



Noxious Weeds

Identification and Removal/Mitigation Methods




In 1996 the Colorado Noxious Weed Act (Title 35, Article 5.5) was passed to control noxious weeds. "Noxious weed" means an alien plant declared to be aggressively invasive or detrimental to economic crops or native plants; poisonous to livestock; a carrier of detrimental insects, diseases, or parasites; or detrimental to sound environmental management.

Protective equipment required to safely remove noxious weeds -- mask, eye protection, long sleeves/pants, rubber garden gloves (washable), sturdy shoes or boots




- Additional Safety Precautions:**
- Remove contaminated work gloves prior to touching unprotected skin, food, beverages, or pets
 - Wash clothing, gloves, and tools after noxious weed removal work
 - Budding and flowering plants must be **bagged** and disposed of properly since seeds can spread even after plants have been cut/removed
 - Dispose of noxious weed plant materials in landfill (securely bagged and placed in trash)




-- DO NOT compost or burn noxious weeds

Below are noxious weeds that can be eradicated by digging up roots or pulling by hand and do not require chemicals.

Myrtle Spurge, aka "Donkey Tail" (Perennial)	When to Eradicate	How to Eradicate	Red Stem Filaree, aka "Stork Bill" (winter annual or biennial)	When to Eradicate	How to Eradicate	Downey Broom, aka "Cheat Grass" (winter annual)	When to Eradicate	How to Eradicate
	Optimal time is March - May prior to seed set, but can be eradicated year-round.	Dig up or pull root Note: White sap is toxic and may cause severe skin irritation.		Optimal time is Feb - July, but can be eradicated year-round.	Dig up or pull plant to include the root.		Can be removed year-round, but best to remove before it seeds in late spring.	Mow, dig up, or pull plant and be sure to include the roots.

The weeds below are biennials -- 1st year the plant can be dug/pulled up in rosette stage; 2nd year, cut the stem at ground-level before they go to seed.

Poison Hemlock (smooth stem w/purple blotches)	When to Eradicate	How to Eradicate	Houndstongue	When to Eradicate	How to Eradicate	Common Mullein	When to Eradicate	How to Eradicate
	Blooms Apr - May Remove anytime upon positive identification. ALWAYS wear gloves!	Dig/pull up when plant is in rosette stage, or cut stem at ground level before flowers go to seed.		Optimal time is Feb - July before pink/purple flowers bloom and beak-like fruit develops	Pull out entire plant to include the tap root. Seeds have Velcro-like hairs that attach clothing and animal fur.		Blooms Jun - Aug Optimal time is late spring or early summer.	Easy to pull up plant before flowering due to shallow taproot. Bag to prevent spread of seeds (250,000 per plant)

*Scotch Thistle *Bull Thistle Musk Thistle	When to Eradicate	How to Eradicate	Knapweed	When to Eradicate	How to Eradicate	Common Burdock	When to Eradicate	How to Eradicate
	Blooms May - Sep *Eradication is required throughout El Paso County	Sever root below soil surface before plant produces flowers. Note: wear heavy gloves		Blooms Jun - Oct Fall is best time to cut plant at ground-level. NOTE: cut plants can still develop seeds, bag for disposal.	Cut stems at ground-level to allow weevils to lay eggs in roots. Weevils eat the seeds, but require the flowers to produce eggs.		Blooms Jul - Oct Optimal time is first year when plant is a rosette w/large heart-shaped leaves.	Hand pull, dig up taproot, or mow to prevent seed production and spread.



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<p>April</p>  <p>It's a good time to start looking for Creeping thistle stems infected with rust fungus, as well as Thistle and Poison Hemlock biennial rosettes.</p> <p>APRIL</p>	<p>May</p>  <p>Begin checking for leafy spurge flea beetles.</p> <p>Dalmatian Toadflax and Knapweed weevils are out and about.</p> <p>MAY</p>	<p>June</p>  <p>Musk thistle weevils are soon to emerge!</p> <p>Yellow Toadflax weevils are collected and distributed.</p> <p>JUNE</p>
<p>July</p>  <p>Time to collect diffuse knapweed seed-head weevils.</p> <p>JULY</p>	<p>August</p>  <p>See if you can spot some spotted knapweed root weevils.</p> <p>AUGUST</p>	<p>September</p>  <p>Puncturevine weevils are ready to collect.</p> <p>It's time to harvest infectious spores of creeping thistle rust.</p> <p>SEPTEMBER</p>

❖ The following list of additional noxious weeds can be found in Palmer Lake and can be eradicated by homeowners using mechanical methods; such as, shovels, trowels, pruners, and clippers, while disturbing the soil as little as possible (disturbed soil promotes seed growth, including noxious weed seeds). In some cases, frequent mowing is the best mitigation method due to extensive root systems.

- Common Tansy*
- Bouncing Bet*
- Yellow Toadflax*
- Scentless Chamomile*
- Common and Cut Leaf Teasel
- Oxeye Daisy*

** Mechanical eradication of these plants is only possible for individual plants or small infestations due to extensive roots.*

❖ Additional information may be obtained from:

- ❖ El Paso County Environmental Division - Noxious Weeds: <https://communityservices.elpasoco.com/environmental-division/noxious-weeds/>
- ❖ Colorado Department of Agriculture, Noxious Weeds: <https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/noxious-weeds>
- ❖ Colorado Department of Agriculture, Biocontrol: <https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/palisade-insectary>