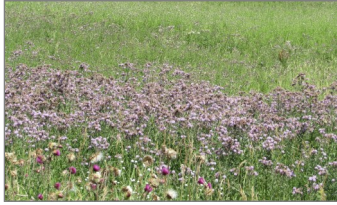


Noxious weeds are non-native, invasive plants that spread easily, establish quickly, and have the ability to damage our agricultural lands and wild places.



Canada & musk thistle

Noxious weeds cause harm to:

- **native plant communities.** Invasive plants steal the resources that other plants need to survive. They outcompete and displace native plants, often leading to a decline in plant diversity.
- **wildlife habitat.** Many noxious weeds are unpalatable and replace the food plants that animals depend upon, reducing the amount and quality of wildlife habitat.
- **local agriculture.** Loss of forage, declines in crop yields, and the money spent managing noxious weeds cost Montana farmers and ranchers millions of dollars every year.
- **neighbor relationships.** Noxious weeds frequently cause disputes among neighbors. Don't be a neighborhood seed source!
- **property values.** Noxious weeds invade natural areas and pastureland resulting in increased maintenance and rehabilitation costs for your property. Once established, noxious weeds are hard to get rid of.

Have questions or need help?

The Madison County Weed District provides many services, including:

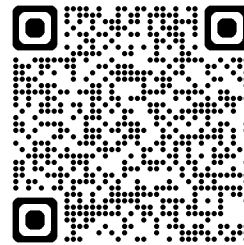
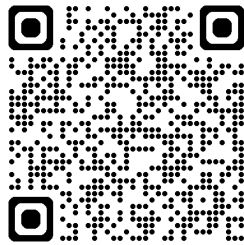
- weed management advice and herbicide recommendations
- noxious weed control cost-share program
- sprayer rentals
- commercial applicator list
- free weed identification guide

Contact us:

406-842-5595

www.madisoncountymt.gov/222/Weed-Office
clayton.marxer@madisoncountymt.gov

Weed District Website Weed District Facebook



Additional resources:



Madison-Jefferson MSU Extension
 (406)287-3282
kaleena.miller1@montana.edu



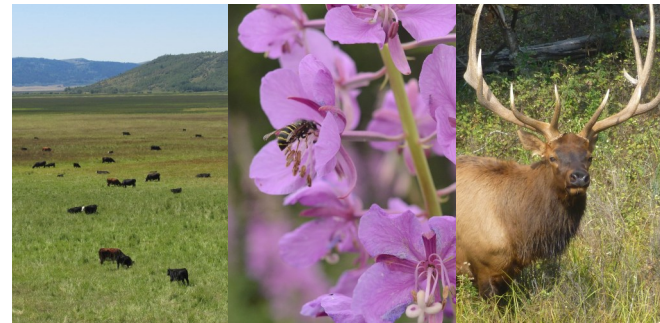
MVRG-Weed Committee
 (406)595-1610
mvrgrweeds@gmail.com



Grow Wild
 (406)209-0905
jen@growwildmt.org
www.growwildmt.org



Why Should You Care About Noxious Weeds?



Madison County Weed District
 2296 Hwy 287
 Alder, MT 59710
 (406)842-5595
clayton.marxer@madisoncountymt.gov

You can help stop the spread of noxious weeds and protect natural resources in Madison County and beyond!

Montana law (MCA 7-22-2116) states that it is unlawful for property owners to permit noxious weeds to propagate or go to seed on their land unless they are following an appropriate weed management plan. Noxious weeds are non-native plant species that render the land unfit for beneficial uses or harm native plant communities. There are 39 species of noxious weeds in Madison County. Learn to identify some of the more common species of noxious weeds that are found in Southwest Montana:



Spotted knapweed - Purple flowers with black-tipped bracts; plants have a taproot



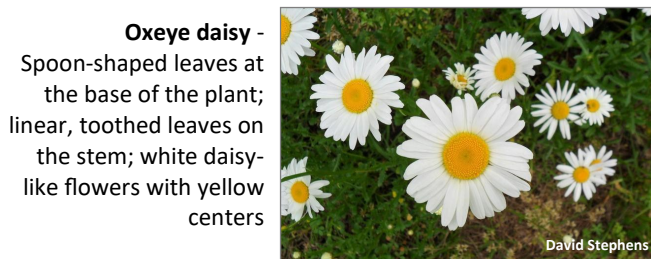
Yellow toadflax - Yellow, snapdragon-like flowers with an orange center; linear leaves with smooth edges



Hoary alyssum - White, notched flower petals; rough leaf texture; plants have a taproot



Houndstongue - Dark red flowers; bur-like sticky seeds; plants have a taproot



Oxeye daisy - Spoon-shaped leaves at the base of the plant; linear, toothed leaves on the stem; white daisy-like flowers with yellow centers



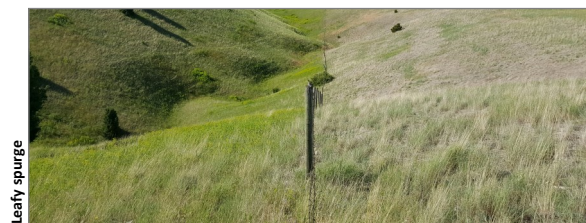
Canada thistle - Purple flowers and prickly leaves; plants spread by a creeping root system as well as by seed



Musk thistle - Large purplish-pink flowers with sharp bracts; spines all over plant; plants can grow up to five feet tall and have a taproot



Poison hemlock - Fern-like leaves; small white flowers are grouped in clusters; plant has a taproot but all parts of the plant are poisonous so use caution when handling it



Leafy spurge

Be a good neighbor! Manage your noxious weeds every year before they flower and set seed.

Prevention is key!

- Minimize ground disturbance and maintain healthy perennial plant communities.
- Revegetate disturbed areas as soon as possible to establish desirable plant communities that compete with weeds.
- Frequently survey your land so that new infestations are detected early.
- Wash equipment after working in areas with noxious weeds to limit their spread.

Noxious weeds may spread by seeds or roots. Effective management techniques include ...

- **hand pulling or digging** — Work best for species with a taproot or very small infestations. Throw plants with flowers or seeds in the trash.
- **mowing** — Timing is important. Mow after bolting but before buds open to prevent flowering and deplete root reserves. Mow again after regrowth.
- **herbicide** — Follow the label. For best results, use the correct herbicide at the correct time.

Typically a combination of these techniques works best. Seeds can live in the soil for many years, so management is a long term effort. You can manage your weeds yourself or hire someone to do it for you.