

Blueweed (*Echium vulgare*)

Blueweed is also commonly called Viper's bugloss – the ripe nutlets (seeds) resemble a viper's head. Its showy flowers belie the plant's real identity as an introduced ornamental that displaces native vegetation and does not belong in our ecosystems. This invasive

plant develops a long, stout, black taproot – sometimes 2 or more feet long. Blueweed is generally unpalatable to livestock and therefore increases in overgrazed pastures.

Blueweed is a biennial plant that produces a low-growing rosette of hairy leaves the first year, and then a flowering bolt in its second year. Blueweed reproduces by seed and is well adapted to dry, rocky or shallow soils. A single plant may produce up to 2,800 seeds that can remain viable for several years.



Invasive Plant word find

G Y A R U L E S A L T C E D A R C E T
A S D I S T U R B A N C E E W T E M C
R I E R E Y N T N D A P W G A G E O D
D A E R P S L A N O I T A E R C E R O
E D F N E T S L I I O L G U E I V B L
N E E B Y R Y L R E A A P C N D I Y S
E Y E A B O E B G C M S A V E E S N E
S E R B A A F U B A Y C A E S T S W N
C X F B I L R T D F S E E T S N E O A
A O D L N O I T A R E P O O C Y R D C
P C E S H T A E R B S Y B A B E G I Y
E E E V T T L R N T I P A U O L G U E
S Y W W I L D C A R A W A Y R T A A S
N E T B S S O U S I R N S U H D E U A
E M A E K N A P W E E D S I E E O I O
W H E R T S B V A E H T S Y A D E C W
C A X R N Y S E N H P T E S E E E L K
D S O P R Y C I F I L O R P A A S G D
L L O E C A B A R E R N A E R T N Y O

aggressive
alien
awareness
babys breath
burdock
control
cooperation
disturbance

downy brome
garden escapes
habitat damage
invasive
knapweed
leafy spurge
oxeye daisy
prolific

recreational spread
salt cedar
tall buttercup
tansy
thistle
weed free feed
weeds
wild caraway

Wild Caraway (*Carum carvi*)

“Wild” caraway is grown in western Canada as a spice crop, however it escaped cultivation and has been invading pastures, rangeland and natural areas for several years now. It is not utilized by livestock and can quickly displace nearly all other vegetation where infestations go uncontrolled. Infestations in forage crops have led to weed seed dispersal in baled hay.

Wild caraway is a biennial plant, producing a low growing rosette of leaves in its first year of growth, then a flowering stalk (bolt) in the second year. It can even bolt and flower a third year before dying. It develops a narrow taproot and grows in a wide range of soil types. Bolting plants can tolerate some spring flooding and seedlings can survive light frosts. The plant is easiest to control in its first year of growth with a residual herbicide. Once bolting has started, the plant becomes much more difficult to control – especially if it has been allowed to go to seed a couple of times.



Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)

Leafy spurge is a long-lived perennial that was introduced as either an ornamental or crop seed contaminant in the early 1800s.

It reproduces primarily by re-sprouting from its extensive, persistent, creeping root system, but also by seed. Leafy spurge roots can extend 4.5 m laterally and about 9 m deep. Leafy spurge forms dense stands over time and a large plant can produce up to 130,000 seeds. All parts of the plant contain a milky-coloured latex that can poison livestock and cause skin irritation on humans. It is also allelopathic which means it inhibits the growth of other plants around it. This trait further promotes its spread. Leafy spurge is an extremely aggressive and hard to control species, therefore a combination of control methods and a long-term commitment is necessary to achieve significant control. Early detection and/or preventing its introduction provide the best chance for eradication.



Downy Brome (*Bromus tectorum*)

Downy brome is an annual which grows rapidly, establishes only by seed, and can produce up to 300 seeds per plant. Seeds remain viable in the soil for two to five years. Native to Europe, this invasive grass was first introduced to North America in the early 1800s likely through contaminated shipments. It is now the dominant plant on over 100 million acres in the western United States, making it the most common plant on the continent. A major problem in the United States, downy brome is also becoming a problem in the southern parts of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Farmers began calling it cheatgrass because they felt that this outsider cheated them of their crops.



Downy brome crowds out native grasses, which are much more palatable and nutritious to both livestock and wildlife, the sharp awns can cause lump jaw in cattle, it reduces floral diversity thereby reducing faunal (animal/insect) diversity and it creates wildfire hazards. In parts of the US, wildfire frequency has increased from once every 40-120 years to approximately once every 5 years due to the invasion of downy brome. This grass grows very early in the spring and consequently dries out very early in the summer creating a severe fire hazard.