

[LIST](#)**NEW INVADERS**

[Musk Thistle](#)[Tansy Ragwort](#)[Yellow Starthistle](#)**NOXIOUS WEEDS IN THE AREA**

[Canada Thistle](#)[Diffuse Knapweed](#)[Meadow Knapweed](#)[Russian Knapweed](#)[Spotted Knapweed](#)[Meadow Hawkweed](#)[Orange Hawkweed](#)[Leafy Spurge](#)[Purple Loosestrife](#)[Rush Skeletonweed](#)[Dalmatian Toadflax](#)[Yellow Toadflax](#)[Scotch Broom](#)**What's a noxious weed?**

Noxious weeds are aggressive plants which are not native to our area. They crowd out beneficial plants and create a "monoculture" of just themselves. They are often harmful to humans, livestock, wildlife, the environment or the economic well-being of the area.

The [Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign](#) web site provides additional information on the impact of noxious/invasive weeds to Idaho Lands and its' economy. The web site also includes a list of [weed free hay producers](#).

Photos and text were supplied by the Panhandle Weed Management Area (PWMA). For questions on identification of weeds or control measures, contact a member of the [PWMA](#).

Last updated: 09/16/04

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[LIST](#)**Musk Thistle**

(*Carduus nutans*)

This large plant has a single flower at the end of each stalk. The **flower heads are 1 1/2 - 3 inches** across and range in color from **deep rose to purple**. The heads usually bend over and is sometimes, therefore, called "nodding thistle." Other traits:



Click on the photo for a larger image.

- **Biennial**; reproduces by seed.
- Can grow to **8 feet tall**.
- Begins first year as rosette; second year bolts upward.
- Seed has "parachute" similar to dandelion.
- Originally from Europe and Asia; now reported in Montana and southern Idaho.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)

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TANSY RAGWORT

(*Senecio jacobaea*)

This plant has clusters of **yellow, daisy-like flowers** and blooms from July to October. The leaves are narrow and deeply lobed, giving a distinctively ruffled appearance. It is **very toxic** to animals. Other traits:

- **Biennial** or short-lived perennial; will spread from **root fragments** as well as seed.
- Stems are much branched.
- Grows **1 to 6 feet tall**.
- A European native, this has been reported in Benewah and Bonner Counties in Idaho, as well as Sanders and Lincoln Counties in Montana.



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For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)

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Yellow Star Thistle

(*Centaurea solstitialis*)

As the name implies, this plant has a **star of spines** surrounding the **yellow flower** head. One flower head is located at the end of each branch, and there may be many branches. It is also known as St. Barnaby's thistle Other traits:



- **Annual**; spreading by seed.
- Cottony hair on leaves and stem branches give the plant a **gray-green** look.
- Stems are slightly winged.
- Grows **1 to 3 feet tall**.
- Native to Mediterranean region, it infests a large part of south/central Idaho and has been reported in Shoshone County, Idaho, and Spokane County, Washington.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)

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Canada Thistle

(*Cirsium arvense*)

An aggressive thistle, this plant can form dense colonies. Other traits:

- **Perennial**; spreads by extensive **creeping roots** and seeds.
- The **small purple flower** heads are not particularly spiny.
- Bears numerous seeds with "parachutes" which carry far on wind.
- Leaves are **wavy, dark green, and shiny**, with sharp spines.
- Single stems, from **1 to 5 feet tall**, are much branched near the top; stems are hollow and ridged.
- From Eurasia, this plant is fairly widespread in Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

Control methods:

Herbicides: Spray at actively growing stage before development of buds with 2,4-D; dicamba + 2,4-D; clopyralid (alone or with 2,4-D); chlorsulfuron; or glyphosate. Fall application to green leaves (before a killing frost) gives good control.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)



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Diffuse Knapweed

(*Centaurea diffusa*)

Sometimes called tumble knapweed, its spread is aided by tumbling of windblown mature plants. Other traits:



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- It can be an **annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial** and spreads by seed.
- Grows to a height of **3 feet** with a single, much-branched stem.
- Flowers are **white or pinkish** at the tips of each stem branch.
- Bracts have short, stiff spines.
- Native of Eurasia, it is found throughout the region.

Control methods:

Herbicides: Spray with 2,4-D; clopyralid; clopyralid + 2,4-D; dicamba + 2,4-D; or glyphosate in the spring while in the rosette stage for best control; good control can be achieved when the plant is actively growing or "bolting" upward, but before flower heads are set. Spray newly emerging rosettes as needed, before a killing frost. Spray every year until the seed bank is depleted.

Non-chemical: Mowing or cutting plants will reduce seed production.

Diffuse knapweed does not survive cultivation at regular intervals; pasture health and fertilization is an important factor. The plant may be pulled; it is easiest after a soaking rain. Other controls include shading, mulching, and irrigating. Several biological control agents, including a root boring beetle and moth, seed head gall flies, and a seed head weevil are available. The seed head flies are widespread in Idaho.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)

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[LIST](#)**Meadow Knapweed**

(*Centaurea pratensis*)

This plant is believed to be a hybrid of black knapweed and brown knapweed. Other traits:

- **Perennial** with a thick taproot, spreading primarily by seed.
- Grows to **3.5 feet tall**.
- The **pink to reddish** flowers are up to **1 inch wide**.
- This native of Europe has been found in Bonner County.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)



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[LIST](#)**Russian Knapweed**

(*Acrotilon repens*)

A difficult plant to kill, Russian knapweed came from the Caucasus in southern Russia. Other traits:

- A **perennial** plant which spreads by seeds and by an extensive **creeping root system** which may grow to a depth of 27 feet.
- A plant can produce **6 to 27 root shoots** per square foot.
- Stems are considerably branched.
- Flower heads are about one half inch in diameter and may be **white to pink or lavender**.
- It has been found in Bonner and Boundary Counties.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)



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Spotted Knapweed

(*Centaurea maculosa*)

This plant is widely dispersed throughout the region. Other traits:

- It is a **biennial or short-lived perennial**.
- Plants grow **3 to 5 feet in height**.
- **Pink to purple** flowers may also be **white** and are found on the stem branch tips.
- Each bract on the flower head has a dark fringe resembling a dark spot.
- Native of Europe, now well established in North America.



Click on the photo for a larger image.

Control methods:

Herbicides: Spray with 2,4-D; clopyralid; clopyralid + 2,4-D; dicamba + 2,4-D; or glyphosate in the spring while in the rosette stage for best control; second best herbicide control can be achieved with the same herbicides when the plant is actively growing or "bolting" upward before flower heads are set. Spray newly emerging rosettes as needed, before a killing frost. Spray every year until the seed bank is depleted.

Non-chemical: Mowing or cutting plants will produce low-growing flowers, although the potential seed production is reduced. Spotted knapweed does not survive cultivation at regular intervals; pasture health and fertilization is an important factor in preventing knapweed infestations. The plant may be pulled to remove most of the taproot; it is easiest after a soaking rain. Other controls include shading, mulching, and irrigating. Several biological control agents, including a root boring beetle and moth, seed head gall flies, and a seed head weevil are available. The seed head flies are widespread in North Idaho.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)

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[LIST](#)**Meadow Hawkweed**

(Hieracium pratense)

Also known as yellow hawkweed, it looks like a hairy dandelion with a cluster of flowers. Other traits:



Click on either photo for larger images.

- **Yellow flowers** look similar to a dandelion flower, but slightly smaller and in clusters.
- **Perennial** which spreads by root, stolon, and seed.
- The single stalk and leaves are **hairy**.
- Grows **1 to 5 feet tall**.
- Originally from Europe, it has been found throughout the region.

Control methods:

Herbicides: Treat with picloram + 2,4-D; clopyralid + 2,4-D, or dicamba + 2,4-D before bloom. Pasturelands must be healthy to recover from infestations and treatments, so fertilization is important.

Non-chemical: Hawkweeds are unpalatable, although sheep or goats may eat the plant. Annual cultivation will control these weeds. No biological agents are available for the hawkweeds.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)

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[LIST](#)**Orange Hawkweed**

(Hieracium aurantiacum)

Similar to meadow hawkweed. It is sometimes called king devil or devil's paintbrush Other traits:

- Flowers are **red to orange** with lighter centers, and appear in clusters at the top of the stalk.
- **Perennial** which spreads by root, stolon, and seed.
- The single stalk and leaves are **hairy**.
- Shorter than meadow hawkweed, grows **up to 1 foot tall**.
- From Europe, it has been found throughout the region.

Control methods:

Herbicides: Treat with picloram + 2,4-D; clopyralid + 2,4-D, or dicamba + 2,4-D before bloom. Pasturelands must be healthy to recover from infestations and treatments, so fertilization is important.

Non-chemical: Hawkweeds are unpalatable, although sheep or goats may eat the plant. Annual cultivation will control these weeds. No biological agents are available for the hawkweeds.



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For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)

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Leafy Spurge

(*Euphorbia esula*)

This is a very difficult plant to control or eradicate. Other traits:

- A **perennial** with an extensive root system **exceeding 20 feet in depth**; it also spreads by seed.
- Leaves are **narrow** and up to 4 inches long.
- Grows **3-4 feet in height**.
- **Yellowish-green, heart-shaped bracts** surround a small flower.
- Stems and leaves exude a **milky latex sap** when broken which may cause **blisters on skin or permanent blindness in eyes**.
- Native of Europe, it is not widespread, but has been reported in patches throughout the region, except Shoshone County.

Control methods:

Herbicides: Picloram applied in late spring or fall will suppress leafy spurge. Annual follow-up treatments are necessary. 2,4-D or dicamba + 2,4-D will provide some control, but must be applied 2-4 times each growing season. Imazethapyr has been found to reduce leafy spurge stands when used according to the label for two seasons.

Non-chemical: Sheep, goats, and hogs will graze leafy spurge; it is a satisfactory forage for these animals, slows the weed's spread and starves out the root system. Fertilization and pasture health are extremely important. Mow and pull to prevent seed production. Skin and eye protection is needed when handling this plant. **DO NOT CULTIVATE**; new plants form from root segments. Biological agents are available; 2 root/defoliating beetles have been released in Kootenai County.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)



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Purple Loosestrife

(*Lythrum salicaria*)

This plant likes shorelines and is often mistaken for fireweed or pink spirea. It has been sold as an ornamental and is sometimes known as spiked willow-herb. Other traits:

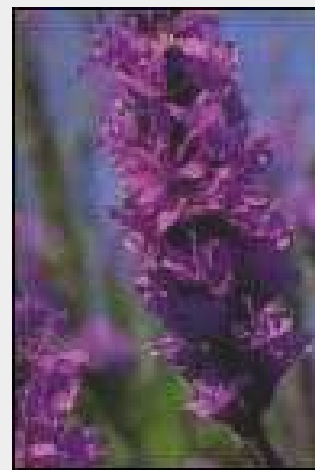
- Semi-aquatic **perennial** which spreads by seeds and rhizomes.
- Grows to **8 feet tall**.
- Stems are usually **4-sided** and much branched.
- Leaves are opposite on the stem and **lance-shaped**.
- **Reddish purple** flowers are crowded on spikes at the stem tips.
- Rhizomes become **dense, woody mats**.
- Originally from Europe and Asia, there are numerous infestations throughout the region.

Control methods:

Herbicides: Chemical control is limited to herbicides labeled for aquatic or within proximity to water uses. Report any suspected infestation to the Kootenai County Noxious Weed Department.

Non-chemical: Plants are difficult to pull; if all of the root system is not removed, plants will regrow. Cut stem pieces can send out roots. Take care to remove flower heads before seed production. Purple loosestrife is not a problem in cultivated crops. Biological controls are available.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)



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Rush Skeletonweed

(Chondrilla juncea)

The bare, rush-like stems give this plant its name. Other traits:

- A **perennial** which spreads primarily by seed, but also by pieces of roots.
- Leaves at the base are like a **dandelion rosette**; stem leaves are few, marrow, and up to 4 inches long.
- Stems are **bare**, except the lower 4 to 6 inches which is covered with **coarse brown hairs**.
- **Yellow flower heads** are up to 3/4-inch in diameter and scattered among the branches.
- Native to Europe and Asia, rush skeletonweed is becoming problematic throughout the region.



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Control methods:

Herbicides: Spray with 2,4-D; picloram; 2,4-D + picloram; clopyralid; or clopyralid + dicamba, preferably to rosettes. High nitrogen fertilizer assists in minimizing the effects of rush skeletonweed.

Non-chemical: Diligent handpulling or grubbing two to three times per year for 6 to 10 years can be effective for small infestations. Plants should be destroyed in a hot fire to ensure seed and root kill. Mowing and cultivation are ineffective; mowing does not prevent root spread and cultivation actually spreads root fragments. Competitive legume plantings, such as alfalfa, may reduce rush skeletonweed through increased soil fertility and competition for soil moisture, as well as shading the rush skeletonweed plants. Continuous moderate grazing by sheep can reduce densities. Several biological control agents are available, including a rust (disease), a mite, and a midge.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)

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[LIST](#)**Dalmatian Toadflax**

(*Linaria dalmatica*)

Related to the snapdragon. Other traits:

- A **perennial** which spreads by **creeping roots** and by seed.
- Leaves feel **waxy** and clasp around the stem.
- Grows up to **4 feet tall**.
- The **yellow snapdragon-like flowers** are often tinged with orange or red and are located along the flower spikes at the top of the plant. The upper portion of the plant may have several flower branches. Plants flower from midsummer to fall.
- It is originally from the Mediterranean region and is likely an escaped ornamental. Found throughout the intermountain West.

**Control methods:**

Non-chemical: Cultivation should occur every 10 days through the growing season for two years. Remove flower heads to prevent seed production. Biological controls include 3 weevils (root, stem boring and seed head), 2 flies (seed head and stem gall), and a defoliating butterfly.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)

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Yellow Toadflax

(*Linaria vulgaris*)

Also know as butter-and-eggs. Other traits:

- A **perennial** which spreads by **creeping roots** and by seed.
- Stems are generally unbranched and up to **3 feet tall**.
- **Snapdragon-like** flowers are **yellow with an orange throat**, clustered at the top of the stem. Flowers summer through fall.
- The plant contains a poisonous glucoside which **may be toxic** to livestock.
- This plant is also most likely an escaped ornamental; it originated in Europe. The plant is now widely distributed throughout the U.S.

Control methods:

Herbicides: Picloram gives partial control. Dicamba + 2,4-D; chlorsulfuron; or metsulfuron methyl + 2,4-D gives good control when applied before the bloom stage. 2,4-D alone can be effective, but will likely require repeated applications over more than one growing season.

Non-chemical: Cultivation at regular intervals can be a viable control method. Small infestations can be pulled and the root systems dug out. A defoliating moth is available.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)



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[LIST](#)**Scotch Broom**

(*Cytisus scoparius*)

An ornamental shrub-like plant. Other traits:



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- A **woody perennial** shrub-like species.
- Can grow to **10 feet tall**.
- In the pea family, it has leaves similar to alfalfa (groups of three).
- Stems are **angled, dark green** with many branches that spread only slightly from the main stem.
- Flowers are **pea-like and bright yellow**; typically blooms in June.
- Seed pods resemble pea pods, which snap open at maturity and throw seeds for some distance.
- This plant is now widespread along coastal areas and has been found in Bonner and Kootenai Counties in Idaho.

Control methods:

Herbicides: Spray with triclopyr ester or amine, or with glyphosate, any time the plants are actively growing. Basal bark application is an effective control method.

Non-chemical: Plant crowns can be grubbed out. Repeated cultivation will destroy seedlings. Mowing and burning are not effective. Goats will browse the plants with no ill effect, however, it has been reported as toxic to other livestock. Several insects are available, including a twig-mining moth, a seed weevil, and a shoot tip leaf-tying moth.

For more information about this plant and its control measures contact a member of the [Panhandle Weed Management Area \(PWMA\)](#)

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The following are members of the **Panhandle Weed Management Area (PWMA)**. The PWMA encompasses the five northern counties of Idaho; Lincoln, Sanders, and Mineral Counties in Montana; Spokane and Pend Oreille Counties in Washington, and the Regional District of East Kootenay in British Columbia. The purpose of the PWMA is to bring together those responsible for weed management, identify and control weed populations with successful and coordinated integrated pest management programs, and increase public awareness and support in the PWMA area.

For questions on identification of weeds or control measures, contact one of the offices listed below:

County Weed Supervisors**Idaho****Benewah County**

HCR 1 Box 190, Desmet, ID 83824
(208) 274-2234

Bonner County

P.O. Box 1526, Sandpoint, ID 83864
(208) 263-1114

Boundary County

P.O. Box 267, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-5341

Kootenai County

11140 Airport Drive, Hayden, ID 83835
(208) 772-9239

Shoshone County

700 Bank St., Ste 35, Wallace, ID 83873
(208) 753-5475

Montana**Lincoln County**

418 Mineral Ave., Libby, MT 59923
(406) 293-7781

Mineral County

P.O. Box 730, Superior, MT 59872
(406) 822-3547

Sanders County

P.O. Box 519, Thompson Falls, MT 59873
(406) 827-4394

Washington

Pend Oreille County
P.O. Box 5085, Newport, WA 99156
(509) 447-2401

Spokane County
222 N. Havana, Spokane, WA 99202
(509) 456-5777

British Columbia

Regional District of East Kootenay
19 - 24th Avenue South, Cranbrook, BC V1C 3HB
Main office: (250) 489-2791
Weed Program: (250) 417-6796

Cooperative Extension Service Agents

Idaho

Benewah County
701 College Ave., St. Maries, ID 83861
(208) 245-2422

Bonner County
P.O. Box 1526, Sandpoint, ID 83864
(208) 263-8511

Boundary County
P.O. Box 267, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-3235

Kootenai County
106 E. Dalton, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
(208) 667-6426

Montana

Lincoln County
418 Mineral Ave., Libby, MT 59923
(406) 293-7781

Mineral County
P.O. Box 730, Superior, MT 59872
(406) 822-3547

Sanders County
P.O. Box 189, Thompson Falls, MT 59873
(406) 827-4388

Washington

Pend Oreille County
P.O. Box 5085, Newport, WA 99156
(509) 447-2401

Spokane County
222 N. Havana, Spokane, WA 99202
(509) 533-2048

Idaho Panhandle National Forests Weed Contacts

Mark Mousseaux
Supervisor's Office
3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
(208) 765-7223

Tim Layser
Priest Lake Ranger District
HCR 5, Box 207, Priest River, ID 83856
(208) 443-2512

Don Bergstrand
Bonners Ferry Ranger District
Route 4, Box 4860, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-5561

Betsy Hammet
Sandpoint Ranger District
1500 Highway 2, Suite 110, Sandpoint, ID 83864
(208) 263-5111

Valerie Goodnow
Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District
2502 E. Sherman, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 664-2318

Scott Anderson
St. Joe Ranger District at Avery, ID
HC Box 1, Avery, ID 83802
(208) 245-4517

Bureau of Land Management Weed Contacts

Bill Cook
Bureau of Land Management
1808 North Third, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-5000

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Musk Thistle
(*Carduus nutans*)

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Tansy Ragwort
(*Scenecio jacobaea*)

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Yellow Starthistle
(*Centaurea solstitialis*)

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Canada Thistle
(*Cirsium arvense*)

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Diffuse Knapweed
(*Centaurea diffusa*)

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Meadow Knapweed
(*Centaurea pratensis*)

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Russian Knapweed
(*Acroptilon repens*)

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Spotted Knapweed
(*Centaurea maculosa*)

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Meadow Hawkweed

(Hieracium pratense)

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Orange Hawkweed
(*Hieracium aurantiacum*)

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Leafy Spurge
(*Euphorbia esula*)

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Purple Loosestrife
(*Lythrum salicaria*)

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Note the coarse hairs at base of stem.



Rush Skeletonweed

(Chondrilla juncea)

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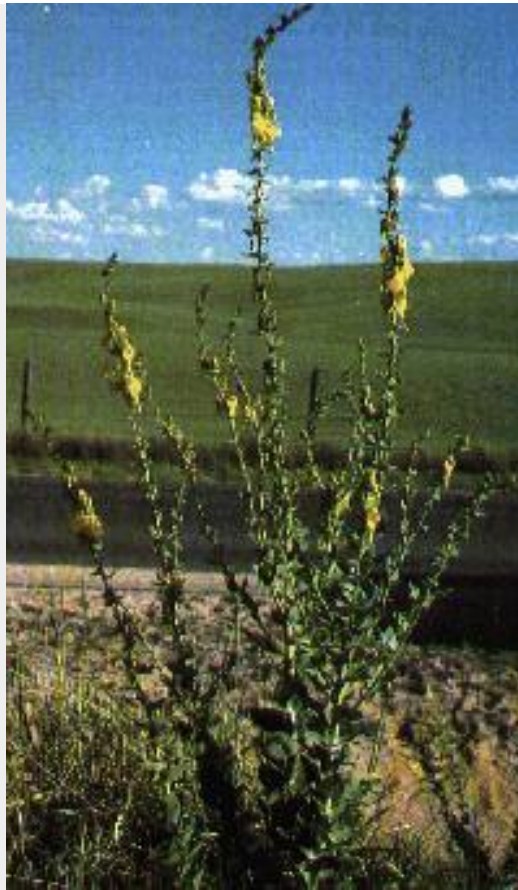
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Dalmatian Toadflax
(*Linaria dalmatica*)

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Yellow Toadflax
(*Linaria vulgaris*)

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Scotch Broom
(*Cytisus scoparius*)

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