



A

- Spiny-tipped leaves with wavy edges
- Purple-white flower clusters blooming in mid-summer

By Mary McKinney and Amy Jerup

Weeds that can be effectively treated in the fall are the focus of this feature. Try to match the descriptions with the photos.

Noxious weeds are highly invasive plants that usually arrived in the U.S. by accident. They thrive, using up the water, nutrients, and sunlight, which help them grow strong and spread fast. They crowd out native plants, which provide important food and habitat for wildlife.

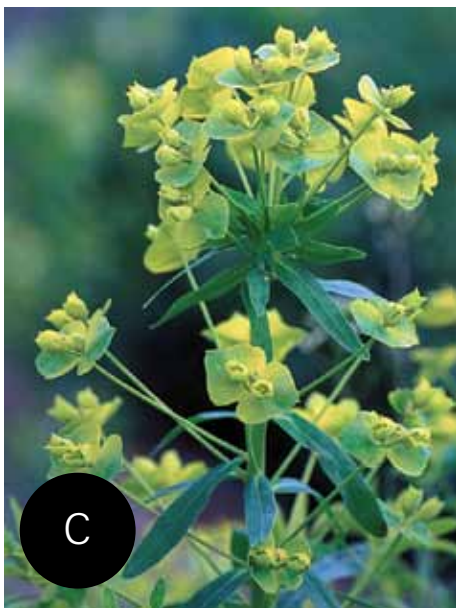


B

- Blue/green, waxy, clasp leaves
- Yellow snapdragon-like flowers
- Brought to the U.S. as a decorative flower

DO YOU KNOW THESE INFAMOUS WEEDS?

These highly invasive noxious weeds conquer native plants, destroy habitat



C

- Perennial, creeping root system, 25-foot deep
- 2.5-inch long narrow leaves
- Can throw its seeds 15 feet from plant
- Yellowish-green flowers with heart-shaped bracts
- Milky sap comes out of any broken part of plant
- Sap is poisonous to livestock, a skin irritant, and may cause blindness

Noxious weeds generally do not have any predators or insects to prevent them from spreading.

These plants need to be stopped from destroying ecosystems. To help control the noxious weeds, learn what they look like, stay away from them so you don't spread their seeds, and report their location to your weed and pest control district.

Contact your local weed and pest control district (www.wyoweed.org/addresses.html) for more information on effective treatments of these invasive species.

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D

- Roots have a black coating and can grow to 23 feet long
- Deeply lobed lower leaves and entire upper leaves
- Pink to purple single flowers

Photo by Norman E. Rees, USDA Agricultural Research Service

A. Canada thistle, B. Dalmatian toadflax, C. Leafy spurge, D. Russian knapweed