

# **SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE NOXIOUS WEEDS**



Russian Knapweed



Hoary Cress



Purple Loosestrife



Perennial Sow Thistle



Leafy Spurge



Canada Thistle



Salt Cedar

**RUSSIAN KNAPWEED:** Stems are hairy, tough, branched, and 2 to 3 feet tall. Leaves are grayish with knaplike hairs. Lower leaves are deeply lobed while upper leaves are short, not lobed, and slender. Flowers are white or pink to purplish and appear from June - September. Plant origin Eurasia (Europe and Asia) probably introduced into North America as a crop seed contaminant.

**HOARY CRESS:** Stems are 1 to 2 feet tall, erect, sparsely hairy, and branched at top. Leaves are alternate, oblong with a slender base. Upper leaves clasp around stem. Leaf margins wavy and shallowly toothed. Flowers are small, white, 4 petals, in the shape of a cross and appear April - August. Plant origin is Eurasia, is very persistent, requires early spring treatment.

**PERENNIAL SOW THISTLE:** Stems 3 to 7 feet tall, smooth, with milky juice throughout the plant. Leaves similar to dandelion, irregularly lobed, alternate, 4 to 8 inches long, with spine tipped edges. Flowers are in branched clusters, bright yellow-orange color, about 1 1/2 inches long. It is important to distinguish perennial sow thistle from annual sow thistle and prickly lettuce. Prickly lettuce has smaller flowers with a pale yellow color and leaves are spiny on the midrib beneath. Annual sow thistle does not have underground creeping root-stocks.

**LEAFY SPURGE:** Stems are 2 to 3 feet tall, erect branched at top, smooth, and contain a milky sap. Toxic to cattle but not sheep or goats, sap causes dermatitis in humans. Leaves alternate, hairless, long, narrow, lower leaves drooping. Flowers are small and green but surrounded by larger, heart shaped, greenish-yellow bracts, appear May - September. Seed that explodes from three seeded capsules may remain viable for 5 to 8 years. Origin Eurasia, probably introduced as a ballast contaminant to coastal New England and as a seed contaminant to western North America.

**CANADA THISTLE:** Stems 2 to 3 feet tall, grooved, hollow, branched at top. Leaves hairless, spiny, crinkled margins, smaller leaf than biennial thistle. Flowers numerous on branched heads, about 3/4 inch, lavender, pink, rarely white, appear June - August. Origin is Eurasia and North Africa.

**PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE:** Stems 8 feet tall, 4 or 6 sided, older plants highly branched. Leaves opposite, linear, smooth margins, no leaf petiole. Flowers rose-purple, 5 to 6 petals, arranged in long spikes, appear July - September. This plant grows in wet areas and along waterways. Origin is Eurasia and Africa.

**SALT CEDAR:** Stems to 25 feet tall, woody dark brown to reddish-brown. Leaves alternate cedar like on slender, branched stems. Flowers white to deep pink: 5 petaled: formed in finger-like clusters. Origin is Eurasia introduced as an ornamental and for bank stabilization. Very invasive especially along riparian areas.

Our sincere appreciation to the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service for their help in the development of this poster.

For assistance contact your local Weed & Pest Supervisor, County Extension Agent, or the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, 523 East Capital, Foss building, Pierre, SD 57501.

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