

Boulder County - Noxious Weed List

Boulder County currently has 22 plants which are listed in the Boulder County Noxious Weed Management Plan

LIST A - Eradicate

Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)

Orange hawkweed is a perennial from Europe and reproduces runners, rhizomes, root buds and seed. This plant grows 10–20 inches high and looks similar to dandelions only with red-orange and yellow flowers generally clustered.



Spotted Knapweed (*Acosta maculosa*)

Spotted knapweed is a simple perennial that reproduces only by seed. There are 8-15 stems per plant. It is named after the black tipped (spotted) bracts at the base of the flowering head.



Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

Japanese knotweed, a bamboo-like perennial that grows 5-16 feet tall spreads through a lateral root system or rhizomes and is an invasive from Asia. It blooms in late summer with small showy greenish-white flowers on branched clusters.



LIST A - Eradicate

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Purple loosestrife is an invasive tap-rooted perennial forb from Europe, and an escaped ornamental inhabiting natural areas wetland margins. It can grow from 2 - 8 feet tall on four-sided stems with 5 inch lance-shaped leaves and has tight clustered pinkish-purple flowers on long vertical heads. Common in Boulder County



Mediterranean Sage (*Salvia aethiopis*)

Mediterranean Sage is a biennial in the Mint family with hairy bluish-green lobed leaves and a pungent odor when crushed. It grows an erect branched flower stalk with small white blooms, and breaks off in the fall forming a tumbleweed. Common in Boulder County



Rush Skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)

Rush skeletonweed, an invasive perennial from Asia and the Mediterranean reproduces by seed and by an extensive root system. Rosettes closely resemble common dandelion and mature plants grow from 1-4 feet on wiry stems with toothed leaves and blooms with small yellow flowers from mid-July into early fall.



LIST A - Eradicate

Cypress Spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*)

Cypress Spurge is a low growing biennial with narrow linear or lance-shaped leaves and yellowish-green flowers. Only known infestations in Boulder County are on private lands.



Myrtle Spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*)

Myrtle spurge has fleshy blue-green alternate leaves and inconspicuous yellow-green flowers. This plant has a toxic milky sap and can cause severe skin irritations, blistering and is poisonous if ingested. Quite common and a real threat in Boulder County found especially in the foothills.



Yellow Starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)

Yellow starthistle is a winter annual from Spain with a vigorous taproot and bright yellow flowers with sharp spines around base of flower. A mature plant can grow up to 4 feet tall and can produce 100,000 seeds.



LIST A - Eradicate

Dyer's Woad (*Isatis tinctoria*)

Dyer's Woad is a deep tap rooted winter annual, biennial or short lived perennial that grows from 1-4 feet tall. Blooms from April to early June with tiny numerous yellow flowers clustered on upper multi-branched stems.



LIST B – Contain & Suppress

Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)

Houndstongue has reddish-purple flowers and spreads readily by means of burrs which attach to clothing or animal fur. It is toxic, particularly to horses and cattle. This biennial is controllable by hand pulling. Large infestations may need to be controlled with an herbicide.



Diffuse Knapweed (*Acosta diffusa*)

Diffuse knapweed is a profusely branched biennial or short-lived perennial. Stems are rough. Flowers are white, reddish, or lavender, and are present from June to September.



LIST B – Contain & Suppress

Russian Knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*)

Russian knapweed is a creeping, herbaceous perennial. Shoots and leaves are covered with dense grey hairs. Flowers are pink, lavender or white. The plant produces chemicals which prohibit the growth of other plants. It is toxic to horses.



Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)

Leafy spurge has bluish-green leaves and yellow-green flowers. It has an extensive root system which makes it very hard to control. While not as big a problem in Boulder County as in other parts of Colorado, it has gained ground in recent years and is considered a large threat to our wildlife habitat.



Tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*, *Tamarix parviflora*)

Also known as salt cedar, tamarisk is a large shrub up to 20 feet tall. This ornamental plant has escaped cultivation and become an enormous problem in riparian areas throughout the west. It is capable of drying up an area because of the amount of water that evaporates from the plant.



LIST B – Contain & Suppress

Common Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)

This biennial plant is a new invader in wetlands of Colorado. It was introduced as an ornamental for dried flower arrangements and for carding wool. Small infestations may be controlled by hand pulling. Large infestations may need to be controlled with an herbicide.



Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)

Bull Thistle is a biennial that grows two to five feet tall and reproduces by seed only. Leaves are prickly hairy above and cottony below.



Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

Canada thistle has numerous clusters of small lavender heads. It is prevalent throughout the state, and forms dense single species stands which have little habitat value to wildlife or livestock. It spreads very quickly via both roots and seeds.



LIST B – Contain & Suppress

Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*)

Musk thistle has a large purplish flowering head (often nodding) which produces numerous seeds. It is prevalent throughout Boulder County.



Scotch Thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)

Scotch thistle is a very large (up to 8 feet tall) plant with reddish-purple or violet colored 1" to 2" diameter flowers. Leaves may be as large as 2' long and 1' wide. The plant can form an impenetrable barrier to wildlife, livestock and people.



Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia* var. *dalmatica*)

An escaped ornamental plant similar to snapdragon, Dalmatian Toadflax rapidly takes over infested areas. Colorado State University research has shown that in 6 years this plant expanded by 1230% at a given site. Dalmatian Toadflax is unpalatable to both wildlife and livestock.



LIST B – Contain & Suppress

Yellow Toadflax / Butter and Eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*)

Yellow toadflax, also known as Butter and Eggs, is a deep rooted creeping perennial that invades foothills, montane and riparian habitats. It has been mistakenly included in posters of native Colorado wildflowers. This weed is extremely difficult to control.

