

# Knowing the Weeds on Your Property



While the right plants can enhance the aesthetic appeal of your property, improve water quality, and create habitat for wildlife, certain plants can be a scourge to your property's value. Invasive and noxious plant species can create unproductive monocultures across large landscapes, disrupt wildlife patterns, contribute to decreased water quality, and be a real thorn in your side (or thumb, or toe!).

By identifying the plants on your property you can be better prepared to manage certain species that are noxious and invasive.

## Resources for Managing Problem Plants

- ▶ For assistance with creating a weed management plan contact Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District at 541-423-6159.
  - Most weeds require intensive management including the use of herbicides, mechanical removal, and close observation.
- ▶ Pick up a copy of *Weeds of the West*, available for sale at JSWCD, local bookstores, and online.
- ▶ Pick up a copy of *Selected Noxious Weeds of Oregon*, free at JSWCD, Bureau of Land Management, and various other natural resource organizations.

## Oregon's Most Wanted Weeds

Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>
Puncturevine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Rush skeleton weed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>
Scotch broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Spanish broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>
Tansy ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Yellow star thistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>





Sources: Medford BLM, Record of Decision. Resource Management Plan: Noxious Weeds

JSWCD Noxious Weeds

*Weeds of the West*, 11<sup>th</sup> ed. 2012

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Canada thistle</b></p> <p><i>Habitat:</i> Abundant in disturbed soil &amp; altered/disturbed riparian and forest habitats  <i>Key traits:</i> Colony-forming perennial, growing 1’-4’ tall. Purple flowers bloom June through August. Mature flowers release white, fluffy seed heads.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Diffuse knapweed</b></p> <p><i>Habitat:</i> Disturbed, mis-managed areas of pastures &amp; rangeland, roadsides &amp; waste areas  <i>Key traits:</i> Annual or short-lived perennial. Flowers range from white to purple, July through September.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leafy spurge</b></p> <p><i>Habitat:</i> Most common in untilled, non-crop areas, including rangeland, pastures, forests, roadsides, stream and ditch banks, &amp; waste areas.  <i>Key traits:</i> Perennial up to 3’ tall. Stems cluster thickly, growing narrow leaves. Flowers are small, yellow-green with yellow-green heart-shaped bracts beneath.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">*Toxic to livestock*</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Puncturevine aka. Goat’s head</b></p> <p><i>Habitat:</i> Roadsides, pastures, cultivated fields, &amp; waste areas.  <i>Key traits:</i> Annual, mat forming growing prostrate. Leaves are small &amp; oval. Sulphur-yellow flowers with 5 petals bloom July-October. The sectioned seeds are protected by curved, sharp burrs that puncture skin &amp; bike tires readily.</p>	

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Purple loosestrife</b></p> <p><i>Habitat:</i> Streambanks, ditchbanks, &amp; pond shorelines  <i>Key traits:</i> Upright, cluster growing perennial, 6'-8' tall. Flowers are bright rose-pink to purple growing on tall spikes.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rush skeleton weed</b></p> <p><i>Habitat:</i> Well-drained, light-textured, often disturbed soils along roads, in rangelands, pastures, &amp; fields.  <i>Key traits:</i> Perennial. Leaves form at the base of tall, branched, narrow stems, with yellow flowers at the ends of branches. Flowers &amp; seeds mid-July through frost.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Scotch broom</b></p> <p><i>Habitat:</i> Pastures, riparian areas, forests, &amp; waste areas  <i>Key traits:</i> Erect, woody shrub with narrow, green stems. Flowers are yellow &amp; mature to flat pea-pods which hang down from stems. Leaves often fall off, leaving bare erect stems.</p>	

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Spanish broom</b></p> <p><i>Habitat:</i> Roadsides, hillsides, drier areas than Scotch broom</p> <p><i>Key traits:</i> Erect, woody shrub with few stems. Flowers are yellow &amp; mature to flat pea-pods which often stand erect from stems. Leaves often fall off, leaving bare erect stems.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tansy ragwort</b></p> <p><i>Habitat:</i> Rangeland &amp; pastureland</p> <p><i>Key traits:</i> Biennial or short-lived perennial. Grows 1'-6' tall. Yellow flowers.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">*Toxic to livestock*</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yellow star thistle</b></p> <p><i>Habitat:</i> Thrives in many habitats once established. Common in disturbed areas, along roadsides, &amp; pastures.</p> <p><i>Key traits:</i> Annual, growing 2'-3' tall. Basal leaves with erect, bluish-gray/green stems. Stems have narrow, sharply pointed leaves. Single yellow flowers are located at ends of stems &amp; are accompanied by straw colored thorns!</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">*Toxic to livestock*</p>

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