

South Dakota Statewide Noxious Weeds

Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)



Roots: Numerous pink buds, deep, reddish-brown, spreading, large nutrient reserves.

Stems: Erect, smooth, branched at the top, normally 1-2 feet tall.

Leaves: Alternate, narrow, length 1 to 4 inches

Seed: Born in exploding capsules that can expel seed to 15 feet, longevity 5 to 8 years.

Flowers: yellowish-green to yellowish-orange surrounded by yellow-green bracts.

Origin: Eurasia, thought to have entered the USA as a crop seed contaminant.

Poisoning: Milky latex sap throughout the plant may cause dermatitis on human skin. Toxic to cattle, sheep and goats do not seem to be affected.

Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvensis*)



Roots: Spreading, pieces capable of producing plants, extensive.

Stems: Erect, hollow, branched above, ridged.

Leaves: Dark green, wavy and very spiny

Seed: The tuft of hairs attached to the top of the seed allows the seed to be carried by wind, small, long lived.

Flowers: Small, up to 3/4 inch diameter, pink to purple, occasionally white, male and female flowers on different plants.

Origin: Eurasia and North Africa, brought into Canada as a crop seed contaminant.

Poisoning: May accumulate high nitrate levels.

Perennial Sow Thistle
(*Sonchus arvensis*)



Roots: Extensive, may penetrate soil five to ten feet deep, new plants produced by small root pieces.

Stems: Milky sap throughout the plant, erect, 2-5 feet tall.

Leaves: Deeply lobed to nearly entire, clasping base, mildly prickly margins but lack spines on the lower midrib.

Seed: Tufted, spread by wind.

Flowers: Yellow, up to 2 inches wide with flower stalks and flower base (bracts) covered with gland tipped hairs.

Origin: Eurasia or Europe

Poisoning: Unknown

Hoary Cress
(*Cardaria draba*)



Roots: Extensive, creeping, branched above.

Stems: Up to 2 feet tall, erect, stout.

Leaves: Oblong, alternate, margins wavy and shallowly toothed.

Seed: Rough, reddish-brown, in heart shaped bladder-like capsules, abundant.

Flowers: White, 4 petals, margins toothed to entire.

Origin: Eurasia

Poisoning: Mucous membrane irritant.

Russian Knapweed
(*Centaurea repens*)



Roots: Extensive, widely spreading, black, may penetrate over 8 feet.

Stems: Erect, openly branched.

Leaves: Alternate, clasping, lower leaves deeply lobed, upper leaves entire or serrated.

Seed: Small, oval.

Flowers: Numerous, disc shaped, pink to purplish, bracts below the flower have pointed papery sheaths.

Origin: Eurasia

Poisoning: None

Purple Loosestrife
(*Lythrum salicaria*)



Roots: Short rhizomes, tap root

Stems: Erect, 6-8 feet tall

Leaves: Simple, not lobed, opposite or whorled, smooth margins.

Seed: Small, oval

Flowers: Six petals (may be 5 to 7), rose-purple color.

Origin: Eurasia and Africa

Poisoning: None

Salt Cedar

(*Tamarix aphylla*, *T. chinensis*, *T. gallica*, *T. parviflora* and *T. ramosissima*)



Roots: Woody tap root may penetrate over 50 feet.

Stems: Erect, tree or shrub 2-25 feet tall.

Leaves: Small flat leaves appear scaly or cedar-like.

Seed: Very small, no endosperm with a tuft of fine hair.

Flowers: Five white to pink petals borne in finger-like clusters.

Origin: Eurasia

Poisoning: None