

Field Guide to

NOXIOUS

WEEDS AND OTHER SELECTED **INVASIVE PLANTS**

of British Columbia



FLOWERING RUSH



BLACK HENBANE



PURPLE NUTSEGE

TWELFTH EDITION 2023

First Printing 1996

Reprinted 1998

Updated and Reprinted 2000

Updated and Reprinted 2002

Updated and Reprinted 2005

Updated and Reprinted 2007

Reprinted 2010

Updated and Reprinted 2014

Updated and Reprinted 2016

Updated and Reprinted 2019

Updated and Reprinted 2021

Updated and Reprinted 2023



1-888-933-3722
bcinvasives.ca
info@bcinvasives.ca

**Inter-Ministry Invasive
Species Working Group**
gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

This field guide is a Province of BC publication that is updated and reprinted in collaboration with ISCBC.

FIELD GUIDE TO NOXIOUS AND OTHER SELECTED INVASIVE PLANTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Based on original contributions by:

David Ralph (ret), BC Ministry of Forests

Dr. Brian Wikeem (ret), BC Ministry of Forests

Roy Cranston (ret), BC Ministry of Agriculture

Contributing Agencies:

Invasive Plant Program – BC Ministry of Forests

Invasive Species Council of BC

Acknowledgements:

The information contained in this guide has been obtained from a number of sources including: E-Flora BC; Electronic Atlas of the Flora of British Columbia; The Invasive Species Strategy for British Columbia; BC Weed Control Act; Weeds of Canada; Weeds of the West; The Arable Weeds of Europe; Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest; Vascular Plants of British Columbia; The Thistles of Canada; Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States; CABI Invasive Species Compendium; Fire Effects Information System; and The Biology of Canadian Weeds.

Photo Acknowledgements:

Organizations: BC Ministry of Agriculture; BC Ministry of Forests; Washington State University; Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board; University of Idaho; University of Arizona; Mountainview Ecological Services; Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver; USDA Forest Service; Oregon Department of Agriculture; USDA APHIS PPQ; Ohio State Weed Lab; and Invasive Species Council of BC

Individuals: Michael Betts; Don Blumenauer; Bruce Brolley; Roy Cranston; Jack Freeman; Vippen Joshi; Bill McCloskey; Alistair McLean; Robert Needham; Rosamund Pojar; George Powell; David Ralph; Dave Riendeau; Ben Roche; Dean Swan; Loal Vance; Brian Wikeem; John Woods; Leslie Mehrhoff; Rob Routledge; Victoria Nuzzo; Lisa Scott; Rhoda Mueller; Juliet Craig; Barb Stewart; Marilee Lovit; Ben Legler; Trevor James; Catherine Tarasoff; Eva Cameron; Matt Below; Dave Polster; Gerald D. Carr; and Jeff Hallworth.

From bugwood.org: William Tyrrell; Nick Page; Steve Dewey; Howard Schwartz; Matt Lavin; Lynn Sosnoskie; Todd Pfeiffer; Cindy Roche; K. Maitland; Linda Haugen; Eric Coombs; Dan Tenaglia; Joseph DiTomaso; Nancy Gregory; Terry English; Caleb Slemmons; James H. Miller; Julia Scher; Mary Ellen (Mel) Harte; Janie Marlow; Chris Evans; Chuck Bargeron; Forest and Kim Starr; and Linda Wilson.

From Saxifraga: Rutger Barandse; Ed Stikvoort; Willem van Kruijsbergen; Ab H. Baas.

PREFACE

Invasive plants are plant species that have been introduced to British Columbia without the insect predators and plant pathogens that help keep them in check in their native habitats. For this reason and because of their aggressive growth, these plants can cause reductions in crop yield and quality, environmental degradation, and habitat and biodiversity loss. Some invasive plants can also harbour crop diseases, reduce property values, spoil aesthetics of natural landscapes and harm humans, livestock and wildlife. Noxious weeds are those invasive plant species that are regulated under law.

This field guide has been prepared to help farmers, ranchers, resource managers and the public identify British Columbia's legislated noxious weeds and other invasive plants of concern. Proper identification and reporting of problem plants is the first step in developing a successful management strategy.

The invasive plants included within this guide have been separated into three sections. Invasive plants classified as noxious under the BC Weed Control Act throughout the entire province are arranged in the first section, followed by invasive plants classified as noxious within regional districts. The final section of this guide provides identification information for some of the other invasive plants of concern within BC. All the invasive plants included within this guide are organized alphabetically, by common name.

REPORT NOXIOUS WEEDS AND INVASIVE PLANTS

For more information on invasive plants and noxious weeds in BC refer to:

- bcinvasives.ca/resources/publications/
- www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants
- ibis.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora/

To report a noxious weed or invasive plant of concern:

Download the Report InvasivesBC Smartphone App



Online:

gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

Call:

1-888-933-3722

BC Weed Control Act

NOXIOUS WEEDS ARE EVERYONE'S PROBLEM

The BC *Weed Control Act* imposes a duty on all land occupiers to control designated noxious plants.

The purpose for the Act is to protect the province's economy, natural resources, and society from the negative impacts of invasive plants.

The Act is administered by the Ministry of Forests.

The following weeds are classified as noxious within all regions of British Columbia:

PROVINCIALY NOXIOUS	PAGE
Bur Chervil (<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>)	8
Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i> subsp. <i>australis</i>)	9
Cordgrass, Dense-flowered (<i>Spartina densiflora</i>)	10
Cordgrass, English (<i>Spartina anglica</i>)	11
Cordgrass, Saltmeadow (<i>Spartina patens</i>)	12
Cordgrass, Smooth (<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>)	13
Common Crupina (<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>)	14
Dodder (<i>Cuscuta</i> spp.)	15
Flowering Rush (<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>)	16
Garlic Mustard (<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>)	17
Giant Hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>)	18
Giant Mannagrass/Reed Sweetgrass (<i>Glyceria maxima</i>)	19
Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>)	20
Hound's-tongue (<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>)	21
Jointed Goatgrass (<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>)	22
Knapweed, Diffuse (<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>)	23
Knapweed, Spotted (<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>)	24
Knotweed, Bohemian (<i>Reynoutria x bohemica</i>)	25

Knotweed, Giant (<i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i>)	26
Knotweed, Himalayan (<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>)	27
Knotweed, Japanese (<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>)	28
Leafy Spurge (<i>Euphorbia esula</i>)	29
North Africa Grass (<i>Ventenata dubia</i>)	30
Nutsedge, Purple (<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>)	31
Nutsedge, Yellow (<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>)	32
Purple Loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)	33
Rush Skeletonweed (<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>)	34
Scentless Chamomile (<i>Matricaria maritima</i>)	35
Sow-thistle, Annual (<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>)	36
Sow-thistle, Perennial (<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>)	36
Tansy Ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>)	37
Thistle, Canada (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)	38
Thistle, Milk (<i>Silybum marianum</i>)	39
Toadflax, Common / Yellow (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>)	40
Toadflax, Dalmatian (<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>)	41
Velvetleaf (<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>)	42
Wild Oats (<i>Avena fatua</i>)	43
Yellow Flag Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>)	44
Yellow Starthistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)	45

The following weeds are regulated as noxious within the boundaries of the corresponding regional districts:

REGIONALLY NOXIOUS		PAGE
Blueweed (<i>Echium vulgare</i>)	Cariboo, Central Kootenay, Columbia-Shuswap, East Kootenay, Okanagan-Similkameen, Thompson-Nicola	47
Burdock (<i>Arctium</i> spp.)	Bulkley-Nechako, Cariboo, Columbia-Shuswap, Fraser-Fort George, Kitimat-Stikine, North Okanagan, Okanagan-Similkameen, Peace River, Thompson-Nicola	48
Cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>)	Peace River	49
Common Bugloss (<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>)	Kootenay-Boundary	50
Common Tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>)	Bulkley-Nechako, Central Kootenay, Columbia-Shuswap, East Kootenay, North Okanagan	51
Field Scabious (<i>Knautia arvensis</i>)	Bulkley-Nechako, Kootenay-Boundary, Thompson-Nicola	52
Green Foxtail (<i>Setaria viridis</i>)	Peace River	53
Hawkweed, Orange (<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>)	Bulkley-Nechako, Cariboo, Central Kootenay, Columbia-Shuswap, East Kootenay, Thompson-Nicola	54
Hoary Alyssum (<i>Berteroa incana</i>)	Kootenay-Boundary	55
Hoary Cress (<i>Lepidium</i> spp.)	Columbia-Shuswap, North Okanagan, Thompson-Nicola	56
Knapweed, Meadow (<i>Centaurea pratensis</i>)	Columbia-Shuswap	57
Knapweed, Russian (<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>)	North Okanagan	58

Kochia (<i>Kochia scoparia</i>)	Peace River	59
Night-Flowering Catchfly (<i>Silene noctiflora</i>)	Peace River	60
Oxeye Daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>)	Cariboo, North Okanagan, Peace River, Thompson-Nicola	61
Perennial Pepperweed (<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>)	East Kootenay, Thompson- Nicola	62
Puncturevine (<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>)	Okanagan-Similkameen	63
Quackgrass (<i>Elymus repens</i>)	Peace River	64
Sulphur Cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla recta</i>)	Columbia-Shuswap, North- Okanagan, Okanagan- Similkameen, Thompson- Nicola	65
Thistle, Marsh Plume (<i>Cirsium palustre</i>)	Bulkley-Nechako, Fraser-Fort George	66
Thistle, Plumeless (<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>)	Central Kootenay	67
Thistle, Russian (<i>Salsola tragus</i>)	Peace River	68
Thistle, Scotch (<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>)	North Okanagan	69
White Cockle (<i>Silene latifolia</i>)	Peace River	60
Wild Chervil (<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>)	Fraser Valley	70
Wild Mustard (<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>)	Peace River	71

The following are additional invasive plants of concern in B.C.:

INVASIVE PLANTS OF CONCERN	PAGE
Baby's Breath (<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>)	73
Black Henbane (<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>)	74
Celandine, Greater (<i>Chelidonium majus</i>)	75
Celandine, Lesser (<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>)	75
Giant Reed (<i>Arundo donax</i>)	76
Goatsbeard, Meadow (<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>)	77
Hawkweed, Mouse-Ear (<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>)	78
Hawkweed, Whiplash (<i>Pilosella flagelaris</i>)	78
Himalayan Balsam (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>)	79
Himalayan Blackberry (<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>)	80
Knapweed, Brown (<i>Centaurea jacea</i>)	81
Poison Hemlock (<i>Conium maculatum</i>)	82
Scotch Broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>)	83
Shiny Geranium (<i>Geranium lucidum</i>)	84
Slender False Brome (<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>)	85
St. John's Wort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)	86
Teasel (<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>)	87
Thistle, Bull (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>)	88
Thistle, Nodding (<i>Carduus nutans</i>)	89
Wild Parsnip (<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>)	90
Yellow Archangel (<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>)	91

PROVINCIALY REGULATED NOXIOUS WEEDS



COMMON REED
(*Phragmites australis*
subsp. *australis*)

BUR CHERVIL

(*Anthriscus caucalis*)



- Annual or biennial herb from a taproot; 40 cm to 90 cm tall; stems are hollow, branched, and hairy near the base; leaves are alternate, fern-like, coarsely hairy and reduced in size towards the top of the stem; flowers are small and white with 5 petals that are borne in umbrella-like clusters at the top of stems
- Reproduces by seed only
- Found in moist fields, ditches, disturbed sites, and waste places

COMMON REED

(Phragmites australis subsp. australis)



- Perennial grass growing 1 m to 3 m tall; stems are stiff, smooth, round, hollow, un-branched, erect, and purplish in colour; leaves are 20 cm to 40 cm long, alternate up the stem and are often twisted at the base so that they appear flag-like on one side; flowers are purplish in colour and arranged densely along the stem in plume-like clusters
- Reproduces by seed and rhizomes
- Very limited distribution in BC; found growing in wetlands, moist ditches, and along the shore margins of ponds and lakes

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

CORDGRASS, DENSE- FLOWERED

(Spartina densiflora)



- Perennial, salt-tolerant, grass growing up to 1.5 m tall; stems are hollow; leaf blades are grayish-green, narrow (0.6 cm wide), long, tough and have in-rolled margins; flowers are arranged in a dense, compact, colorless spike that is 6 cm to 30 cm long
- Reproduces by seed and rhizomes
- Very limited distribution in BC; found growing in intertidal salt marshes and mudflats

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

CORDGRASS, ENGLISH *(Spartina anglica)*



- Deep rooting, salt-tolerant, perennial grass growing up to 1.3 m tall; stem is reddish-brown and erect; leaf blades are bright green and grow at distinctive 45-90 degree angle to the stems; flowerheads resemble that of wheat
- Reproduces by seed and rhizomes
- Very limited distribution in BC; found growing in intertidal salt marshes and mudflats

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

CORDGRASS, SALTMEADOW *(Spartina patens)*



- Perennial, salt-tolerant, grass growing from 30 cm to 100 cm tall; stems are slender, stiff, and numerous; leaves are narrow, bright green, 10 cm to 50 cm long with in-rolled margins and prominent veins on the lower surface; flowers are arranged in 5 cm long spikes that are droopy and reddish in colour
- Reproduces by seed and rhizomes
- Very limited distribution in BC; found growing in intertidal salt marshes and mudflats

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

CORDGRASS, SMOOTH (*Spartina alterniflora*)



- Perennial salt-tolerant, grass growing from 0.6 m to 3 m tall; stems have an unpleasant sulfur aroma when fresh; leaves are grayish-green, flat, 10 mm to 25 mm wide, and up to 60 cm long with the tips in-rolled and tapering to a slender point and the uppermost leaves gracefully drooping; flowers are borne in multiple slender upright spikes, 5 cm to 20 cm long
- Reproduces by seed and rhizomes
- Not currently found in BC; prefers to grow in intertidal salt marshes and mudflats

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

COMMON CRUPINA

(Crupina vulgaris)



Stiff dark bristles on seed



Narrow flowerhead with pink to purple flowers

- Annual growing from 0.3 m to 0.9 m tall; stems are rigid with short, stiff spines; leaves are lace-like and alternate with short, stiff hairs on leaf margins that make the plant feel prickly; flowers are narrow, vase-shaped and pink to purple in colour with 1 to 5 flowerheads per stem branch
- Reproduces by seed
- Not currently found in BC, but is invading fields, grasslands, roadsides, open woodlands, and forests in northern Idaho and Oregon

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

DODDER (*Cuscuta* spp.)



- Annual, pungent-smelling, parasitic plant that has no leaves or green parts; stems are yellow to orange in colour, thread-like, and twining; stems coil around and attach to host plants with wart-like suckers; flowers are tiny, white, yellow, or pink in colour, borne in clusters, and bell-shaped
- Reproduces by seed (over 16,000 seeds per plant that can remain viable for over 60 years)
- Found growing in gardens, fields, vegetable, ornamental, and forage crops

FLOWERING RUSH

(Butomus umbellatus)



- Perennial, aquatic herb growing up to 1.5 m tall; stems are green and resemble native reeds; leaves are linear, up to 1 m long, and triangular and fleshy in cross-section; flowers are pink to white in colour in umbrella-like clusters
- Reproduces mainly by rhizomes
- Very limited distribution in BC; found growing as an emergent plant along shorelines and as a submersed plant in lakes and rivers

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

GARLIC MUSTARD

(*Alliaria petiolata*)

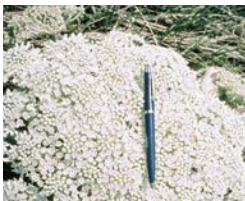


- Biennial herb with a taproot growing 20 cm to 120 cm tall; basal leaves are dark green and kidney-shaped while stem leaves are dark green and heart-shaped; roots and crushed leaves emit a garlic smell; flowers are white and grow in clusters
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in moist to dry forest habitats, forest edges, floodplains, disturbed areas, and along roadsides

GIANT HOGWEED (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)



Reddish-purple spots on stem



- Large, perennial herb growing from 1.5 m to 5 m tall; stems are green, stout, hollow, and covered in reddish-purple spots; leaves are large, dark green, and coarsely toothed with stiff underside hairs; flowerheads are large and umbrella-shaped
- Reproduces by seed; (50,000 seeds per plant)
- Found growing in riparian areas, pastures, open woodlands, and roadsides
- Often confused with native cow parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*) but cow parsnip is much smaller and lacks the reddish-purple spots on the stems

WARNING: Phototoxic stems and leaves contain a poisonous sap that causes serious burns and painful blisters when handled without protective gear.

GIANT MANNAGRASS/ REED SWEETGRASS (*Glyceria maxima*)



- Semi-aquatic perennial, grass growing from 0.6 m to 2.5 m tall; stems are hollow and erect; leaves are bright green with a prominent mid-rib; leaf margins have short, stiff hairs; leaf sheaths are rough in texture and have a reddish-brown band at the junction with the leaf; flowers are arranged in a 15 – 30 cm long, open spike
- Reproduces primarily by rhizomes and less so by seed
- Found in brackish tidal marshes, lakeshores, and wet meadows

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

GORSE

(*Ulex europaeus*)



- Spiny, perennial, evergreen shrub growing to over 2 m tall; leaves are small and terminate in rigid spines; flowers are bright yellow and surrounded by a velvety calyx which develops into black seedpods with dark hairs
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing on infertile or disturbed sites, sand dunes, gravel bars, pastures, logged areas, and burned areas

HOUND'S-TONGUE

(*Cynoglossum officinale*)



Rosette



Each flower produces 4 burred seeds



Seeds easily attach to passing animals

- Biennial taprooted, plant growing 0.5 m to 1.2 m tall; rosette leaves produced in first year are soft, hairy, 7 cm to 30 cm long, and resemble the shape of a dog's tongue; stem leaves are shorter and stalkless; flowers are dull reddish-purple which bear 4 rounded, triangular, burred seeds
- Reproduces by seed that easily clings to clothes/ animals
- Found growing in forested areas, grasslands, pastures, cropland, rangeland, disturbed and waste areas, and along roadsides

WARNING: Contains toxic alkaloids that can cause liver damage in grazing animals.

JOINTED GOATGRASS

(Aegilops cylindrica)



Hairy auricles and evenly spaced hairs on leaf edges



- Winter annual grass growing 0.4 m to 0.8 m tall; stems are erect; leaves are alternate and up to 1.2 cm wide with thin hairs along the margins, sheath openings, and auricles; flowers are arranged in spikes and red to yellow in colour; seeds are produced in joint-like structures on the cylindrical flowering spike
- Reproduces by seed
- Very limited distribution in BC; found growing in disturbed and waste areas, grasslands, cultivated fields, and along roadsides

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

KNAPWEED, DIFFUSE

(*Centaurea diffusa*)



Rigid spines on tips of flower bracts



Bolting plant

- Taprooted biennial to short-lived perennial; heavily branched, growing from 0.6 m to 1 m in height; plant is very bitter to the taste; leaves are divided, grayish-green in colour, and hairy; flowers are white to occasionally purple; flowerheads have bracts with small, sharp, rigid spines
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in well drained soils, disturbed and waste areas, gravel pits, trails, pastures, grasslands, rangelands, and along roadsides and railways

KNAPWEED, SPOTTED

(*Centaurea stoebe*)



- Taprooted biennial to short-lived perennial with branched stems growing to 1.5 m in height; plant is very bitter to taste; leaves are deeply cut and hairy; flowers are purple to occasionally white; flowerhead bracts have black-tipped fringe giving it the “spotted” appearance
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in dry sites, rangeland, grasslands, disturbed and waste areas, pastures, gravel pits, and along roadsides and railways

KNOTWEED, BOHEMIAN (*Reynoutria x bohemica*)



- Rhizomatous, perennial herb growing from 1.5 m to 3.5 m tall; stems are erect and profusely branched; leaves are large with a pointed tip and squared off to heart-shape base; flower clusters located at stem and branch tips; sepals are white to pinkish-white in colour
- A hybrid of the Japanese and giant knotweeds and is reliably distinguished from these by the soft, short hairs along the veins on the lower surface of new leaf growth in the spring
- Reproduces primarily by spreading rhizomes, root, and stem fragments, but is capable of producing seed with variable viability
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas, yards, gardens, riparian ecosystems, and along roadsides and railways

KNOTWEED, GIANT

(*Reynoutria sachalinensis*)



- Perennial herb growing 2 m to 6 m tall; stems are erect, reddish, hollow, and bamboo-like; stem leaves are 20 cm to 40 cm long, alternate, and widely egg-shaped with the base heart-shaped; leaf undersides have hair along the mid-vein; basal leaves are absent; flowers are pale green or greenish-white and form in clusters along the stem
- It is closely related to Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), and can be distinguished from it by its larger size and the leaves have a heart-shaped (not straight) base
- Reproduces primarily by spreading rhizomes and root and stem fragments
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas, gardens, yards, riparian ecosystems, and along roadsides

KNOTWEED, HIMALAYAN

(*Persicaria wallichii*)



- Perennial herb growing from 1 m to 5 m tall; stems are bamboo-like with reddish-brown speckles; leaves are lance-shaped, alternate, and have dense, grey-green, soft hairs on the undersides with the base rounded to somewhat heart-shaped; flowers are small and white-green, growing in plume-like clusters along the stem and leaf axis
- Reproduces by spreading rhizomes and stem and root fragments
- Found growing in moist sites such as riparian areas or along roadsides in ditches

KNOTWEED, JAPANESE

(Reynoutria japonica)



- Rhizomatous, semi-woody, herbaceous perennial that grows to 3 m in height; stems are bamboo-like and green to reddish-brown and spotted; leaves are egg-shaped, stalked, 10 cm to 15 cm long, flattened or rounded at the base with a pointed tip and are dark green above and lighter green below; flowers are greenish to creamy-white in colour and are produced in clusters from the leaf axils
- Reproduces primarily by spreading rhizomes, and root and stem fragments
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas, riparian ecosystems, gardens, yards, and along roadsides

LEAFY SPURGE

(*Euphorbia esula*)



Greenish-yellow flower clusters and bracts



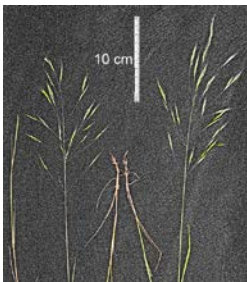
Creeping rootstocks

- Perennial plant with persistent, vertical, and horizontal, creeping roots that grows to 0.8 m tall; leaves spirally arranged on the stem; flowers are inconspicuous, greenish-yellow and inserted above 2 leaf-like yellow-green bracts
- Reproduces by seed and rooting structures
- Found in disturbed soil, waste areas, abandoned cropland, pastures, rangelands, woodlands, and along roadsides

WARNING: All parts of the plant contain a white, milky latex that can irritate skin of livestock and humans.

NORTH AFRICA GRASS

Ventenata dubia



- Annual grass growing 30 cm to 70 cm tall; stems are smooth to short-hairy and basally branched; sheaths usually minutely rough but sometimes soft-hairy; leaves are fine, 2 cm to 7 cm long, flattened at first, becoming in-rolled, with a rounded, jagged-edge; spikelets are near the branch tips and are stalked; lemmas have bent awns arising from their backs, much like those of wild oats
- Reproduces by seed
- Limited distribution in BC; found along dry roadsides and in managed and natural areas

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

NUTSEGE, PURPLE

(*Cyperus rotundus*)



Leaf-like flower bracts
are shorter than inflorescence



Tubers are produced in chains on rhizomes

- Aggressive perennial sedge, growing from 0.3 m to 0.6 m tall; flower stems are 3-sided and unbranched; leaves are grass-like; flowers are purple to brown with leaf-like bracts under flower clusters that are shorter than the flowers; tubers are rough, oblong, irregularly shaped and formed in chains; tubers have a bitter flavor
- Reproduces by seed, tubers, and rhizomes
- Not currently found in BC, but has been found to grow in cultivated fields, waste and riparian areas, pastures, and along roadsides in other places where it has become established

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

NUTSEGE, YELLOW

(*Cyperus esculentus*)



Flower cluster above long
leaf-like bracts



Tubers

- Aggressive, rhizomatous, perennial sedge that grows from 0.3 m to 0.8 m tall; flowering stems are 3-sided, unbranched, and smooth; leaves are grass-like; flowers are yellowish-brown with long leaf-like bracts under umbrella-like flower clusters; tubers are smooth, round, whitish, almond-flavoured, and produced at the ends of many rhizomes
- Reproduces by seed, tubers, basal bulbs, and rhizomes
- Found growing on low-ground, wet fields, in heavily irrigated crops, riparian areas, and along roadsides

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

(*Lythrum salicaria*)



Purple flowers produced
on terminal spikes



Fireweed



Four-sided stem

- Perennial with a woody taproot and branching fibrous root system that grows from 1 m to 3 m in height; stem is stiff and four-sided; leaves are stalkless, opposite or sometimes whorled; flowers are purple and arranged in a dense, terminal spike
- Reproduces by seed, creeping roots, and root and stem fragments
- Found growing in freshwater wetland habitats, gardens, and along roadsides in wet ditches
- Sometimes confused with the native plant known as fireweed (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*)

RUSH SKELETONWEED

(Chondrilla juncea)



Dandelion-like basal leaves with downward pointing stiff hairs at base of stem



Parachute-like seeds easily spread by wind

- Taprooted perennial growing to 1.3 m in height; stems are much branched, wiry, and covered with stiff, reddish-brown, downward pointing hairs at the base; stems have a milky juice; leaves are very small, giving plant a “skeleton-like” appearance; flowers are small and yellow
- Reproduces by seed, lateral, and vertical roots and root fragments
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas, grasslands, pastures, open forests, rangeland, and along roadsides

SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE

(*Matricaria perforata*)



Fern-like finely divided leaves

- Annual to short-lived perennial that grows from 15 cm to over 1 m in height; stems are upright, smooth, and branching; leaves are very finely divided (fern-like); flowers are 2 cm to 3 cm across, white, and daisy-like
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas, cultivated fields, pastures, perennial forage crops, and along roadsides
- Often confused with stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and pineappleweed (*Matricaria matricariodes*). Stinking mayweed has a very offensive odour when crushed as well as stem hairs below the flowerheads. Oxeye daisy has flowers to 5 cm across, rhizomatous roots, and entire, notched leaves. Pineappleweed grows to 16 cm high, has no white ray flowers, and has a distinct pineapple odour when crushed

SOW-THISTLE, ANNUAL

(*Sonchus oleraceus*)

SOW-THISTLE, PERENNIAL

(*Sonchus arvensis*)



Perennial sow-thistle with milky latex and clasping stem



Spiny annual sow-thistle

- Creeping rooted perennial growing 0.4 m to 1.5 m tall; stems branch near the top; plants contain a bitter, milky juice; leaves with weak marginal prickles that clasp the stem; upper stalks and flower bracts usually covered in gland-tipped hairs; flowers are yellow and up to 3.8 cm broad
- The two species are often confused for one another. Annual sow-thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*) is taprooted and has much smaller flowers (less than 2.5 cm across). Both may also be mistaken for spiny annual sow-thistle (*Sonchus asper*) which has sharp, spiny leaves and smaller flowers

TANSY RAGWORT

(*Senecio jacobaea*)



Deeply divided rosette leaves



Ray flowers distinguish this plant from common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)

- Biennial to short-lived perennial growing 0.3 m to 1.2 m tall; stems are erect, arising singly or in clusters; leaves deeply cut into irregular segments give plant a “ragged” appearance; yellow flowers in a flat-topped cluster
- Reproduces primarily by seed but may also reproduce by roots and root fragments
- Found growing in grasslands, cultivated land, waste and disturbed areas, pastures, rangeland, woodlands, and along roadsides

WARNING: Contains a toxic alkaloid which reacts with enzymes in livestock that creates cumulative liver damage.

THISTLE, CANADA

(*Cirsium arvense*)



Flowerheads with spineless bracts



Seedling



Young rosette

- Creeping rooted perennial growing erect to 1.2 m; leaves are stalkless and dark green with irregular, spiny lobes; flowerheads are spineless and small compared to other thistles; flowers are variable in colour from rose-purple to pink to white
- Reproduces by seed and creeping roots
- Found on moist, rich soils on roadsides, cultivated fields, pastures, and other open areas

THISTLE, MILK (*Silybum marianum*)



- Annual or biennial herb growing 0.5 m to 1.5 m tall; stems are grooved, sometimes with white, cottony hairs especially toward the base; leaves are alternate, shiny, and pale green with milk-white veins; flowerheads are large and rounded, occurring at stem tips; flowers are red to purple in colour and armed with 3 cm long spine-tipped bracts
- Reproduces by seed
- Prefers nutrient-rich sites; found growing in disturbed and waste areas, pastures, fields, grasslands, and along roadsides

TOADFLAX, COMMON/YELLOW

(*Linaria vulgaris*)



- Creeping rooted perennial growing to 0.6 m tall; leaves are stalkless, narrow, and pointed at both ends; flowers are bright yellow, 2cm to 3.5cm long, and “snapdragon-like” with an orange spot on the lower lip
- Reproduces primarily by adventitious buds on the roots and root fragments and less so by seed
- Found growing in a wide range of habitats, including cropland, pastures, open forests, grasslands, riparian, waste, and disturbed areas, and along roadsides and railways
- Flowers similar to but smaller than Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*)

TOADFLAX, DALMATIAN

(*Linaria dalmatica*)



- Creeping rooted perennial growing up to 1.2 m tall; leaves clasp the stem and are pale green, waxy, and heart-shaped with pointed tips; flowers are bright yellow, 2.5 cm to 4 cm long, and “snapdragon-like” with orange spot on the lower lip
- Reproduces by its spreading root system and seed
- Found growing in waste and disturbed areas, pastures, grasslands, rangeland, and along roadsides and railways
- Similar to yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), but Dalmatian toadflax has larger flowers and waxy, heart-shaped leaves

VELVETLEAF (*Abutilon theophrasti*)



Seedling



Showy yellow flowers and distinctive circular seedpods

- Annual, taprooted plant growing from 0.3 m to over 2.4 m in height; entire plant covered with short, soft, velvety hairs; leaves are large, heart-shaped, and 7.5 cm to 20 cm wide; flowers are yellow to yellow-orange; seedpods are arranged in a distinctive circular cluster of 12 to 15
- Reproduces by seed (seeds can remain viable in soil for over 50 years)
- Found growing in waste and disturbed areas, gardens, cultivated fields, and fencelines

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

WILD OATS

(Avena fatua)



Heavily bearded flowers. Awns are twisted and bent at right angles when mature



Base of leaf blades are slightly hairy

- Annual grass growing from 0.3 m to 1 m tall; stems are hollow and erect; leaves of seedlings twist counterclockwise when viewed from above; seeds are yellow to black with a bent, twisted bristle (awn) and a circular scar (sucker mouth) at the base
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in cultivated and fallow fields, pastures, gardens, disturbed and waste areas, and along roadsides
- Cultivated oats lack the circular scar on the seed and either lack an awn or the awn is straight

YELLOW FLAG IRIS

(*Iris pseudacorus*)



Iris leaf on left versus cattail leaf on right



- Perennial, semi-aquatic herb growing from 1 m to 1.5 m tall; leaves are erect, flattened, sword-like and extend 0.5 m to 1 m in length; flowers are showy and yellow in colour with three sepals
- Reproduces by rhizomes and seed
- Found growing in ditches, shallow ponds, wetlands, gardens, and along the margins of still and slow-moving water courses

YELLOW STARHISTLE

(Centaurea solstitialis)



Flowerhead bracts end in sharp, stiff spines



- Annual, taprooted, heavily branched forb growing from 0.6 m to 1 m tall; stems are winged and covered with fine hair; flowers are yellow, borne on ends of branches, and armed with sharp thorns up to 2 cm long
- Reproduces by seed
- Not currently known in BC, but is invading grasslands, rangelands, disturbed and waste areas, open forests, fields, pastures, and roadsides in Washington and Idaho

WARNING: Toxic to horses. Consumption may cause chewing disease which is a fatal neurological disorder.

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

REGIONALLY REGULATED NOXIOUS WEEDS



BURDOCK
(*Arctium* spp.)

BLUEWEED

(*Echium vulgare*)



Flowers produced on upper side of short stems



First year rosette

- Biennial to short-lived perennial, taprooted, growing to 1 m tall; stems covered in stiff hairs with swollen, reddish to black bases where attached to stem; leaves are oblong to lanceolate and hairy; flowers are bright-blue to purple and funnel-shaped
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in rangelands, pastures, waste and disturbed areas, and along roadsides and railways; particularly on coarse, sandy to gravelly soils
- Is sometimes confused with common bugloss (*Anchusa officinalis*)

BURDOCK*(Arctium spp.)*

Flower head bracts with hooked spines

- Biennial plants well known for their rounded burrs that easily attach to clothing and animals
- Common burdock (*Arctium minus*) grows 1 m to 3 m in height; lower leaf stalks are hollow; flowerheads are less than 2.5 cm across and scattered along the stems
- Great burdock, sometimes called giant burdock (*Arctium lappa*), is similar in appearance but lower leaf stalks are solid and flowerheads are over 2.5 cm across and are arranged in a flat-topped cluster rather than along the stem
- Found growing in farmyards; waste, disturbed, and riparian areas; pastures; rangeland; forests; grasslands; fallow fields; and along fencelines, field margins, roadsides, and railways

CLEAVERS

(Galium aparine)



Leaves in whorl around square stem



Seed-cases produced in pairs are covered with hooked hairs

- Annual plant with square stems and short, bristly, downward pointing hooks on stem corners; leaves are rough, hairy, and grow in whorls of 6 to 8; seeds are burr-like and produced in pairs
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in a wide range of habitats within natural and cultivated areas

COMMON BUGLOSS*(Anchusa officinalis)*

"Fiddleneck" flower stem uncoils as each bud opens

- Deep, taprooted perennial that grows up to 0.6 m tall; stems are hairy and angular; leaves are lance-shaped, fleshy, and covered with stiff hairs; flowers are deep purple to blue with white centres; flower stems, initially coiled like a fiddleneck, straighten out as each bud opens; four nut-like seeds produced per flower
- Reproduces by seed (900 seeds per plant)
- Found growing in grasslands, rangeland, pastures, and disturbed and waste areas, and along roadsides
- Is sometimes confused with blueweed (*Echium vulgare*)

COMMON TANSY

(*Tanacetum vulgare*)

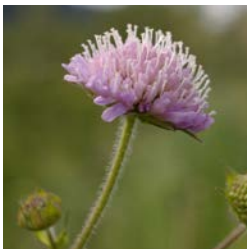


Button-like yellow flowers



Seedling leaves with serrated leaflet margins

- Aromatic perennial growing up to 1.8 m tall; stems are erect and coarse; leaves are dark-green, and deeply divided with toothed margins; leaves emit a strong odor when crushed; flowers lack ray flowers and are yellow, “button-like”, and arranged in clusters at stem ends
- Reproduces by seed and rhizomes
- Found growing in pastures, riparian, waste, and disturbed areas, open forests, meadows, gardens, grasslands and along roadsides, field margins, and railways
- Often confused with tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) which has ray flowers

FIELD SCABIOUS*(Knautia arvensis)*

Violet flowers



- Taprooted, perennial herb growing up to 1.3 m in height; stems are erect, hairy, and branching at the top; leaves are opposite, hairy, and deeply lobed; flowers are violet-blue in colour and arranged in a dense, rounded flowerhead that is 1.5 cm to 4 cm wide
- Reproduces by seed (up to 2,000 seeds per plant)
- Found growing in pastures, meadows, cultivated fields, open forests, riparian, disturbed, and waste areas, and along roadsides

GREEN FOXTAIL

(*Setaria viridis*)



Seeds produced in a "bottle-brush" inflorescence

- Annual grass growing in tufts from 0.5 m to 1 m in height; young leaves with upward pointing hairs; upper leaves are hairless and rough; seeds clustered in a dense club; 1 to 3 bristles from the base of each flower give the head a "bottle-brush" appearance
- Reproduces by seed (over 34,000 seeds per plant)
- Found growing in cultivated fields, gardens, waste and disturbed areas, and along roadsides
- Yellow foxtail (*Setaria pumila*) is similar but with long, twisted hairs near the base of leaf blades

HAWKWEED, ORANGE

(*Hieracium aurantiacum*)



- Fibrous-rooted perennial with milky juice and above ground runners that grows 30 cm to 60 cm tall; stems are upright and covered with stiff, black, glandular hairs; leaves mostly basal and hairy; flowers are vibrant orange-red
- Reproduces rapidly by seed, stolons, and rhizomes, forming dense mats
- Found growing in a wide range of habitats, including in forests; forest clearings; pastures; lawns; riparian, waste, and disturbed areas; grasslands; yards; cultivated and fallow fields; rangeland; and along roadsides and railways

HOARY ALYSSUM*(Berteroa incana)*

Flattened seedpods held close to the stem

- Annual to short-lived perennial growing erect to 0.7 m tall; whole plant covered with star-shaped hairs that give it a sandpaper-like feel; upper leaves elliptic and clasp the stem; flowers white with deeply notched petals; oval seedpods are 5 mm to 8 mm long, somewhat flattened and held close to the stem
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in pastures, waste and disturbed areas, forage crops, yards, lawns, grasslands, rangeland, and along roadsides and railways

WARNING: Toxic to horses. Consumption may cause fever, limb edema, and laminitis.

HOARY CRESS*(Cardaria spp.)*

Heart-shaped seedpods



Upper leaves clasping the stem

- Creeping rooted perennial growing from 0.1 m to 0.6 m tall; lower leaves are stalked and hairy while upper leaves clasp the stem and are usually hairless; flowers are white, numerous, and arranged in a cluster at the top of the plant giving rise to its other common name of “white-top”
- Reproduces by seed and rooting structures
- Found growing in forage and grain crops; pastures; waste, disturbed, and riparian areas; and along roadsides and railways
- Heart-shaped seedpods distinguish this hoary cress from lens-podded and globe-podded hoary cress (*Lepidium chalepensis* and *Lepidium appelianum*)

KNAPWEED, MEADOW*(Centaurea debeauxii)*

Margins of flowerhead bracts either thin and papery or comb-like

- Perennial from a woody root crown growing from 0.5 m to 1 m tall; basal leaves are up to 15 cm long; stem leaves are lance-shaped, entire or shallowly lobed, and stalkless; upper leaves are small and not lobed; flowerheads are globe-shaped and solitary at branch ends; flower bracts consist of either a thin, torn, papery margin or a comb-like fringe, particularly on the outer bracts; flowers are rose-purple, sometimes white
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in pastures, grasslands, waste and disturbed areas, and along roadsides
- Likely a hybrid between black and brown knapweed

KNAPWEED, RUSSIAN

(*Rhaponticum repens*)



Purple flower with papery margined bracts



Creeping roots produce dense infestations

- Creeping rooted perennial growing to 1 m tall; young stems covered in soft, gray hairs; mature stems erect, thin, and openly branched; leaves are grayish-white, alternate, and linear to oblong-shaped; flowers light pink to purple with small, pearly, papery-margined bracts that are slightly hairy at the tip
- Reproduces by seed and creeping roots
- Found growing in pastures; grasslands; disturbed, waste, riparian, and cultivated areas; and along roadsides and railways

WARNING: Toxic to horses. Consumption may cause chewing disease which is a fatal neurological disorder.

KOCHIA

(*Kochia scoparia*)



Flower clusters



Seedling

- Annual forb growing from 0.3 m to 2 m in height; stems are erect and many branched; main stem often tinged with red; leaves are stalkless, narrow, have entire margins, and often turn purple in autumn; flowers are inconspicuous and usually surrounded by clusters of long hairs
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in pastures, disturbed and waste areas, gardens, cultivated crops, and along roadsides, railways, and field margins

WARNING: Can be toxic to cattle, sheep, and horses if consumed in large quantities.

NIGHT-FLOWERING CATCHFLY

(*Silene noctiflora*)

WHITE COCKLE

(*Silene latifolia*)



Flower of night-flowering catchfly



White cockle

- Annual to winter annual growing to 1 m tall; entire plant covered with soft, sticky hairs; calyx with 10 prominent, branching, green veins; white flowers open near dusk
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in cultivated fields; yards; gardens; cultivated and fallow fields; pastures; disturbed and waste areas; and along roadsides and railways
- The two species are often mistaken for each other. White cockle (*Silene latifolia*) (REGIONALLY NOXIOUS) is a biennial plant with hairs that are not glandular and the plant is not sticky when squeezed; calyx has 20 unbranched veins

OXEYE DAISY

(*Leucanthemum vulgare*)



Solitary flowers at the end of branches



Infestations not readily
grazed due to disagreeable taste

- Perennial growing erect to 1 m in height; lower leaves spoon-shaped, coarsely dissected and stalked; upper leaves narrower and stalkless or clasp the stem; flowers daisy-like and borne at ends of stems; central yellow disk flowers 10 mm to 20 mm wide; white ray flowers are 1 cm to 2 cm long
- Reproduces by seed and rhizome fragments
- Found growing in pastures; gardens; forage crops; waste, disturbed, and fallow areas; grasslands; rangeland; meadows; and along roadsides and railways
- Often confused with the ornamental Shasta daisy (*Leucanthemum maximum*) which is a more robust plant with larger flowers

PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED

(Lepidium latifolium)



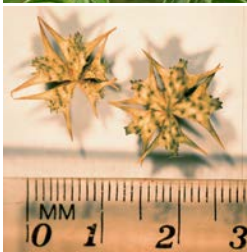
Waxy leaves with distinctive white veins



Seedling

- Rhizomatous perennial growing from 0.3 m to 1 m tall (2 m or more in wet areas); leaves are lance-shaped and waxy with distinctive white mid-veins: lower leaves are stalked; upper leaves are either short-stalked or stalkless but do not clasp the stem; flowers are white and borne in dense, rounded clusters at branch tips
- Reproduces by seed, creeping roots, and semi-woody crowns
- Limited distribution in BC; found growing in riparian areas, wetlands, grasslands, pastures, and along roadsides

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

PUNCTUREVINE*(Tribulus terrestris)*

Spiny seeds break into sections
when mature

- Annual, low-spreading herb; leaves are hairy and grow in pairs on opposite sides of stem; leaf divided into 4 to 8 pairs of oval leaflets; flowers are yellow, 5-petaled, and originate in leaf axils; fruit with 5 sections that form tough, sharp, sometimes curving spines that easily penetrate leather, skin, and can flatten rubber tires
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in fields, pastures, disturbed and waste areas, and along roadsides

WARNING: Can be toxic and cause physical injury to cattle, sheep, goats, and horses.

QUACKGRASS

(*Elymus repens*)



Sharp-pointed creeping rhizomes



Auricles clasp the stem

- Aggressive, perennial grass growing up to 0.9 m tall; rhizomes are long, slender, white, and rhizome tips are yellowish and sharp-pointed; leaf blade base has claw-like appendage that clasps the stem; flower spikelets are up to 15 cm long, and in 2 long rows borne flat-wise to the stem
- Reproduces by seed and rhizomes
- Found growing in pastures, gardens, lawns, yards, disturbed and waste areas, fields, and along roadsides

SULPHUR CINQUEFOIL

(*Potentilla recta*)



Sulphur coloured flowers



Palmate leaf with 5 to 7 leaflets

- Taprooted perennial growing from 0.3 m to 0.8 m tall; stems slender, erect, and hairy with hairs arranged perpendicular to the stem; leaves divided into 5 to 7 hairy leaflets in palmate fashion; flowers are pale yellow with 5 heart-shaped petals around a bright yellow centre
- Reproduces by seed and vegetative sprouts
- Found growing in pastures, grasslands, rangeland, forest clearings, waste and disturbed areas, and along roadsides
- Often confused with the native graceful cinquefoil (*Potentilla gracilis*) which is shorter and has white, woolly hair on the undersurface of leaves

THISTLE, MARSH PLUME (*Cirsium palustre*)



Flowers grouped at end of branches



Spine-tipped leaves with woody veins

- Biennial growing up to 2 m tall; stems are slender, erect, strongly spiny-winged, and usually unbranched except the upper portion which terminates in clusters of purple flowerheads; leaves are deeply segmented, spine-tipped, somewhat hairy on the underside, and have prominent woody veins
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in moist forests, riparian and logged areas, wetlands, pastures, and along roadsides

THISTLE, PLUMELESS

(*Carduus acanthoides*)



Spiny winged stems



- Biennial taprooted thistle growing to 1.5 m tall; stems with spiny wings extending right to the flowerheads; leaves deeply lobed or pinnately cut and spiny-margined; flowers reddish-purple and arranged singly or in clusters at stem tips; flowerheads small, less than 2.5 cm broad
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in fields, pastures, disturbed areas, and along roadsides
- Can be confused for and can hybridize with nodding thistle (*Carduus nutans*)

THISTLE, RUSSIAN

(*Salsola tragus*)



Spine-tipped leaves



Seedling

- Rounded, bushy, annual growing to 1.2 m in height; stem usually red or purple striped and many branched; leaves tipped by a sharp point; flowers inconspicuous, green with 2 spiny-tipped stiff bracts
- Reproduces by seed (producing over 200,000 seeds per plant)
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas, fields, pastures, and along roadsides and railways

THISTLE, SCOTCH

(*Onopordum acanthium*)



Purple flowers with spine-tipped bracts



Stem with spiny-margined wings

- Tall, coarse, spiny, biennial thistle growing to 2 m or more in height; entire plant is covered in dense, woolly hair giving it a blueish-white appearance; stems are woody and branched with spiny-margined wings; lower leaves are very large, elliptic-shaped, and grow to 60 cm long by 30 cm wide; upper leaves are smaller with irregularly toothed margins; flowers are purple and borne singly on 3 cm to 5 cm long branches
- Reproduces primarily by seed, but can also spread by root fragments
- Found growing in waste and disturbed areas, pastures, fields, riparian areas, and along roadsides and field margins

WILD CHERVIL

(*Anthriscus sylvestris*)



Fern-like leaf



Antenna-like structures at tip of paired seeds

- Tuberos-rooted biennial to perennial growing from 0.3 m to over 1.8 m tall; stems furrowed and hollow with fringe of hairs at stem nodes; leaves are fern-like and nearly hairless; flowers are white and produce 2 joined seeds with antenna-like structures at tip
- Reproduces by seed and root buds
- Found growing in pastures, fields, disturbed and waste areas, gardens, and along roadsides

WILD MUSTARD

(Sinapis arvensis)



Seedling



- Annual growing 0.3 m to 1 m tall; stem base covered with stiff hairs; leaves have hairs along the veins on undersurface; flowers are bright yellow; seedpods produced on thick stalks less than 7 mm long and are ribbed lengthwise, up to 3.5 cm long with a constricted beak to 13 mm
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas, pastures, gardens, fields, and along roadsides

ADDITIONAL INVASIVE PLANTS OF CONCERN



HIMALAYAN BALSAM
(*Impatiens glandulifera*)

BABY'S BREATH

Gypsophila paniculata



- Perennial herb with a thick, deep, woody rooting system growing up to 1 m tall; stems are smooth and have many branches; leaves are opposite, hairless, linear, 2 cm to 10 cm long, and have a prominent mid-vein; flowers are small, white, and produced in diffusely branched clusters
- Reproduces by seed (producing over 13,000 seeds per plant)
- Found growing in pastures, waste areas, grasslands, and along roadsides

BLACK HENBANE

(*Hyoscyamus niger*)



Purple-veined, funnel-shaped flower



Blue-green to green-gray, coarsely toothed, hairy leaf

- Foul smelling annual or biennial herb covered with sticky, greasy hairs that grows from 0.75 m to 1.5 m tall; stems are erect and woody; leaves are alternate, coarsely toothed, and blue-green to green-gray in colour; flowers are funnel-shaped and cream to yellow in colour with a purple throat and veins
- Reproduces by seed
- Limited distribution in BC, but has been found growing in disturbed, waste, and riparian areas; pastures; grasslands; rangelands; and along roadsides, railways, and field margins

WARNING: Contains alkaloids that are highly poisonous to humans and livestock when ingested

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

CELANDINE, GREATER

(Chelidonium majus)

CELANDINE, LESSER

(Ranunculus ficaria)



Greater celandine plant



Yellowish-orange sap seeping from broken stem



Greater celandine flower



Lesser celandine flower and leaves

- Greater celandine is a biennial to perennial herb that exudes a yellowish-orange sap when broken and grows from 30 cm to 120 cm tall; flowers are bright yellow with four petals
- Lesser celandine is a perennial herb that grows up to 30.5 cm tall; stems are light-green and hairless; leaves are basal, hairless, fleshy, kidney to heart-shaped, and dark green; flowers are bright yellow with 7 to 12 glossy petals
- Greater celandine reproduces by seed, while lesser celandine reproduces primarily through bulblets and underground tubers
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas, pastures, gardens, meadows, floodplains, forests, and along roadsides

WARNING: All parts of greater and lesser celandine are toxic to humans and livestock if ingested and the sap can be highly irritating to the skin and eyes.

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

GIANT REED

(Arundo donax)



Leaves clasp the stem with a heart-shaped base



Large, plume-like flower spike

- Perennial grass that resembles a corn stalk and grows from 2 m to 10 m tall; stems are hollow, divided by partitions at the nodes like bamboo, and 1 cm to 4 cm in diameter with walls from 2 mm to 7 mm thick; leaves clasp the stem broadly with a heart-shaped, hairy-tufted base and are 2 cm to 6 cm wide and up to 70 cm long, pale, blue-green in colour, and arranged alternately along the stem in a two-rank single plane; flowers are cream to brown-coloured and borne in a large, plume-like spike from 30 cm to 65 cm in length
- Reproduces vegetatively by stem layering, root fragments, and rhizome sprouts
- Very limited distribution in BC, but has been found to grow in wetland and riparian habitats, grasslands, open forests, and along roadsides

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

GOATSBEARD, MEADOW

(*Tragopogon pratensis*)



Bracts of meadow goatsbeard are the same length as petals



Bracts of western goatsbeard are longer than the petals

- Biennial herb that exudes a milky sap when broken and grows from 15 cm – 80 cm tall; stems are erect and solitary or branching; leaves are grass-like, gray-green, hairless, and usually curved or coiled at leaf tips; flowers are bright-yellow and solitary at the end of stems with bracts that extend to petal tips
- Reproduces by wind-borne seed
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas, grasslands, rangelands, pastures, open forests, and along roadsides and railways
- Sometimes confused with western goatsbeard (*Tragopogon dubius*) and oysterplant (*Tragopogon porrifolius*). Meadow goatsbeard can be distinguished from western goatsbeard by deeper yellow flowers, the narrower stem just below the receptacle, bracts not extending beyond the ray flowers, and the curling of leaf blade tips. Oysterplant flowers are purple

HAWKWEED, MOUSE-EAR

(Pilosella officinarum)

HAWKWEED, WHIPLASH

(Pilosella flagelaris)



Mouse-ear hawkweed



Whiplash hawkweed and flowers

- Mouse-ear hawkweed is a perennial herb growing from 15 cm to 30 cm tall; stems are unbranched, hairy at the base, and lack leaves; leaves are basal, egg-shaped, dark green with long hairs on the upper surface and whitish with a dense mat of hairs on the lower surface; flowers are yellow, strap-shaped, and solitary
- Whiplash hawkweed is a perennial herb growing from 12 cm to 40 cm tall; stems are erect, branched, and covered with dense star-like hairs; leaves are basal, lance to spoon-shaped, stalked and covered with star-like hairs; flowers are yellow and strap-shaped in clusters of 2 to 6
- Both species reproduce by seed and vegetatively by root fragments, root buds, stolons, and rhizomes
- Mouse-eared hawkweed has limited distribution in BC, but both species can be found growing in disturbed and waste areas, open fields, pastures, open forests, grasslands, rangeland, and along roadsides

**PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS OF
MOUSE-EAR HAWKWEED ONLY**

HIMALAYAN BALSAM

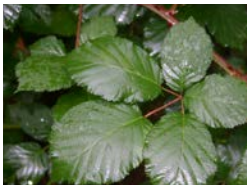
(*Impatiens glandulifera*)



- Annual, succulent herb growing 0.6 m to 2.0 m tall; stems are upright, hollow, much-branched with a purple-tinge; leaves are opposite to whorled, oblong to egg-shaped, stalked, and saw-toothed on the margins; flowers vary from white to pink to reddish and are shaped much like an English policeman's helmet
- Reproduces by seed; seedpods "explode" at maturity
- Found growing in forests, wet meadows, wetlands, riparian and waste areas, gardens, and along roadsides and railways

HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY

(*Rubus armeniacus*)



Large thorns covering stems and leaf undersides



- Perennial, trailing shrub; stems are covered with large, curved to straight thorns and grow to around 3.0 m vertically before arching down to trail the ground and grow from 6 m to 12 m horizontally; leaves are compound with 3 – 5 leaflets; leaflets are oval, toothed, and dark-green with thorns along the underside of the mid-rib; flowers are white to pale pink with 5 petals; berries are black, shiny, and roundish, growing up to 2.0 cm in diameter
- Reproduces by seed and vegetatively by rhizome sprouts and stem layering
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas; riparian and wetland habitats; forests; pasture; and along roadsides, railways, fencelines, and field margins

KNAPWEED, BROWN

(*Centaurea jacea*)



- Perennial herb from a taproot growing 0.1 m to 1.2 m tall; stems erect, branched, and somewhat woolly or cobweb-like; leaves 15 cm long and 3 cm wide with stem leaves becoming reduced and un-stalked towards the top of the stem; flowerheads rose to purple and form singly at the ends of the branches; flowerhead has bracts with enlarged, papery, tattered tan to dark brown appendages at tips
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in grasslands, rangeland, open forests, meadows, pastures, waste and disturbed areas, and along roadsides

POISON HEMLOCK

(*Conium maculatum*)



Purple-spotted stems



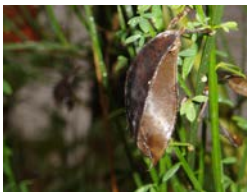
Fern-like leaves and white,
umbrella-like flowers

- Biennial herb growing from 0.9 to 2.4 m tall; stems are stout, hollow, rigid, and purple-spotted; leaves are shiny-green, fern-like and clasp the stem at the swollen nodes; flowers are small, white, and borne in umbrella-like clusters that are about 7.6 cm across
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas, riparian habitats, pastures, forest margins, freshwater wetlands, and along roadsides
- Sometimes confused with other members of the parsley family, including wild caraway (*Carum carvi*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), and water hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*); however, all these plants lack the distinctive, purple-spotted stems that poison hemlock possesses

WARNING: All parts of the plant are extremely toxic to livestock and humans; ingestion of small amounts can be fatal.

SCOTCH BROOM

(*Cytisus scoparius*)



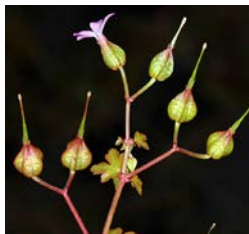
Flowers mature to form flattened, brown to black hairy seedpods.



- Upright, taprooted, evergreen shrub growing from 1 m to 3 m in height; stems are ridged, woody, green to brownish-green and prominently 5-angled; upper leaves are simple and unstaked; lower leaves are stalked and comprised of 3 oval leaflets; flowers are pea-like and bright yellow (sometimes with red markings in the middle); seedpods are flat, brown to black in colour with fine hairs on the margins
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in disturbed, riparian, and waste areas; pastures; grasslands; open forest; and along roadsides and railways

SHINY GERANIUM

(Geranium lucidum)



- Annual herb that may become biennial depending on moisture conditions and grows up to 35 cm tall; stems are brittle, fleshy, hairless, and red-coloured; leaves are rounded, deeply lobed, and glossy; flowers are bright pink with five rounded petals; seeds are beaked, ridged, and slightly hairy
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in forests, pastures, gardens, and along roadsides

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

SLENDER FALSE BROME

(Brackypodium sylvaticum)



- Perennial bunchgrass that grows from 30 cm to 90 cm tall; stems are erect to spreading and smooth except at the nodes, which are hairy; leaves are bright green and elegantly arching with a fringe of fine hairs visible along the leaf edge; flowers are borne in a nodding spike from 6 cm to 20 cm long
- Reproduces by seed and vegetatively by root and stem fragments
- Very limited distribution in BC, but can grow in forests, grasslands, riparian areas, and along roadsides

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS

ST. JOHN'S-WORT

(Hypericum perforatum)



Showy yellow flowers
produce many stamens



Transparent dots on leaves
contain a photosensitizing pigment

- Perennial from underground runners, growing 0.3 m to 1 m in height; stems are singular to several, woody at the base, leafy and many-branched in the upper-half; leaves are oblong and have transparent dots that are visible over the surface when held to light; flowers are bright yellow with 5 petals; plants turn a rusty-red colour at maturity
- Reproduces by seed, lateral roots, and root crowns
- Found growing in grasslands, pastures, forests, disturbed and waste areas, and along roadsides

WARNING: Contains a toxin that causes grazing animals to become sensitive to sunlight resulting in intense skin irritation.

TEASEL

(*Dipsacus fullonum*)



- Biennial herb from a taproot growing 0.5 m to 2.0 m tall; stems are erect with few branches that get increasingly prickly upwards; stem leaves are lanceolate, simple, prickly, and opposite; flowers form in cone-shaped, spiny clusters; individual flowers consist of white petals united into a tube with 4 purple lobes; below each cluster are several long, slender, stiff, bracts that curve upward
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in riparian, disturbed, and waste areas, meadows, grasslands, pastures, forest openings, and along roadsides

THISTLE, BULL

(*Cirsium vulgare*)



Spine-tipped flowerhead bracts



Stiff spines at leaf tips

- Taprooted biennial growing 0.3 m to 1.5 m tall; stem is spiny-winged; leaves end in long, sharp spines with an upper surface covered in short prickles and an under surface that is cottony; flowerhead bracts tipped with prickles; flowers purple and 4 cm to 7.5 cm across
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in disturbed, riparian, and waste areas; pastures; forests; and along roadsides
- Often confused with Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) which has creeping roots, much smaller flowers, weak prickles, and no spines on the leaves

NODDING, THISTLE

(*Carduus nutans*)



Large flowers with spine-tipped bracts "nod" at maturity

- Biennial, taprooted thistle growing to 2.5 m tall; stems spiny and winged except below the flowerhead; leaves deeply lobed and spiny-margined; flowers large (2.5 cm to 5 cm wide), purple, and droop down or "nod" at maturity; flowerhead bracts end in a strong, spiny tip
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in waste and disturbed areas, pastures, meadows, rangeland, and along roadsides
- Sometimes confused with plumeless thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*) which has smaller flowers (less than 2.5 cm broad) with flower stalks spiny-margined right to the base of the flowerhead

WILD PARSNIP*(Pastinaca sativa)*

Grooved stem



- Biennial to perennial herb growing up to 2.0 m tall; stems are grooved with sparse hairs; leaves are alternate, compound, and smooth or hairy; leaflets are yellowish-green, shiny, oblong, coarsely toothed, and diamond-shaped; flowers are small, yellow-green, and borne in umbrella-like clusters
- Reproduces by seed
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas; riparian and wetland habitats; pastures; field edges; gardens; and along roadsides and railways

WARNING: Can cause skin to become photosensitive. Skin exposed to plant juices and sunlight can suffer severe blistering

YELLOW ARCHANGEL

(*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*)



Silver variegated leaves



Hooded, bright yellow flowers growing between leaves



- Perennial herb that exudes a distinctive odor when crushed and grows from 40 cm to 80 cm tall; stems are four-sided and upright to trailing; leaves are oval-shaped, hairy, coarsely toothed, and dark green or variegated with silvery-grey markings; flowers are small, yellow, bell-shaped with an upper (helmet-shaped and two lobed) and lower lip (three lobes), and grow in pairs of clusters close to stems between leaves
- Reproduces by stem and root fragments, rooting at nodes, and by seed
- Found growing in disturbed and waste areas, urban greenbelts, riparian areas, gardens, and forests

INDEX

<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	42	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	83
<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	22	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	87
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	17	Dodder	15
<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	50	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	47
<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	08	<i>Elymus repens</i>	64
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	70	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	29
<i>Arctium</i> spp.	48	Field Scabious	52
<i>Arundo donax</i>	76	Flowering Rush	16
<i>Avena fatua</i>	43	<i>Galium aparine</i>	49
Baby's Breath	73	Garlic Mustard	17
<i>Berteroa incana</i>	55	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	84
Black Henbane	74	Giant Hogweed	18
Blueweed	47	Giant Mannagrass	19
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	85	Giant Reed	76
Bur Chervil	08	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	19
Burdock	48	Goatsbeard, Meadow	77
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	16	Gorse	20
<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	67	Green Foxtail	53
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	89	<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	73
Celandine, Greater	75	Hawkweed, Mouse-Ear	78
Celandine, Lesser	75	Hawkweed, Orange	54
<i>Centaurea debeauxii</i>	57	Hawkweed, Whiplash	78
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	23	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	18
<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	81	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	54
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	45	Himalayan Balsam	79
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	24	Himalayan Blackberry	80
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	75	Hoary Alyssum	55
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	34	Hoary Cress	56
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	38	Hound's Tongue	21
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	66	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	74
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	88	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	86
Cleavers	49	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	79
Common Bugloss	50	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	44
Common Crupina	14	Jointed Goatgrass	22
Common Reed	09	Knapweed, Brown	81
Common Tansy	51	Knapweed, Diffuse	23
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	82	Knapweed, Meadow	57
Cordgrass, Dense-flowered	10	Knapweed, Russian	58
Cordgrass, English	11	Knapweed, Spotted	24
Cordgrass, Saltmeadow	12	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	52
Cordgrass, Smooth	13	Knotweed, Bohemian	25
<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	14	Knotweed, Giant	26
<i>Cuscuta</i> spp.	15	Knotweed, Himalayan	27
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	21	Knotweed, Japanese	28
<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	32	Kochia	59
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	31	<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	59

INDEX

<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	91	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	36
Leafy Spurge	29	Sow-Thistle, Annual	36
<i>Lepidium</i> spp.	55	Sow-Thistle, Perennial	36
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	62	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	13
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	61	<i>Spartina anglica</i>	11
<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	41	<i>Spartina densiflora</i>	10
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	40	<i>Spartina patens</i>	12
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	33	St. John's Wort	86
<i>Matricaria perforata</i>	35	Sulphur Cinquefoil	65
Night-Flowering Catchfly	60	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	51
North Africa Grass	30	Tansy Ragwort	37
Nutsedge, Purple	31	Teasel	87
Nutsedge, Yellow	32	Thistle, Bull	88
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	69	Thistle, Canada	38
Oxeye Daisy	61	Thistle, Marsh Plume	66
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	90	Thistle, Milk	39
Perennial Pepperweed	62	Thistle, Nodding	89
<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	27	Thistle, Plumeless	67
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	78	Thistle, Russian	68
<i>Pilosella flagellaris</i>	78	Thistle, Scotch	69
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	09	Toadflax, Common/Yellow	40
Poison Hemlock	82	Toadflax, Dalmatian	41
<i>Potentilla recta</i>	65	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	77
Puncturevine	63	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	63
Purple Loosestrife	33	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	20
Quackgrass	64	Velvetleaf	42
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	75	<i>Ventenata dubia</i>	30
Reed Sweetgrass	19	White Cockle	60
<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>	28	Wild Chervil	70
<i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i>	26	Wild Mustard	71
<i>Reynoutria x bohemica</i>	25	Wild Oats	43
<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>	58	Wild Parsnip	90
<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	80	Yellow Archangel	91
Rush Skeletonweed	34	Yellow Flag Iris	44
<i>Salsola tragus</i>	68	Yellow Starthistle	45
Scentless Chamomile	35		
Scotch Broom	83		
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	37		
<i>Setaria viridis</i>	53		
Shiny Geranium	84		
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	60		
<i>Silene noctiflora</i>	60		
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	39		
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	71		
Slender False Brome	85		
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	36		

TAKE ACTION!

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES
FROM INVASIVE SPECIES:

✓ **BE PLANTWISE**

✓ **PLAY CLEAN GO**



DON'T LET IT LOOSE



**BUY
LOCAL
BURN
LOCAL**



**CLEAN
DRAIN
DRY**



**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES
IN YOUR TRACKS.**

PlayCleanGo.org

✓ **REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES** 

Call 1-888-933-3722

Report Online at gov.bc.ca/invasive-species