

BACKCOUNTRY WEEDS OF THE WASATCH FRONT

This identification guide highlights several invasive plants in Utah that cause economic and ecological damage to forests, range and wildlands. Many of the plants listed below can be found in the Salt Lake Valley, but are not yet widespread in our canyons and mountains.

Invasive and noxious weeds alter native plant communities and displace wildlife. When weeds are detected early they can be more easily contained or removed before permanent ecological damage occurs.

Learn how to prevent, report, and control these invasive plants by visiting www.weeds.slco.org

Leafy Spurge

Euphorbia esula



Clusters of yellow-green flowers

Long narrow leaves contain a white milky sap

Jim Gores, Teton County Weed & Pest

A deep rooted perennial with toxic properties. Grows in a range of habitats from riparian areas to dry rocky slopes.

Yellow Starthistle

Centaurea solstitialis



Yellow dandelion like flowers

Woolly ridged stems

1-2 inch long spines

Jeff Schalaus, ASU



Steve Dewey, USU

A spine covered annual with yellow flowers & winged stems. Grows on arid lands such as rangeland & pastures.

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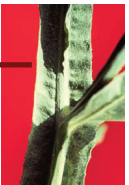


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Dalmatian Toadflax

Linaria genistifolia



Yellow snapdragon shaped flowers

Heart-shaped waxy leaves



© Mandy Tu, The Nature Conservancy

King County Noxious Weed Program

A 2-3 ft tall perennial with waxy leaves & yellow flowers. Grows in dry rocky soils on rangeland & disturbed areas.

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Spotted Knapweed

Centaurea maculosa



Pink to purple flower heads on gray hairy stems

Dark spots below the flower heads



University of Idaho Archives, U of I, www.insect.images.org

Steve Dewey, USU

A 4 ft tall perennial with branching stems. Grows in a range of habitats from moist riparian areas to dry slopes.

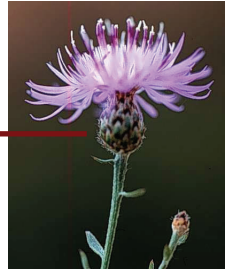
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Dyers Woad

Isatis tinctoria



Yellow flowers and bluish green leaves with a distinctive white midrib

Black seed pods form in June-July



Bonnie Rasmussen, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Steve Dewey, USU

A 1-5 ft tall biennial with yellow flowers & bluish green leaves. Grows just about everywhere.

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