

Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*

ssp. *Dalmatica*)



Dalmatian toadflax was once an ornamental flower that has escaped the garden and is very aggressive due to a lack of natural predators. Now, due to a vigorous root system, it has become widespread in Okanogan County.

Dalmatian Toadflax grows upright and has round to heart-shaped leaves that are alternated, very waxy, clasp the stem and are a blue-green in color. The flowers are yellow and grow along an upright stalk. The flowers themselves resemble snapdragons in shape.



Chemical control for Toadflax should be done while the plant is in full bloom. Several biological controls are also available but do not constitute control according to the Washington State weed law NCW 17.10. Hand pulling is also a means of control but constant vigilance and repeated pulling is necessary for control.

Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*)

Musk thistle is easily recognized by its large purple head that comes at the end of a long stalk. The heads become so large that they often bend forward, making this thistle also known as Nodding Thistle.



Though Musk thistle can spread rapidly due to the huge amount of seeds that it produces, it can be controlled. Since seeds are the only means of reproduction for this plant, removal of the seed pods is a viable means of control. There is also a biological agent available in the form of a beetle that feeds off of the seed heads, however this is not an accepted means of control under the weed control law but it



is a means to stem the spread of Musk Thistle and allow a chance for other methods of control to work.

Scotch Thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)

Scotch Thistle is a biennial. In the first year the rosettes form, followed by the bolting of the main stem in the second year. The plant itself can grow to over 10 feet in height, making it the largest thistle in North America. The leaves are lobed, spined



and covered in fine white hairs, making Scotch thistle have a silvery appearance. The seed heads are incredibly spiny as are the leaf margins and stems. Hand pulling or digging are reliable control options prior to seed production. Since Scotch Thistle only reproduces by seed, seed heads can be picked and removed from pulled plants, thus stopping the spread of this Noxious Weed.



Hoary Alyssum (*Berteroa incana*)

Hoary Alyssum is an adaptable and easily spread noxious weed. Hoary alyssum can be either an annual, a biennial, or even a short lived perennial depending on soil conditions. The problem with Hoary Alyssum is its incredible seed production. Hoary Alyssum produces seed throughout the spring and summer. The plant can be blooming and producing seeds at the same time. The seeds are located along the stems in flat oval shaped fruit that can spread by clinging to clothing and passing animals.



Hoary Alyssum is treated as a new invader outside the buffer strip area so the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board will chemically treat this noxious weed at no cost to the landowner.



Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)

Leafy spurge is a tough perennial with erect stems 1.5 to three feet tall. The leaves of leafy spurge are a bright yellow-green from mid-summer to fall. Leafy Spurge's main characteristic that makes it a tough invader to control is its extensive root system that can go over fifteen feet down into the ground and spread out from there to sprout up new shoots that grow into more seed producing plants.

Seed production of Leafy Spurge is rather unique in that the seed



pod is dry in the summer and then pop in little explosions that fling the seeds outward in a circle radius around the plant. From there new plants grow and in turn throw out more seeds that grow and throw out seeds and from there, well you get the picture...

**BEWARE! LEAFY SPURGE
CONTAINS A MILKY SAP
THAT CAN CAUSE
DERMATITIS AND
TEMPORARY BLINDNESS**

With Class B designate noxious weeds it is mandatory to stop seed production in order to prevent new infestations. Because of the incredible amount of seeds these plants can produce, this is a **MUST!**

Several methods of control are available, such as hand pulling, removing seed heads, chemical control, and in some cases, biological control. Please contact our office at 422-7165 for more information on the best option for the particular noxious weed.



Hoary Alyssum (*Berteroa incana*)

Board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 4:00 PM in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. You are always invited to attend and your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Recertification credit is available.

CLASS B DESIGNATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Found in Okanogan County



**STOPPING SEED
PRODUCTION IS A MUST!**

Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board

POB 791

149 N 3rd Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

Phone: (509) 422-7165

Fax: (509) 422-7166

E-mail

noxiousweeds@co.okanogan.wa.us

Web www.okanogancounty.org/nw

Definition of Class B Designate Noxious Weeds

Class B Designate Noxious Weeds are noxious weeds that have spread rapidly and have become a serious problem in Okanogan County.

Under State Law RCW 17.10 It is required for landowners to stop the seed production of any class B designate weeds that may be present on their property.

Failure to comply with RCW 17.10 forces the Okanogan Weed Board to start enforcement proceedings. Continued non-compliance will result in the commissioning of a Commercial Applicator by the weed board to treat the weeds in question. The landowner must then pay for the application in addition to a \$500 fine for the first offense and \$1,000 fine for any reoccurring offenses.

Remember, as bad as this sounds, the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board will work with you to help control your weeds. Enforcement is always the last solution and used only after all others have been exhausted.