

PLEASE REPORT ANY SIGHTINGS OF THESE SPECIES:

COMMON REED

- Also known as Phragmites, this large, coarse perennial grass is often found in wetlands, creeks, marshes, ditches, etc.
- Thick stalk, with a large, plume-like flower, can grow up to 4m in height.
- Spreads rapidly from creeping rhizomes with long surface runners.
- Forms dense stands that reduces the diversity of plants and wildlife species.
- Several years of intensive treatment are necessary to control a stand.
- This plant has been reported along BC's coast; vigorous control is required.
- Report this ALERT species using Report-a-Weed!



GARLIC MUSTARD

- Biennial with a long, thin, white taproot that smells like horse-radish.
- First year rosette leaves remain green through the winter.
- Second year plants grow up to 1m high.
- Stalked triangular to heart-shaped leaves with coarsely toothed margins.
- Flowers in spring and summer, in button-like clusters of white flowers.
- Each plant may produce hundreds of seeds that scatter for several meters.
- Can self-fertilize, or pollinated by insects.
- Becomes dominant species in understory habitats; can crowd out native trees



JOINTED GOATGRASS

- Annual grass, 35-75 cm tall, that looks similar to wheat.
- Upright stems and long narrow leaf blades with flap-like appendages at the bases.
- Seeds are produced on cylindrical, reddish to straw-colored spikes, 5-10 cm long, that emerge in May to June.
- A single jointed goatgrass plant can produce up to 3,000 seeds.
- A prohibited noxious weed under the Canadian Seed Act, it grows in cultivated fields, pastures and disturbed areas along fences, ditches and roadsides. .
- Not currently known in BC - ALERT species



VELVETLEAF

- Taprooted annual in the Mallow family.
- Can grow over 2m in height.
- Is much branched toward the upper portion of the plant.
- Entire plant is covered with short, soft, velvety hairs.
- Large, heart-shaped leaves up to 20cm.
- Yellow to yellow-orange flowers, from late-July to August.
- Distinctive, circular seed-pod clusters.
- Each plant may produce up to 17,000 seeds which can remain viable for 50 yrs.
- Rated one of the worst weeds in the US, Velvetleaf is an ALERT species in BC.



YELLOW NUTSEDGE

- Rhizomatous perennial the Sedge family.
- Grows between 50 and 75 cm in height.
- Erect, unbranched, 3-sided stems that are triangular in cross-section.
- Shiny, yellow-green, v-shaped leaves that rise from the ground in groups of three, with a distinct ridge along the midvein.
- Spreads by a slender rhizome that travels in every direction; also spreads by seed.
- Produces a topknot of yellowish flowers arranged in umbrella-like cluster at the end of individual stem.
- Produces thousands of viable seeds 2 weeks after flowering.



YELLOW STARThISTLE

- Winter annual in the knapweed family.
- Grows quickly, and the taproot can reach a meter into the soil, allowing it to thrive during hot, dry summers.
- Grayish-green plant with bright yellow flowers ringed with long, sharp spines.
- Its competitiveness and lack of natural enemies make it an extremely successful invader: fields of solid yellow starthistle are not uncommon south of the border!
- It is a barrier to wild animal movement and is toxic to horses.
- It is not yet known in BC! If you see something that looks like this plant, please submit a Report-a-Weed report!



A FEW MORE NASTIES:

BLACK HENBANE

- All parts of the plant are poisonous to humans and animals when ingested!
- Annual or biennial; reproduces by seed.
- Can produce up to half a million seeds in one season.
- Member of the nightshade family.
- The entire plant is covered with greasy hairs and has a thick, fleshy taproot.
- Plants can grow to 1m or taller.
- Large leaves have a heavy, foul scent.
- Pale yellow flowers, also smell.
- Grows in a wide range of soil textures, but requires well-drained soil.
- It does not tolerate shade.



FIELD SCABIOUS

- Perennial; spreads by seeds.
- Large violet to pink, clover-like flowers atop nearly leafless stalks.
- Hairy stems with feathery leaves.
- Well-developed woody taproot.
- Can invade undisturbed habitat.
- VERY difficult to eradicate once it has established!
- Sometimes planted as ornamental to attract butterflies.
- Grows along roadsides, pastures and fields at mid-elevations in the Cariboo, Kootenays, Okanagan, Thompson, Omenica and Peace regions.



Flower close-up

GIANT HOGWEED

- All parts of the plant are phototoxic and can cause severe burns when exposed to sunlight!
- Perennial; reproduces by seed.
- Can produce up to 100,000 large seeds (1cm long) in one season.
- Resembles giant cow parsnip.
- Hollow stem, reddish in colour.
- Plants can grow to 5m or taller.
- Very large, deeply incised leaves can reach 1-1.5m across.
- Flowers cluster in 'umbrella-shape'.
- Do not attempt removal! Report this plant using Report-A-Weed.



GORSE

- Spiny, perennial evergreen shrub with a single upright stem and fragrant yellow, pea-like flowers.
- Hairy, black seedpods can produce and disperse up to 18,000 seeds per plant.
- Seeds are easily distributed by ants, birds and other animals, and machinery.
- Can grow up to 3m high; grows rapidly for the first 15 years and can live 45 yrs.
- Thrives on sunny clearings with dry, infertile soil: sandy or rocky areas, roadsides, fields and pastures, bluffs, etc.
- Hinders re-vegetation and recreational use of land; contains volatile oils which increase wildfire risk.



HIMALAYAN BALSAM

- Annual with a thick, much-branched, purple to reddish tinged hollow stem, growing from 0.6 to 2 m tall.
- Stalked leaves, oblong to egg-shaped with a serrated edge.
- Flowers are predominantly pink, white or purple, shaped much like an English policeman's helmet.
- Reproduces by seed; one plant can produce up to 800 seeds, which may be viable for 18 months or more. Seeds are even known to germinate under water.
- Invades many areas, predominantly river edges, riparian areas and wetlands.



PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED

- Spreads by long creeping roots (up to 2m) and by seeds.
- Roots enlarge at the soil line, forming a woody crown.
- Numerous semi-woody stems with hairless green to grey-green leaves that decrease in size up the stem.
- Flowers from early summer to fall with small white flower clusters at the end of branches.
- Occurs in wetlands, marshes, roadsides, ditches, hay meadows, pastures, etc.
- Suppressing the extensive root system of this Mustard is critical for successful control.

