



conserving
natural resources
for our future

258 Center Drive
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

970 945-5494 ext 105
July 2010



Your noxious weed control should include a revegetation plan. Call Mr. T's at 984-2977 to rent the No-Till Drill, provided by YOUR local conservation district.



202 Railroad Avenue
Rifle, CO 81650

Bookcliff Conservation District



In Cooperation with the City of Rifle

Weed Control—It's the law!

You may think that it is a little harsh, but the State of Colorado has a noxious weed law (C.R.S. 35-5.5-101) that states rural landowners must control noxious weeds on their property or they could be cited with a public nuisance citation.

Your local Conservation District, Bookcliff and Garfield County Vegetation Management have a cost share program that can assist rural landowners with the cost of treatment. The first step in weed control is detection. If you discover a noxious weed and need help with identification call Steve Anthony at

625-8601 for Garfield County. Steve can help you with a management plan and treatment options that are approved by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The district also have an intern who offers on-site visits. He will provide a map of your property with location of noxious weeds. Call **early** for an appointment! This management plan may also include revegetation to establish a more desirable plant community. Unfortunately it generally takes several years to control a weed infestation with yearly maintenance.

The Conservation District

can give you information on specific noxious weeds, assist you with completing your grant application, and help developing a management plan or produce a map of your property. The goal of the cost share program is to help **YOU**, the landowner! If you would like an application for cost share call the Conservation District's office at 945-5494 ext 105. **Remember, maintaining your land to ensure it is weed free is the law and good stewardship!**



Canada thistle is a non-native deep-rooted perennial that spreads by seeds and aggressive, creeping, horizontal roots (rhizomes). Canada thistle can grow 2 to 4 feet in height. The leaves are oblong, spiny, bright green in color, and are only slightly hairy on the undersurface. Flowers occur in small clusters that form on the ends of branches. They are about 1 cm in diameter, tubular shaped, and vary from white to purple in color with a strong vanilla scent (female flowers).

Canada thistle emerges from its root system from late April through May. It begins to flower in late spring to early summer with increase in day length. Canada thistle only produces about 1,000 to 1,500 seeds per plant. The key to controlling Canada thistle is to eliminate seed production and also to reduce the plant's nutrient reserves in its root system through persistent, long-term management.

Canada thistle is one of the most feared noxious weeds in the U.S. as it can infest many land types, from roadsides, ditch banks, riparian zones, pastures, irrigated cropland, to the most productive dryland cropland.



Hoary cress commonly known as **whitetop**, is a creeping perennial that is a member of the mustard family and native to Europe. The stems, in the rosette stage, may grow up to 2 inches in height and produce grayish-green leaves that are lance shaped. The leaves are alternate and 3/4 to 4 inches long. The upper leaves have 2 lobes that clasp the stem. The plant has numerous small, white flowers with 4 petals on stalks radiating from a stem. Seed capsules are heart-shaped with two small, flat, reddish brown seeds. One plant can produce from 1,200 to 4,800 seeds. The plants emerge in early spring with stems emerging from the center of each rosette in late April. Hoary cress flowers from May to June and plants set seed by mid-summer.



Habitats for Hoary Cress include: fields, waste places, meadows, pastures, croplands and along roadsides. It is typically found on unshaded, generally open areas of disturbed ground. It generally does better with moderate amounts of precipitation and grows well on alkaline soils.

The key to effective control of Hoary cress is prevention. Preventing the encroachment of these weeds is the most cost-effective management. Preventing invasions by limiting seed dispersal, monitoring and using weed free hay, and quarantine animals that may have grazed in infested areas.



Houndstongue is a short lived perennial or biennial forb. It produces rosettes in the first year, and bolts a stout, erect stem that is 1 to 4 feet tall, by mid-summer of the second year. Then it flowers and produces fruit. Flowering occurs May to July.

Reproduction is solely by seeds. Seeds are 4 prickly teardrop-shaped nutlets, which are packed in a pyramid-shaped receptacle. Most seeds fall close to the parent plant, but the seeds can travel great distances. The seeds have barbs like Velcro, with a hooked tip that clings to animals, clothing and machinery. A mature plant can produce 2,000 seeds. Seed viability is 1 to 3 years. Houndstongue is poisonous. Toxic pyrrolizidine alkaloids in Houndstongue stop liver cells from reproducing. Livestock and wildlife may live up to six months after ingesting a lethal dose. Though the plant has a distinctive odor that repels animals, it is more palatable when dried. The key to effective control of Houndstongue is preventing establishment and to prevent seed production. Planting competing and desirable grasses and forbs can be effective. Helping with reestablishment of disturbed sites. An integrated weed management approach can also be successful.