



BEWARE THESE ALIEN INVADERS



BRITISH COLUMBIA
Ministry of Forests

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Beautiful but deadly, these plants are rapidly invading our forest floors, creating havoc with local flora and fauna. Quickly establishing thick stands through seed or root systems, some species make a site virtually inaccessible. Capable of producing thousands of seeds per plant which may lie dormant for many years, they pose a very real threat to the continued existence and biodiversity of our environment. Weed dispersal is carried out mainly by humans carrying seeds, burs

or root pieces on machinery and vehicles, but also on footwear or clothing. As well, seeds can be transported by water, wind and wildlife, threatening the ecosystems of surrounding areas. There are more than 20 species of of weeds presently threatening B.C.'s plant communities.

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to learn about four noxious weeds



Bull Thistle

- Taprooted biennial with spiny, winged stems growing up to 1.5 meters tall
- Prickly leaves end in long, sharp spines; deep purple to pinkish purple flowers occur throughout summer
- Persistent weed stands may continue for many years as seeds remain viable up to 36 years
- Can be spread long distances by wind-borne seeds, of which it can produce up to 4000 per plant



GORSE

- Spiny, perennial evergreen shrub grows to over 2 meters; small leaves terminate in vicious, rigid spines, while bright yellow flowers develop into black seedpods by late summer.
- One shrub typically produces up to 8000 seeds annually; seeds can lay dormant up to 40 years.
- Spread by seeds scattering to adjacent areas; also by animals, water, machinery
- Fairly flammable, creating potential fire hazard in drier areas



DALMATIAN TOADFLAX

- Creeping rooted perennial; pale green, heart-shaped waxy leaves with pointed tip clasping the stem; bright yellow, “snapdragon-like” flowers tinged with orange up to 4 cm long
- Spread by roots and seeds; deeply penetrating taproot and lateral roots suppress other vegetation by intense competition for limited soil and water
- Contains toxic alkaloids that can cause liver damage in grazing animals



HOUND'S TONGUE

- Biennial weed that grows 0.5-1.2 meters tall; soft, hairy rosette leaves resemble shape of a dog's tongue; dull, purple flowers bear up to 4000-6000 seeds covered with hooked prickles (burs)
- Thick, deep tap-root exploits lower soil strata for water and nutrients
- Spread by burs attachment to clothing, cattle and wildlife
- Contains toxic alkaloids that can cause liver damage in grazing animals