

WEED SPOTTER FORM

Date of Sighting

Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Name of Weed Spotted

How/ by whom was the weed identified?

General location weed was found (nearest city, cross streets, trailhead, etc.)

Owner of Property

Private State City Federal County Other

Number of plants found: 1-10 11-100 100+

Was a sample collected? YES NO

Was the plant photographed? YES NO

Please include map of location that includes cross-streets, geographical features, landmarks, buildings, roads, distances etc.

SUBMIT TO:

Colorado Department of Agriculture

Attn: EDRR Specialist

700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000

Lakewood, CO 80215-8000

OR Email information to weeds@state.co.us



For more information about the Colorado Noxious Weed Management Program, please visit our website at www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds or call 303-239-5767.

www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE



Rush skeletonweed



What is Early Detection and Rapid Response?

Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) is a strategy utilized in weed control that emphasizes detecting and controlling new, invasive weeds while the populations are localized and small enough to be eradicated. Costs for EDRR are typically far less than the cost of containing and managing vast populations of weeds. Total eradication of newly detected noxious weeds prevents the growth and spread of unmanageable populations, protecting wildlife, the environment, and agricultural lands.

Weeds to Watch For

The following weeds are a select handful of List A species on Colorado's Noxious Weed List. List A species are non-native, highly invasive plants whose distribution in Colorado is limited. Eradication is mandatory and preventing new infestations is the highest priority. For a complete list of all List A species and other early detection species to look out for please visit:

www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds



Steve Dewey, Utah State Univ., Bugwood.org

Yellow starthistle

Winter annual that can grow to 4 feet tall. Stems are blue-green in color and winged. Flowers are bright yellow with sharp, stiff spines (3/4 in long) surrounding flower base. Yellow starthistle reproduces by seed. It crowds out native plants, degrades wildlife habitat, and is toxic to horses. Habitats affected include: rangelands, pastures, roadsides, and wastelands.

Rush skeletonweed, an A List species, is featured on the cover. It is a range and pasture invader and has recently been identified along Colorado roadsides. The plant grows 1-4 feet tall, has sharply-toothed leaves, brown hairs on the stem base, and contains a milky latex.

Our Goals

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's Early Detection and Rapid Response program:

1. Provides alert lists, identification resources, and reporting protocols for targeted invasive plant species.
2. Builds an invasive plant detection network that incorporates professionals and outdoor enthusiasts throughout Colorado to detect and report new and emerging invasive species in our state.
3. Provides technical and financial assistance to rapidly respond to and successfully manage detected species.



Orange hawkweed

Perennial plant reproducing from runners, rhizomes, root fragments, and seeds. Leaves form a basal rosette covered in bristly hairs. Stems are also bristly and grow 10-20 inches tall with a cluster of bright

orange-yellow flowers at the tips. Plant contains a milky sap similar to dandelions. Orange hawkweed displaces native vegetation and reduces livestock and wildlife forage due to the formation of dense stands. Orange hawkweed invades disturbed areas, ski-fields, grasslands, pastures, rangelands, woodlands, alpine meadows and yards.



Dyer's woad

Winter annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial growing 1-4 feet tall. Leaves have a white mid-rib on the upper surface. Flowers are numerous, yellow, very

small, and clustered at the top of the plant. Seed pods begin light green and turn purplish-black as they mature. Prolific seeder, crowds out native plants, degrades wildlife habitat, and reduces forage. Habitats affected include: rangelands, pastures, forests, roadsides, fields, disturbed sites and railroad rights-of-way.

How You Can Help

- Become familiar with Colorado's List A species and other Colorado EDRR species.
- Report suspected species of concern immediately. Document location information and take pictures if possible. Report to your county weed coordinator or the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Reporting forms are available online and on the back of this brochure.
- Educate others about the importance of Early Detection and Rapid Response and how it can help to protect Colorado's natural and agricultural lands from noxious weed invasions.



Mediterranean sage

Biennial with a stout taproot. First year rosettes are blue-green and covered with wholly hairs. Second year plants produce white flowering stem that grows up to 2-3 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide. Leaves have a pungent odor when crushed. Tumbleweed mobility spreads thousands of seeds across landscapes. Mediterranean sage

adapts to a wide variety of environmental conditions and quickly displaces native vegetation. It invades primarily rangelands, but will easily invade riparian areas, forests, roadsides, and dry pastures.



Purple loosestrife

Perennial that can grow up to 8 feet tall. Produces multiple four-sided stems with pinkish-purple flowers that grow in long, vertical heads. Spreads by seed and

vegetatively by root and stem fragments. Destroys wetlands, threatens native vegetation, impedes water flow in canals and ditches, and has little wildlife habitat value. Habitats affected include: riverbanks, pond & lakeshores, ditches, and wet meadows.