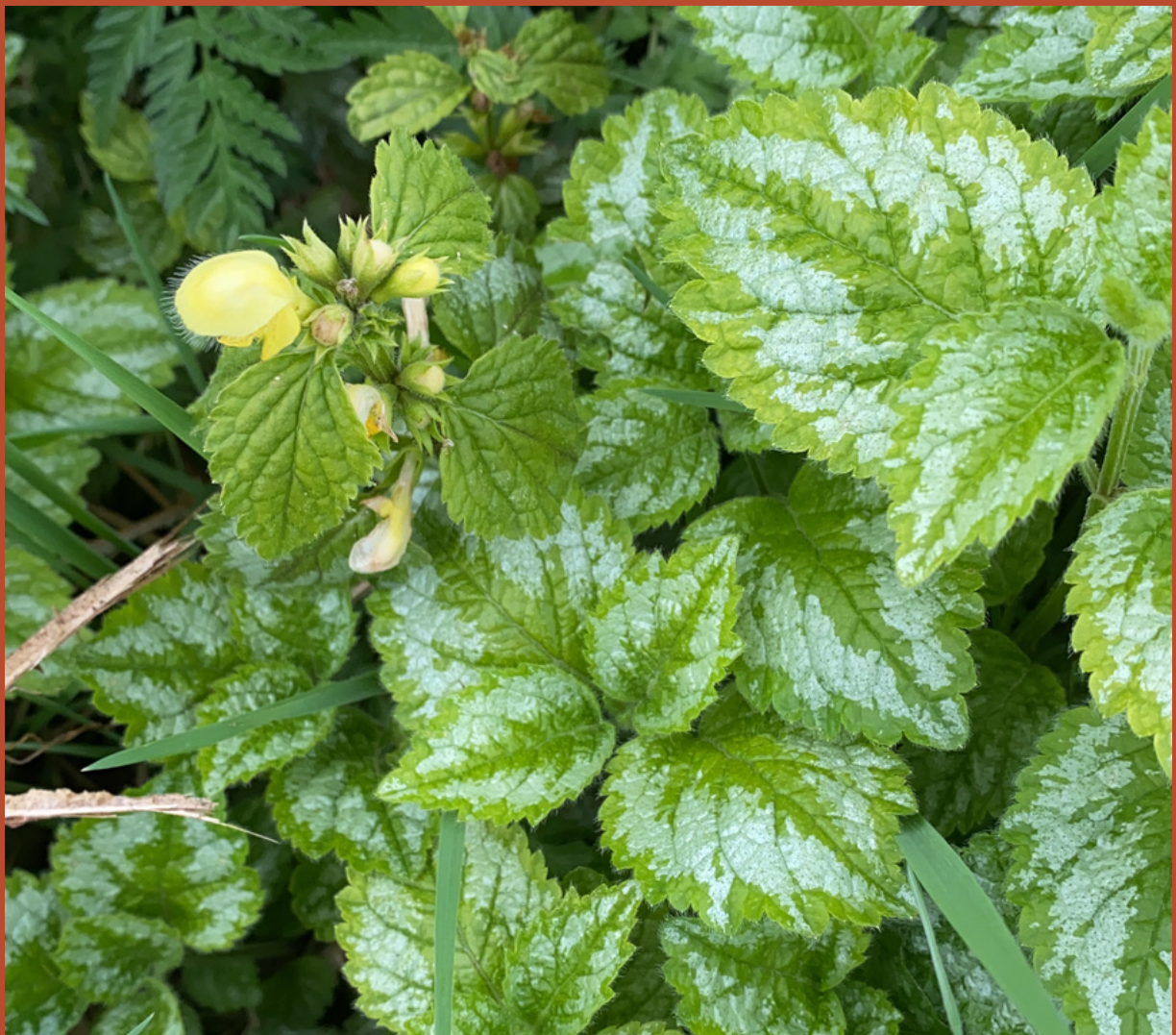


COMMON INVASIVE SPECIES

An Identification Guide for
the Fraser Valley



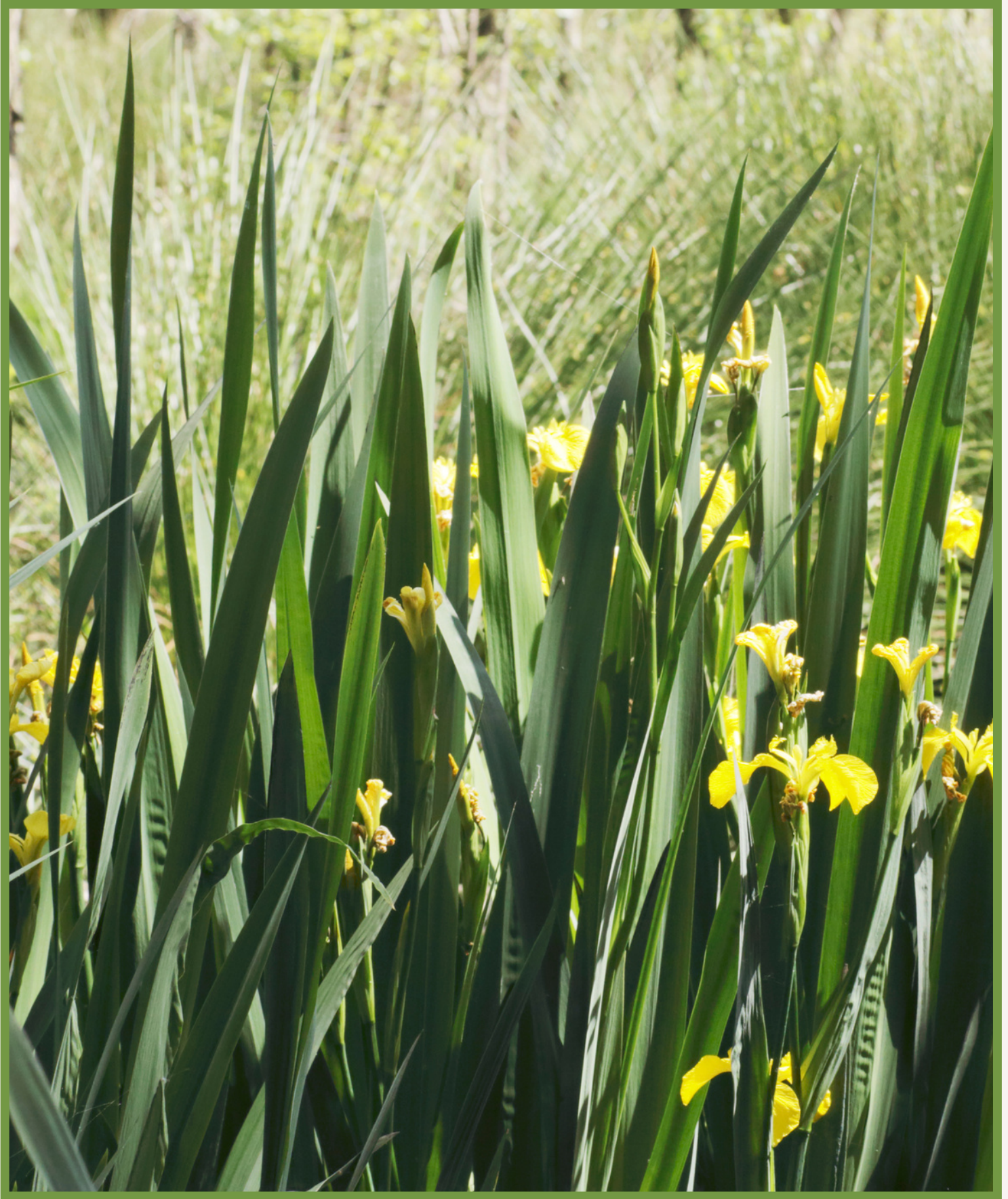
WHAT ARE INVASIVE SPECIES?



Invasive species are any non-native species that have been introduced to a new location and have negative impacts. Invasive species can impact native species, ecosystems and humans. Invasive species can cause negative ecological, social and economic harm in the Fraser Valley. Invasive species decrease ecosystem biodiversity, can destroy natural habitats, increase erosion and alter fire regimes.

Invasive species can threaten human health and safety, create traffic hazards, can poison livestock, destroy infrastructure and reduce crop yields.

YELLOW FLAG-IRIS



YELLOW FLAG-IRIS

Yellow flag-iris is an aquatic, toxic invasive plant. This plant forms seeds in large, green capsules. It can reproduce by seeds, or by rhizome fragments. Yellow flag-iris thrives in wetlands, and slow-moving water. This invasive plant grows densely, forming thick root mats.



Leaves

Yellow flag-iris leaves are green, flat, sword-like and erect. Leaves are connected in a fan-like manner to the base



Flowers

Yellow flag-iris flowers are large and yellow, with 3 small erect petals and 3 drooping sepals



Stems

Yellow flag-iris stems are oval in shape, green with a bright pink to purple hue at the base

TANSY RAGWORT



TANSY RAGWORT

Tansy ragwort is a biennial invasive plant that is toxic to livestock. This plant is commonly found in disturbed areas in pastures, along roads and ditches. Tansy ragwort has seeds that will remain viable in soil for 15 years. Tansy ragwort grows to a height of 1.2 metres.

Photo by: Joseph M. Ditomaso,
University of California- Davis,
Bugwood.org



Leaves

Year 1- rosette of dark green, ruffled leaves. Year 2- plant has dark green leaves, with deeply cut, blunt-toothed lobes

Photo by: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University
of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Flowers

Tansy ragwort flowers are bright yellow, daisy-like and arranged near the top of the stem in a flat-topped cluster

Photo by: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University
of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Stems

Tansy ragwort stems are purple in colour

COMMON TANSY



COMMON TANSY

Common tansy is an invasive plant that is toxic to both humans and livestock! This plant is widespread throughout the Fraser Valley and grows in disturbed, sunny areas. You can often find this plant in pastures and along the sides of roads!



Leaves

Common tansy leaves are alternating, deeply divided and toothed. The leaves are dark green in colour



Flowers

Common tansy flowers are yellow and button-like. Flowers are in clusters of 20-30 on the top of each plant stalk



Stems

Common tansy stems are branched, green or purple, and can grow to 1.8 m tall

SCOTCH BROOM



SCOTCH BROOM

Scotch broom is an invasive plant that is commonly found along roads or in open, dry areas. This plant can grow to 3 metres tall. Scotch broom has flat green or brown (when mature), hairy seed pods. These seed pods can burst and disperse seeds up to 5 metres away!

Photo by: Tom Heutte, USDA
Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Leaves

On the lower stem, scotch broom leaves have three leaflets. Upper leaves are simple

Photo by: Eric Coombs, Oregon
Department of Agriculture,
Bugwood.org



Flowers

Scotch broom has bright yellow, pea-like flowers. Some flowers have a red mark in the centre

Photo by: Robert Vidéki, Doronicum
Kft., Bugwood.org



Stems

Scotch broom stems are brown or green in colour and branched. The stems are five-angled

WILD CHERVIL



WILD CHERVIL

Wild chervil is an invasive biennial from the carrot and parsley family that invades open habitats in the Fraser Valley. You can spot this invasive along roads, in ditches along streams and in moist soils. This plant grows upright to up to 2 metres tall.



Leaves

Wild chervil leaves are triangular and finely divided. These leaves have soft hairs and look similar to fern leaves



Flowers

Wild chervil has small, white flowers in umbrella shaped clusters at the top of the stem. They bloom in April and May



Stems

Wild chervil stems are ribbed, and green with distinct hairs on the bottom of the stem

KNOTWEED SPECIES



Photo by: Barbara Tokarska-Guzik, University of Silesia, Bugwood.org

KNOTWEED SPECIES

There are four species on knotweed in the Fraser Valley: Japanese, Giant, Bohemian and Himalayan. Japanese and Bohemian knotweed are the most commonly observed species. This species invades disturbed areas, and is common in riparian areas. These plants are very aggressive and spread easily. **Do not cut or mow knotweed- this will cause it to spread!**



Leaves

Knotweed leaves are heart, triangular or lance-shaped. The leaves are approximately 8-10 cm wide, 15 cm long and arranged alternately on the stem



Flowers

Knotweed has white to light green flowers, that form upright clusters at stem and leaf joints. The flowers bloom in August



Stems

Knotweed stems are large and bamboo-like, hollow and green to brown in colour. Stems have red speckles on them. Stems will grow up to 5 metres tall

BLUEWEED



BLUEWEED

Blueweed is a biennial, invasive plant that can grow up to 80 cm tall. It grows in warm, sunny sites, and can be commonly found in rangelands, along roads and in disturbed areas. This plant is toxic to livestock and can cause skin irritations for some people when touched.

Photo by: Mathilde Bezin



Leaves

Blueweed leaves are oblong or lance shaped and have white hairs

Photo by: Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org



Flowers

Blueweed flowers are bright blue or purple. Flowers are composed of 5 segments

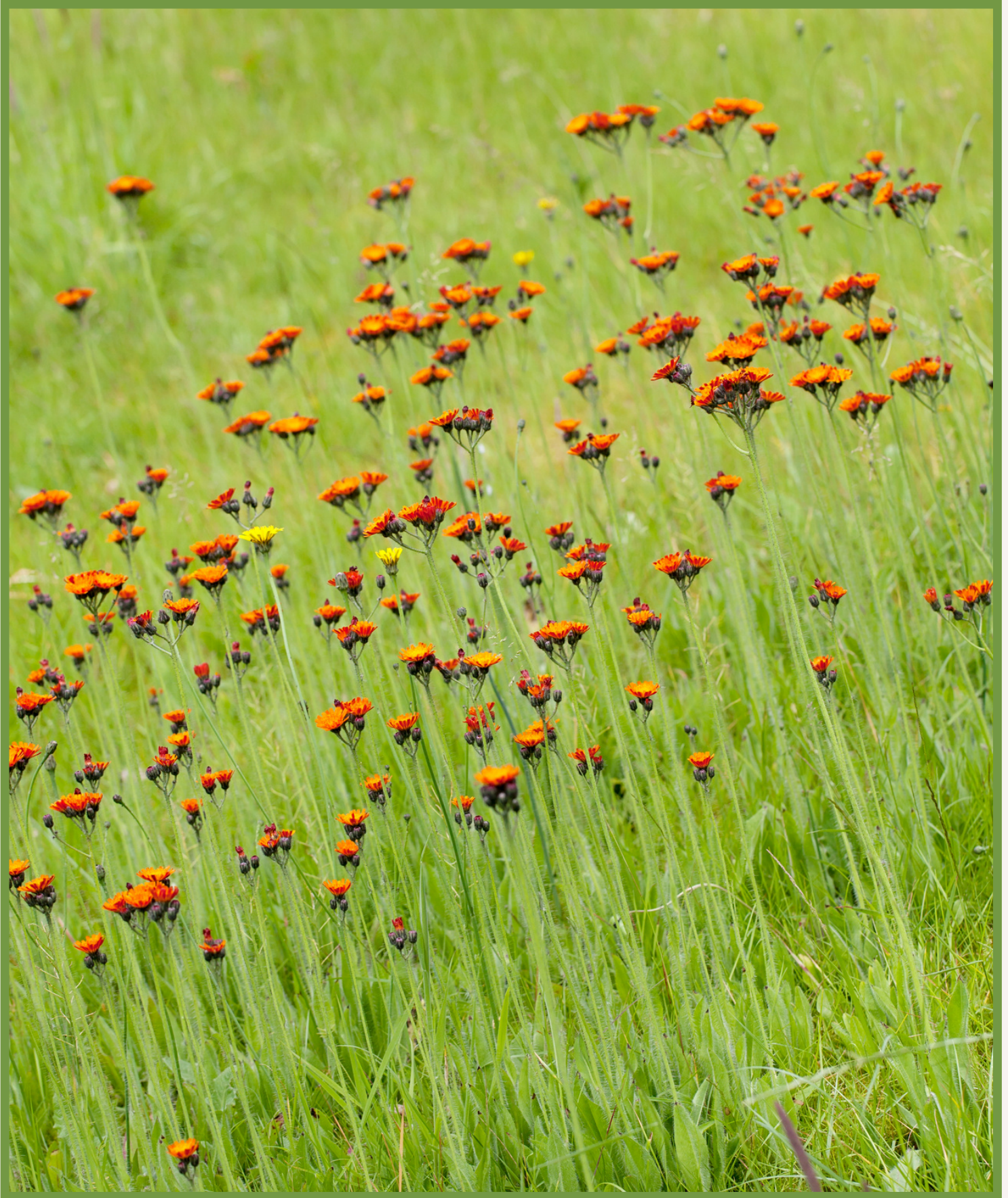
Photo by: Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org



Stems

Blueweed stems are stiff, and covered with hairs. The lower stem has purple blotches on the stalk

ORANGE HAWKWEED



ORANGE HAWKWEED

Orange hawkweed is an invasive perennial of the daisy family. This plant thrives in well drained soils, open and disturbed areas (pastures and along roads), and wetlands. This plant has a single stem that can grow to a height of 1 metre.

Photo by: Michael Shepard, USDA
Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Leaves

Orange hawkweed leaves are green and hairy. These leaves are arranged in a central basal rosette

Photo by: UAF Cooperative Extension,
University of Alaska, Bugwood.org



Flowers

Orange hawkweed flowers are dandelion-like and orange in colour. Flowers are located at the tops of the stem

Photo by: UAF Cooperative Extension,
University of Alaska, Bugwood.org



Stems

Orange hawkweed has single, erect stems that are green and hairy. The stems do not have any leaves

YELLOW ARCHANGEL (LAMIUM)



YELLOW ARCHANGEL (LAMIUM)

Yellow archangel is an aggressive perennial invasive plant. This ground-cover plant tolerates a wide variety of habitat conditions, allowing it to grow in many areas in the Fraser Valley. This plant spreads vegetatively by stems and rooting at nodes. Roots can extend up to 20 cm deep.



Leaves

Yellow archangel leaves are arranged opposite, serrated and oval or heart shaped. The leaves are variegated and hairy



Flowers

Yellow, tubular flowers grow in clusters that are whorled around stems at leaf axils and bloom from April to June



Stems

Yellow archangel stems are square, hairy and green in colour. They can grow up to 60 cm in height

HIMALAYAN BALSAM



HIMALAYAN BALSAM

Himalayan balsam is an invasive annual plant that grows in damp and shaded habitats, often along streams in riparian zones, ditches and in disturbed habitats. This invasive forms bursting seedpods that expell seeds up to 7 metres away when disturbed.



Leaves

Whorling leaves are green with a red mid vein, are oblong or lance shaped, and have serrated edges, and up to 20 cm long



Flowers

Himalayan balsam has helmet shaped, pink, white or purple flowers. The flowers bloom from June to November



Stems

Himalayan balsam stems are purple or slightly red in colour and can grow to a height of 3 metres

GIANT HOGWEED



GIANT HOGWEED

Giant hogweed is an invasive, toxic plant that can cause skin irritations, burns and blisters. This plant can be found in riparian areas, disturbed areas, ditches and along roads. Giant hogweed outcompetes native species and promotes erosion with its shallow roots.



Leaves

The leaves are toothed, dark green and are cut into three large segments. The leaves have stiff underside hairs



Flowers

Giant hogweed has white flowers in large umbrella shaped clusters of up to 0.8 m wide



Stems

The stems are generally green with red or purple spots and stiff white hairs

BUTTERFLY BUSH



BUTTERFLY BUSH

Butterfly bush is an invasive shrub that can be found in disturbed areas. This plant tolerates shaded and sunny conditions, drought and low nutrient levels. Butterfly bush outcompetes native species and decreases biodiversity.

Photo by: G. Bauch



Leaves

The leaves are fuzzy, serrated, lance shaped and arranged in an opposite pattern. Leaves can be 25 cm long

Photo by: G. Bauch



Flowers

Butterfly bush flowers are clusters of small purple flowers in an upright or drooping spike shape

Photo by: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Stems

Butterfly bush stems are green or brown depending on plant maturity

BABY'S BREATH



Photo by: Matt Lavin 2016

BABY'S BREATH

Baby's breath is an invasive plant that is commonly used in floral arrangements and has invaded new areas by seed dispersal from arrangements! This plant is commonly found in dry grasslands and reduces native grasses and available food for livestock.

Photo by: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Leaves

The leaves are lance shaped and opposite. The leaves are silvery-green, can be hairy and grow to 5 cm long

Photo by: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Flowers

White or light pink flowers of five petals at the end of short stalks. Flowers are star-shaped

Photo by: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Stems

Baby's breath has slender, twiggy stems that grow to 1.2 m tall

POISON HEMLOCK



Photo by: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

POISON HEMLOCK

Poison hemlock is a toxic invasive plant that is commonly found in ditches, along roads and in disturbed, sunny areas. This plant causes skin irritations and respiratory issues when in contact with people. Poison hemlock outcompetes with native forage plants.



Leaves

Poison hemlock has light green, triangular, or fern-like leaves



Flowers

The flowers are small, white and are clustered together in an umbrella shape



Stems

Poison hemlock stems are hollow and green in colour, with purple or red blotching. The stems are hairless

ITALIAN ARUM



ITALIAN ARUM

Italian arum is an invasive, horticultural plant that has escaped from private gardens and yards. This plant thrives in a variety of environments, including forests, riparian areas and in wetlands! This plant is very poisonous to both humans and animals. Italian arum shades out native vegetation, and prevents establishment of other plants.



Leaves

Italian arum leaves are arrowhead shaped, green and have cream or silver veins



Flowers

Flowers are vase shaped with a spathe and spadix. The flowers bloom in April to June and produce a foul odour



Fruits

Italian arum has tight clusters of green to orange or red berries at the end of an upright stem

PARROT'S FEATHER



Photo by: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

PARROT'S FEATHER

Parrot's feather is an aquatic, invasive plant that can be found in slow moving waterways in the Fraser Valley. This plant forms monocultures, blocking and slowing waterways, and reduces biodiversity by preventing growth of aquatic plants. Parrot's feather also can displace fish and other wildlife from their natural habitats.

Photo by: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Leaves

Parrot's feather has feathery leaves that are arranged in a whorl pattern around the stem

Photo by: Alison Fox, University of Florida, Bugwood.org



Stems

Grows laterally along the water surface in short stem segments that are generally green above water, and reddish-orange below the surface

SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE



SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE

Scentless chamomile is an annual, invasive plant that grows in fields and along roads, in areas near streams and ponds, or in areas that are seasonally flooded. This invasive forms monocultures, reduces crop harvests and can contaminate hay cultivation.



Leaves

Scentless chamomile leaves are feathery or dill-like with alternating, pinnately lobed and narrow leaves



Flowers

Scentless chamomile has daisy-like flowers at the end of stems with 10-25 white petals and a yellow button centre



Stems

Stems are green and branching, and grow to 80 cm tall

SPURGE LAUREL



Photo by: peganum 2015

SPURGE LAUREL

Spurge laurel is a toxic, evergreen shrub. This invasive shrub grows in a wide range of conditions, but is most common in full or partially shaded habitats. Spurge laurel has black poisonous berries.



Leaves

Spurge laurel leaves are dark green, shiny and smooth and are arranged in whorls around the stem



Flowers

Flowers are pale yellow and are found around the stem between leaf nodes. The flowers bloom in late winter to early spring



Stems

Stems are green or reddish, and woody. Spurge laurel grows to 1.5 metres tall

TREE OF HEAVEN



TREE OF HEAVEN

Tree of heaven plants were brought to British Columbia for ornamental purposes. They tolerate a wide range of conditions, and can cause skin irritations for some people. Tree of heaven outcompetes native vegetation, and suppresses growth of other plants.



Leaves

Tree of heaven has up to 41 oval leaflets on a central leaf stem. The leaflets are 5 to 25 cm long. Leaves can be up to 1 m long



Flowers

Tree of heaven has small white or pale yellow flowers



Trunk

Tree of heaven has grey to brown thin bark, and can grow to 30 m in height

YELLOW NUTSEDGE

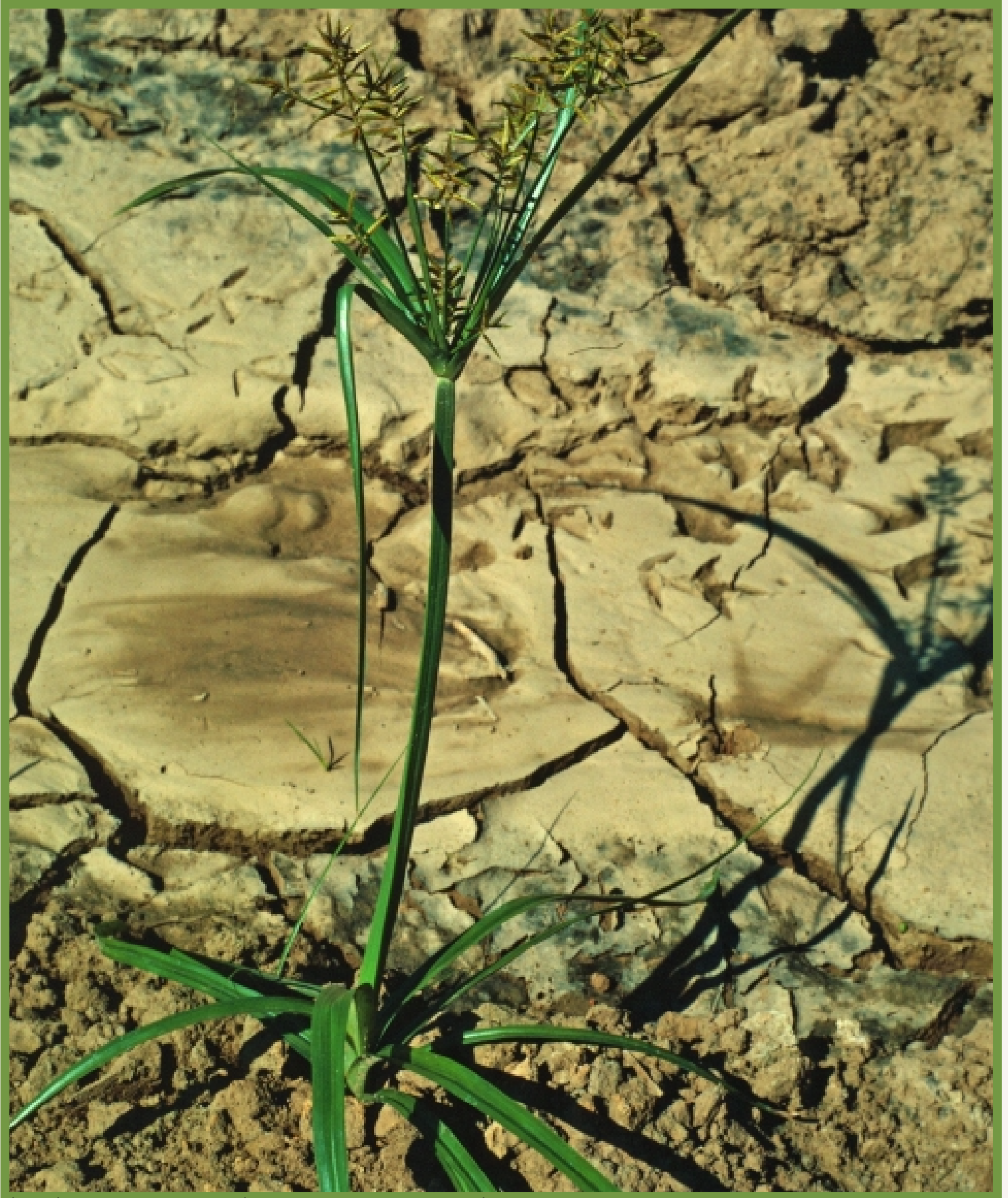


Photo by: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

YELLOW NUTSEdge

Yellow nutsedge quickly colonizes disturbed habitats, and can be found in moist soils or shallow waters. Yellow nutsedge commonly contaminates crops, forms dense monocultures, and outcompetes native vegetation.

Photo by: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Leaves

Yellow nutsedge has shiny and yellow or green leaves with a distinct mid-vein. The leaves have a pointed tip, and are grass-like

Photo by: Charles T. Bryson, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org



Flowers

Yellow nutsedge has terminal spikelets. The flowers are golden brown or straw coloured and grow upright from a central stem

Photo by: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Stems

Yellow nutsedge has green, triangular stems that grow up to 90 cm tall

HOARY ALYSSUM



HOARY ALYSSUM

Hoary alyssum is a short lived perennial with a taproot. Hoary alyssum grows in sandy, gravelly soils and is common in pastures, forage and rangelands. This plant is toxic to livestock.



Leaves

Hoary alyssum leaves are greenish-grey, slender and have round tips that are arranged alternately on the stem



Flowers

There are small, white flowers with petals arranged in clusters at the top of stems



Stems

Hoary alyssum has green stems, are hairy and branch from the base of the plant

DALMATION TOADFLAX



DALMATIAN TOADFLAX

Dalmatian toadflax is a perennial invasive that invades pastures, hay fields, grasslands and disturbed sites. This plant is poisonous to livestock and will outcompete native forage species and native plants.



Leaves

Dalmatian toadflax has pale green leaves that are arranged alternatively along the stem. The leaves are rubbery



Flowers

Dalmatian toadflax has yellow flowers with heart shaped pedals



Stems

Dalmatian toadflax stems are green and grow up to 1.2 m tall

HOUND'S TONGUE



Photo by: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

HOUND'S TONGUE

Hound's tongue thrives in disturbed habitats. It contaminates cereal seed, is toxic to livestock and wildlife, and spreads easily through bur-like seeds. The bur seeds can impact recreational activities.

Photo by: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Leaves

Hound's tongue has long, slender leaves that are broader at tips and taper to the stem. They have prominent veins and smooth edges

Photo by: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Flowers

Hound's tongue has red or purple flowers with five petals. The flowers are on long stalks and flower from May to July

Photo by: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Stems

Hound's tongue has green, hairy stems, rough in texture and have branched upper stems

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AND REMOVAL

Invasive species can be controlled and managed in various ways, including mechanical or manual removal, chemical, and biocontrol methods. For species specific information on management and removal, see our website!

<https://fviss.ca/invasive-plants>

REPORTING INVASIVE SPECIES

Please report any new sightings of invasive species to us at info@fviss.ca

You can also report any invasive species sightings to the Government of British Columbia online or on the Report Invasives BC App!



FRASER VALLEY
INVASIVE
SPECIES SOCIETY