

Spring Creek Association's Most Prevalent Noxious Weeds

Spotted Knapweed

Appearance: Biennial or short-lived perennial that can grow 2' - 3' high. The first year's leaves form a rosette that spread out flat against the ground, like a dandelion. In the second year, many branched stems grow out from the first year's rosette.

Leaves: Grow alternately up the stem, grayish and deeply lobed.

Flowers: Purple flowers that bloom from July through September.

Roots: Stout taproot. Lateral shoots form new rosettes near the parent plant.

Control Methods:

Mechanical:

- Early detection and pulling are effective. Wear long sleeves and gloves, can be a skin irritant to some people.
- Mowing as needed so plants cannot go to seed.

***Herbicide:**

- Broadleaf herbicide with a surfactant added to the mixture. The herbicide can be applied up until flowering growth stage, rosettes can be treated in the fall.



Dyer's Woad

Appearance: Biennial, sometimes an annual or a short-lived perennial.

Leaves: Basal rosette leaves have conspicuously pale veins. Leaves grow alternately and attach directly to the stem.

Flowers: Bright yellow flowers are born in clusters at the ends stem branches.

Roots: Stout taproot that can grow more than five feet deep and has smaller lateral roots that spread outwards near the surface.

Control Methods:

Mechanical:

- Hand pulling can be very effective in reducing infestations. It is critical to remove the crown to prevent re-sprouting. Hand pulling is easiest after the plants have bolted, but should be done before seed set.

***Herbicide:**

- Broadleaf herbicide with a surfactant added to the mixture. Plants should be treated in the seedling to rosette stages.



Scotch Thistle

Appearance: A biennial plant, producing a large rosette of fuzzy, spiny leaves the first year. Can grow to be over 6 feet tall.

Leaves: Greenish-grey leaves are oblong and prickly with toothed margins.

Flowers: Purple globe-shaped flower heads, 1 to 2 inches in diameter.

Roots: A stout, fleshy taproot that may extend down a foot or more.

Control Methods:

Mechanical:

- Small infestations may be physically removed with a shovel by removing at least the top two inches of the taproot to prevent regrowth.

***Herbicide:**

- Broadleaf herbicide with a surfactant added to the mixture. Can be applied in the spring and early summer to rosette or bolting plants as well as in the fall to seedlings and rosettes before ground is frozen.



Musk Thistle

Appearance: A biennial plant, producing a large rosette of spiny leaves the first year.

Leaves: Have an oblong shape, with a frosted edge. Also have a cream-colored vein going down the center.

Flowers: Dark purple, globe-shaped flower heads, 1 to 2 inches in diameter.

Roots: A stout, fleshy taproot that may extend down a foot or more.

Control Methods:

Mechanical:

- Small infestations may be physically removed with a shovel by removing at least the top two inches of the taproot to prevent regrowth.

***Herbicide:**

- Broadleaf herbicide with a surfactant added to the mixture. Can be applied in the spring and early summer to rosette or bolting plants as well as in the fall to seedlings and rosettes before ground is frozen.



Poison Hemlock

Appearance: Plants consist of hairless hollow stalks with purple blotches. Can get quite tall, sometimes up to 8 feet or higher and are *extremely toxic to humans and animals*.

Leaves: Fern-like leaves.

Flowers: Produces many white umbrella-shaped flower clusters at the ends of branching stems.

Control Methods:

Mechanical:

- Not recommended.

***Herbicide:**

- Broadleaf herbicide with a surfactant added to the mixture. The best time to spray poison hemlock is when the plant is still young and the leaves are still in the rosette stage, and before it forms a stem and produces flowers.



* It is extremely important that you **READ AND FOLLOW THE LABEL** with any herbicide you chose to use.

Prepared for the Spring Creek Association residents by the Humboldt Watershed CWMA.

