

Payette National Forest

Invasive Species to Watch Out For



Michael Rasy, University of Alaska, Bugwood.org

Spotted Knapweed (Centaurea stoebe)

Appearance: A bushy, winter-hardy, upright perennial forb up to 4 ft. tall, living 2-5 years.

Foliage: First year the plant is a rosette with lobed leaves. Subsequent years the foliage is alternate on steam, spiraling and jutting out and upward bluish green, hairy leaves.

Flowering Head: Egg-shaped flower bud covered in fringed green bracts with black tips that eventually part to allow a constricted pinkish-to-lavender thistle plume.

Fruit/Seeds: Tightly packed heads of oblong, brownish, hairy seeds, 0.1 in. long, topped by short stubby bristles that disperse like dandelion seeds.



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

Rush Skeleton Weed (Chondrilla juncea)

Appearance: A thin, spindly, extensively branching perennial forb that can grow up to 4 ft. tall.

Foliage: Inconspicuous leaves arise from a rosette at the base of the plant of sharply lobed leaves that are 2-5 in. long. Both stem and leaves produce a milky sap when broken.

Flowering Head: 0.5 in. across and yellow, occurring individually or in 2-5 flower clusters.

Fruit/Seeds: Fruit is oblong, tapered at both ends, pale to dark brown, and 0.11-0.15 in. long.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

Canada Thistle (Cirsium arvense)

Appearance: A rhizomatous, upright perennial from 1-5 ft. tall.

Foliage: Alternate on the stem, 1-10 in. long and 0.3-2.5 in. wide, dark green and oblong to lanceolate. They are smooth and shiny above, but their undersides have short, white hairs. They may be slightly lobed and very prickly. Leaves at the base of the plant are 5-8 in. long.

Flowering Head: Heads are composed of many small pink to purple flowers, they are flask-shaped, 0.4-0.6 in. in diameter, 0.4-0.75 in. tall, numerous, and occur at the top of the plants.

Fruit/Seeds: Tiny with a tuft of white to light brown hair to be carried in the wind.

Mary Ellen Harte, Bugwood.org



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

Houndstongue

(Cynoglossum officinale)

Appearance: An upright biennial plant that can grow up to 4 ft. tall. Flowering occurs the second year.

Foliage: First year leaves are at the base of the plant elliptical, dark green and 6-8 in. long. Flowering stem leaves are alternate, 1-2.5 in. long, and slightly hairy.

Flowering Head: Reddish-purple flowers with five petals, 0.25 in. wide, and occur in long clusters at the tops of the plants and from where leaves meet the stems.

Fruit/Seeds: Fruits are yellow to brown, flat, and densely covered with small, barbed hooks.

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www.wildspotter.org

mappinginvasives@gmail.com
@mappinginvasives











