THE WATCH LIST

Colorado Noxious Weed Management Program

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Report Sitings To: weeds@state.co.us | More Info: www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds | Photo Credits to www.invasive.org

Asian Mustard
(Brassica tournefortii)

- 18-36 in. tall; basal rosette up to 36 in. wide
- Plants set seed prior to April
- Seed pods up to 2 ½ in. long
- Basal rosette leaves hairy; pinnately lobed & with toothed margins
- Seeds light reddish brown or black

Baby's breath
(Gypsophila paniculata)

- 12-18 in. tall & up to 16 in. wide
- Blooms summer through fall
- Flowers clustered, delicate, white or pink, 5-parted
- Leaves linear-lance-shaped, hairy, opposite; ¾ to 4 in. long
- Seed capsules egg-shaped, less than 1/10 in., very small & blackish

Brazillian Elodea
(Egeria densa)

- Up to 6 ft. long; dense submerged aquatic perennial
- Can live rooted or free floating; up to 20' deep
- Flowers emergent on stalks with 3 white petals & 3 green sepals
- Bright green leaves in whorls of 4; linear, oblong, 1¼" w/ very finely toothed margins
- Fragmented pieces can produce new plants

Cogongrass
(Imperata cylindrica)

- Up to 6 ft. tall
- Colony-forming
- Flowers 2-8 in.; fuzzy
- Leaves ½ to ¾ in. wide with off-center whitish midrib, finely serrated margins & a sharp, pointed apex
- Rhizomes whitish, scaly & sharp

Common bugloss
(Anchusa officinalis)

- 1-2 ft. tall by 1-2 ft. wide
- Blooms June to October
- Flowers ½ in. bright blue to purple with white throats
- Stems & leaves fleshy & hairy
- Leaves narrow & slightly pointed; alternate & get smaller up stem
- Fruit 4-chambered nutlet, 1 seed each

Common reed
(Phragmites australis)

- 6-15 ft. tall perennial grass
- Spreads by rhizomes
- Forms dense thickets in or near water
- Blooms July to October
- Flowers feathery & drooping; can appear silvery or purplish
- Leaves blue-green, flat, smooth
- Native species of Phragmites also exist in Colorado

Flowering rush
(Butomus umbellatus)

- Up to 5 ft. tall
- Aquatic perennial
- Blooms late summer
- Flowers 1 in. wide
- Leaves basal, sword-like & up to 3 ft. tall by ½ in. wide
- Thick, creaping rhizomes
- Stems triangular
- Fruits brown, ½ in. long
- Tolerant to a wide temperature range

Garlic mustard
(Alliaria petiolata)

- 1-4 ft. tall
- Herbaceous biennial
- Blooms early spring
- Flowers small; 4 white petals
- Rosette leaves 1-6 in. & heart-shaped
- Mature seeds shiny black in erect, slender green pods that turn pale brown
- Garlic odor when plant parts crushed
- Highly shade-tolerant

Hairy willow-herb
(Epilobium hirsutum)

- 3-6 ft. tall; perennial
- Blooms June to August
- Flowers single, 1/2 to 1 in.
- Stems covered in soft hairs
- Seeds with white silky tuft in long seedpod
- Leaves ½ in. wide, 2-4 in. long, opposite, lance-shaped with toothed edges; attached directly to stem
- Numerous native species are found in CO wetlands

Himalayan blackberry
(Rubus armeniacus)

- Up to 15 ft. tall
- Thicket-forming shrub
- Blooms late spring to summer
- Flowers 1 in. in groups of 3-20
- Compound leaves dark green above & pale to whitish below; leaves on 1st year shoots have 5 leaflets & leaves on 2nd year side shoots have 3 leaflets

Meadow hawkweed
(Hieracium caespitosum)

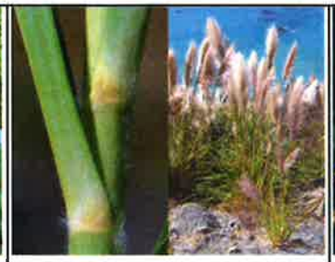
- 1-3 ft. tall
- Blooms late May to June; flower heads in tight clusters; 5-30 heads per stem
- Leaves mostly basal; lance shaped, up to 6 in. long & hairy; form dense mat at base
- Stems, leaves & bracts have dense blackish hairs & exude milky sap when broken

Onionweed
(Asphodelus fistulosus)

- 1½-2½ ft. tall tufted clumps
- Blooms July through August
- Flowers ¼ to ½ in. wide
- Stems branched & hollow
- Leaves 3-14 in. long by ¼ in. wide
- Doesn't smell like onion & doesn't form bulb
- Seeds triangular in cross-section; sharp edges

Parrotfeather
(Myriophyllum aquaticum)

- Dense aquatic perennial with both submerged & emergent leaves
- Emerged leaves bright blue-green; submerged darker; 4-6 whorled at each node
- Emerged stems grow up to 1 ft. above water
- Flowers may occur; if so, white & 1/16 in. long
- Spreads by plant fragments



Purple pampasgrass
(Cortaderia jubata)

- 1-2 ft. tall by 1-2 ft. wide
- Blooms June to October
- Flowers ½ in. bright blue to purple with white throats
- Stems & leaves fleshy & hairy
- Leaves narrow & slightly pointed; alternate & get smaller up stem
- Fruits are 4-chambered nutlets with 1 seed each

Scotch broom
(Cytisus scoparius)

- 7 ft. tall by 3 ½ ft. wide
- Blooms late spring to early summer
- Flowers 1 in. & pea-like
- Trifoliate leaves dark green above; paler & fuzzy below; alternate & pinately compound; ½-1 in. wide
- Grooved stems up to 2 in. wide
- Flat seedpods with small black seeds

Sericea lespedeza
(Lespedeza cuneata)

- 3 to 6 ft. tall
- Blooms summer to fall
- Flowers in clusters of 2-4
- Leaves thin, alternate, abundant & three-parted; leaflets ½-1 in. with wedge-shaped bases; hairy
- One to many slender stems

Spiny cocklebur
(Xanthium spinosum)

- 1-4 ft. tall by 1-4 ft. wide
- Blooms June to July
- Flowers 1-1½ in.; creamy green
- Stem straight & ridgid
- Leaves alternate, up to 3 in. long & 1½ in. wide; 3-lobed; shiny
- Female flowers become burrs which are the fruits; egg-shaped

Swainsonpea
(Sphaerophysa salsula)

- Up to 5 ft. tall
- Blooms May to June
- Flowers ¼-1 in. long, pea-shaped, & in groups of 4-8
- Leaves compound pinnate, alternate; 9-25 oval leaflets with silvery hairs
- Seeds form in inflated bladder-like pods
- Woody taproot with spreading rhizomes

Syrian beancaper
(Zygophyllum fabago)

- Up to 3 ft. tall by 3 ft. wide
- Blooms May to August
- Flowers can be white, yellow or salmon color & have 10-12 orange stamens
- Stems succulent & multi-branched
- Leaves opposite, compound & with 2 thick, fleshy leaflets

Water hyacinth
(Eichhornia crassipes)

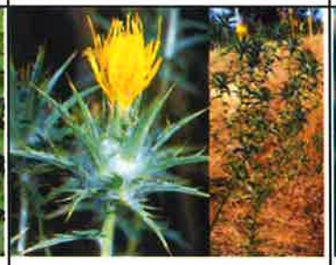
- Up to 3 ft. tall; dense floating aquatic
- Forms dense thickets in water
- Blooms July to October
- Flowers 2 in. wide in clusters at the end of a 12-in. spike
- Leaves dark green, 1½ to 4 ½ in. wide & 6 in. long
- Feathery roots

Water lettuce
(Pistia stratiotes)

- 2-3 ft. tall; dense floating aquatic
- Blooms late summer to winter
- Flowers inconspicuous; clustered on small, fleshy stalk in leaf axils
- Leaves velvety, hairy, spongy & in rosettes; 6 in. long; connected by short stolons
- Roots numerous & feathery

White bryony
(Bryonia alba)

- 12 ft. long or more; vigorous vine; can grow 6 in. per day
- Blooms mid-summer
- Flower ½ in. wide & greenish-white
- Leaves are dark green and palmately lobed; each has a corkscrew tendril for climbing
- Highly toxic seeds in round, black fruit
- Forms dense mats & shades out vegetation



Woolly distaff thistle
(Carthamus lanatus)

- 3½ ft. tall
- Blooms July to August
- Flowers 1-2 in. wide with spiny bracts
- Pale green stems hairy, rigid, upper portion branched
- Plants persist upright after they have died
- Flowers similar to yellow starthistle

Yellow flag iris
(Iris pseudacorus)

- 3-4 ft. tall wetland perennial
- Blooms late spring to early summer
- Flowers bright yellow with 3 drooping sepals & 3 smaller, upright petals, 3 in. wide & in groups of 2-10
- Leaves arise from base, flat with raised mid-rib; rhisomes grow up to 20 ft.
- Fruits occur as 2 in. brown capsules

Yellowtuft
(Alyssum murale & A. corsicum)

- Perennial forbs
- Adapted to serpentine soils
- Flowers are yellow, small & plentiful, occurring on branched umbels
- Bloom early summer
- Fruits are papery, circular to oval and flattened
- *A.murale* has narrow, gray-green leaves & *A.corsicum* has oval silvery-gray leaves

Yellow floatingheart
(Nymphoides peltata)

- Floating aquatic perennial
- Carpets water surface with long-stalked, heart-shaped, opposite & unequal leaves; 2-6" long & wide; arising from rhizomes
- Flowers bright yellow; 2-5 per stalk; 1" in diameter; 5 petals with fringed edges
- Flowers June to September
- Seeds flat & oval in shape; contained in beaked capsule

*Photos courtesy Oregon Dept. of Agriculture