring the entire tap root system is removed</li> <li>• Always bag specimens</li> </ul>