

TOP 12 NOXIOUS WEEDS & INVASIVE PLANTS OF THE NORTH OKANAGAN



RUSH SKELETONWEED **BC**
Chondrilla juncea **EXTREMELY INVASIVE**

Growth: tap-rooted perennial; up to 1.3m tall

Stem & Leaves: mass of wiry stems containing milky juice with barely visible leaves, giving a "skeleton-like" appearance

Flower: small, yellow, scattered along the branch

Spread: parachute-like seeds with fine hairs; one plant can produce up to 15,000 seeds annually



LEAFY SPURGE **BC**
Euphorbia esula **EXTREMELY INVASIVE**

Growth: bushy perennial; up to 1m tall

Leaves: alternate, narrow, spirally arranged

Flower: greenish-yellow clusters with heart-shaped bracts

Spread: via persistent vertical & horizontal creeping roots or by seed

White milky latex in all plant parts can irritate skin of livestock & humans.



SPOTTED KNAPWEED **BC**
Centaurea biebersteinii **EXTREMELY INVASIVE**

Growth: tap-rooted biennial or short-lived perennial; up to 1.2m tall

Stem: one or more, branched

Leaves: deeply cut, grayish-green and hairy

Flower: pink to purple, sometimes white; black-tipped fringe on bracts gives flowerhead a spotted appearance

Spread: tufted seeds are spread by wind



DIFFUSE KNAPWEED **BC**
Centaurea diffusa **VERY INVASIVE**

Growth: tap-rooted biennial or short-lived perennial; up to 1m tall

Stem: single and upright, heavily branched

Leaves: finely divided, grayish-green and hairy

Flower: white, occasionally purple; bracts have small, sharp, rigid spines

Spread: tuftless seeds are spread by tumbling plants



DALMATIAN TOADFLAX **BC**
Linaria dalmatica **VERY INVASIVE**

Growth: Creeping rooted perennial; up to 1.5m tall

Stem & Leaves: pale green and waxy leaves clasp the stem and are heart-shaped with a pointed tip.

Flower: bright yellow "snapdragon-like" with orange spot on lower lip

Spread: by creeping roots and seeds



HOUND'S-TONGUE **BC**
Cynoglossum officinale **VERY INVASIVE**

Growth: tap-rooted biennial, up to 1.2m tall

Stem & Leaves: large, hairy bottom leaves resemble a dog's tongue; stem leaves shorter and stalkless.

Flower: dull reddish-purple flowers produce large seeds covered with Velcro-like hooked prickles

Spread: easily attaches to clothing and animals

Entire plant covered with soft, white hairs, contains toxic alkaloids that can cause liver damage to livestock



CANADA THISTLE **BC**
Cirsium arvense **VERY INVASIVE**

Growth: creeping rooted perennial; up to 2m tall

Stem: erect and hollow with alternate leaves

Leaves: stalkless, dark green with irregular spiny lobes growing directly from the stem

Flower: rose-purple to pink to white, spineless and small compared to other thistles

Spread: seeds with feathery tuft are easily dispersed by wind



SCOTCH THISTLE **RDNO**
Onopordum acanthium **VERY INVASIVE**

Growth: biennial; up to 3m tall

Stem: woody and branched with spiny wings

Leaves: large (up to 60cm long and 30cm wide) with sharp yellow spikes

Flower: numerous heads; 2.5-5cm wide purple flowers with spine-tipped bracts

The entire plant is finely hairy to woolly, giving it a silvery-gray colour



HOARY ALYSSUM **RDNO**
Berteroa incana **VERY INVASIVE**

Growth: annual or short-lived perennial; up to 0.7m tall

Stem & Leaves: gray-green, upper leaves are small and clasped close to the stem

Flower: white with deeply notched petals on long slender stalks

Spread: by seeds

The entire plant is covered with star-shaped hairs



SULPHUR CINQUEFOIL **RDNO**
Potentilla recta **EXTREMELY INVASIVE**

Growth: perennial; up to 0.8m tall

Stem: one or several hairy stems

Leaves: palmate with 5 - 7 leaflets; sparsely hairy with a greenish underside

Flower: five pale yellow heart-shaped petals surrounding a bright yellow center

Spread: can produce over 1,600 seeds per plant



COMMON TANSY **RDNO**
Tanacetum vulgare **VERY INVASIVE**

Growth: aromatic perennial; up to 1.8m tall

Stem & Leaves: clumps of smooth, erect stems; deeply divided dark green leaves with serrated edges that appear almost "fern-like"

Flower: yellow "button" flowers in cluster at top of plant, no ray flowers.

Spread: via seeds and rootstalks



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE **RDNO**
Lythrum salicaria **EXTREMELY INVASIVE**

Growth: shrub-like wetland perennial; up to 3m tall

Stem: stiff, four-sided, ending in spikes of purple flowers

Leaves: short, narrow and stalkless

Flower: pink-purple, with 5 - 7 petals in dense clusters

Spread: a single plant can produce more than 300,000 seeds, usually distributed via water

BC - noxious within all regions of British Columbia
RDNO - noxious within the boundaries of the Regional District of North Okanagan

NEW INVADERS **EXTREMELY INVASIVE** PLEASE REPORT WEED LOCATION TO RDNO WEED CONTROL 250-550-3700



PUNCTUREVINE
Tribulus terrestris

Growth: numerous long trailing stems form large mats

Leaves: hairy, divided into six to eight oval leaflets

Flower: tiny, yellow with five petals

Spread: by spiny burrs that attach to animals, humans or tires of vehicles



PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED
Lepidium latifolium

Growth: perennial; up to 2.0m tall

Leaves: greyish-green, waxy with distinctive white veins in centre

Flower: white, borne in dense, rounded clusters at branch tips

Spread: by seeds and root fragments



COMMON BUGLOSS
Anchusa officinalis

Growth: biennial or perennial; up to 0.8m tall

Stem & Leaves: lance-shaped fleshy, hairy leaves

Flower: deep purple to blue with white centres

Spread: by seeds