

Landscaping

Landscaping in the Methow Valley and eastern Washington in general, can be tricky. There are many commonly used landscaping plants that are highly flammable. In addition, the widely present bitterbrush and sagebrush are also very flammable. That is why it is strongly recommended that you remove all flammable plants from within 5 feet of any structures on your property. To help you identify good choices for landscaping plants please see the below listed websites.

Fire Resistant Plants for Eastern Washington:

https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_fire_resistant_plants_guide_easternwa.pdf

<https://www.firefree.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Fire-Resistant-Plants.pdf>

Noxious and Toxic Weeds

Eastern Washington is also home to many noxious and toxic weeds. Noxious weeds generally require some level of control on our part. What level of control is required is determined by the category the weed falls into - A, B or C. SMRC has a number of noxious weeds present. If we all do our share we can help decrease the spread of these plants. Booklets are available in the clubhouse to help you with plant identification. Please visit the below listed website for further information with good photos and descriptions.

https://www.okanogancounty.org/government/noxious_weed_control/noxious_weed_list.php

Okanogan County also has many plants that are considered toxic to people and livestock, including horses. Horse owners in Sun Mountain Ranch Club should be aware of these plants. Here is a webpage with 2 very good links to toxic plant information:

https://www.okanogancounty.org/government/noxious_weed_control/toxic_plants.php

Need help identifying a weed? Visit this website for help:

<https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/identify-a-noxious-weed>

Here are some pictures of noxious weeds within our development:

Yellow Starthistle

Centaurea solstitialis



Identification
 Yellow Starthistle is a member of the knapweed family with round pineapple-shaped flower heads that have long yellow spines and bright yellow flowers. Plants can be up to 3' in height.




Yellow Starthistle reproduces only by seed. A single large plant can produce up to 150,000 seeds! The seeds can stay viable in the soil for almost 10 years.

Impact
 Yellow Starthistle is an aggressive invader which can rapidly displace native vegetation. It has also been known to cause chewing disease and death in horses.

Control
 Selective herbicides are available that can provide effective control. Bio-controls are available and can be effective on large infestations by reducing seed production.

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TYPE
 ANNUAL
 FLOWERS
 MID JULY

Yellow Starthistle is a Class B Designate in Okanogan and Ferry Counties. Control is mandatory and seed production must be stopped. It is classified as provincially noxious in BC and not known to occur in the province; any sightings should be reported immediately.

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Knapweed

Diffuse
Centaurea diffusa
 Spotted
Centaurea stoebe



Identification
 Diffuse and spotted knapweed are tap-rooted biennial to short-lived perennials that grow to 3' tall. Diffuse knapweed has a single, upright stem with numerous branches while spotted knapweed may have multiple stems. Diffuse knapweed typically has white flowers surrounded by brown spiny bracts, while spotted knapweed flowers tend to be larger and purple, with darkly fringed bracts. Both species spread by seed which can remain dormant in the soil for many years.

Impact
 Knapweeds invade grasslands forming dense monocultures that displace desirable species, reducing forage for livestock and wildlife.



Control
 Hand pulling, mowing or herbicide can be effective. This should be followed by competitive seeding. Bio-control insects that attack the seed head and root are available.



Root Agent

23

TYPE
 BIENNIAL to
 SHORT-LIVED PERENNIAL
 FLOWERS
 JULY to SEPTEMBER






Spotted knapweed is a Class B Designate in Ferry County and seed production must be stopped. Both species are classified as provincially noxious in BC.

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TOADFLAX

Dalmatian

Linaria dalmatica

Yellow

Linaria vulgaris

Identification

Dalmatian Toadflax is a showy perennial with heart shaped light green waxy leaves and yellow snapdragon-like flowers. It is an ornamental species that has escaped from gardens.



Yellow Toadflax (left) & Dalmatian Toadflax

Yellow (or common) toadflax has narrow, lance-shaped leaves and the yellow flowers commonly have orange colouration.

Impact

Toadflax has the ability to spread rapidly due to its extensive root system and distribution of seed by wildlife.

Control

Selective herbicides can be effective when applied in the spring or fall. Vigorous and repetitive hand pulling provides good results when the commitment is made and carried through. There are several effective bio-controls available.

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TYPE
PERENNIAL
FLOWERS
MAY to FIRST FROST



Yellow Toadflax



Dalmatian Toadflax



Dalmatian Toadflax

Dalmatian and Yellow toadflax no longer require control in Okanogan and Ferry counties due to prolific bio-controls! In BC, these species are both classified as provincially noxious.

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Rush Skeletonweed

Chondrilla juncea



Identification

Rush Skeletonweed is a perennial that can grow up to 4' tall with a 7' taproot. It has leaves at the base but very few on the stem. The stem has stiff downward pointing hairs near the base. Flowers are small and yellow. Its parachute-like seeds travel easily with wind, water, animals and humans.

Impact

Rush Skeletonweed is highly invasive in both range and cropland.

Control

Pulling or tilling is not recommended because root fragmentation can cause an increase in infestation size. Selective herbicides can provide control. Bio-controls are available and can provide effective control on infestations of Rush Skeletonweed.

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TYPE
PERENNIAL
SEEDS PRODUCED
AUGUST until the
FIRST FROST



Basal Leaves



Rush Skeletonweed is considered a Class B Designate in Okanogan and Ferry Counties. In these areas control is mandatory and seed production must be stopped! In BC, it's classified as provincially noxious.

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