Native to central and southern Europe, Grecian foxglove (*Digitalis lanata*) is an herbaceous perennial that was brought to North America as an ornamental and escaped cultivation.

Grecian foxglove thrives in sunny to partially shaded areas and has been found dispersed in Washington County. The flowering stems are 2-5 feet tall with oblong-shaped leaves and pointed tips. Flower color ranges from white to faint yellow with brownish-purple venation inside.

**Impacts of Grecian foxglove on your community**

Though Grecian foxglove displaces forage and native vegetation, the greatest concern is the potentially lethal threat of poisoning to humans and livestock. Grecian foxglove synthesizes toxic compounds that can cause harm upon contact. All plant parts are toxic, alive or dried, necessitating careful handling with protective clothing and equipment.

Poisoning symptoms include headache, nausea, vomiting, lethargy, abdominal pain, strange dreams, arrhythmias, and changes in vision. If you suspect foxglove poisoning, call Minnesota Poison Control System at 1-800-222-1222. Call 911 if immediate help is needed.

**Grecian foxglove management**

Grecian foxglove is a prohibited noxious weed on the eradicate list, which means that all of the above and below ground parts of the plant must be destroyed, as required by law. Additionally, no transportation, propagation, or sale of these plants is allowed.

- **Wear protective clothing and rubber gloves when handling this species.**
- Repeated hand-pulling of smaller infestations in the spring and fall can provide control.
- Mowing is not recommended as flowers can develop on freshly cut plants. Mowing also spreads mature seeds.
- Seasonal herbicide application can greatly reduce populations over time.

**What to do if you suspect you found Grecian foxglove**

To report infestations of Grecian foxglove, please do the following.

- Note the exact location with address or GPS coordinates.
- If it is possible, take digital photos of the whole plant, rosettes, flowers, and seed stalks that can be emailed for identification.
- Infestations can be reported to one of two places:
  1. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) by email at arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us, or voicemail 1-888-545-6684.
  2. Directly to EDDMapS through the Great Lakes Early Detection Network app on a smartphone or tablet.

To learn more about the MDA’s Noxious and Invasive Weed Program and the Noxious Weed Law and Lists, please visit: [www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol)