

# Keep a Lookout

## For Invasive Plants in the Riding Mountain Area

These species may be on your land — early detection and reporting can prevent their spread



**Leafy Spurge**  
*Euphorbia esula*



**Yellow Toadflax**  
*Linaria vulgaris*



**Dalmatian Toadflax**  
*Linaria dalmatica*



**Ox-eyed Daisy**  
(*Leucanthemum vulgare*) &  
**Scentless Chamomile**  
(*Matricaria perforata*)



**Nodding Thistle**  
*Carduus nutans*



**Common Burdock**  
*Arctium minus*



**Common Tansy**  
*Tanacetum vulgare*



**Red Bartsia**  
*Odontites serotina*



**Purple Loosestrife**  
*Lythrum species*



**Houndstongue**  
*Cynoglossum officinale*

Please report these species: Phone: ISCM 1-204-232-6021 or report a sighting at  
Website: <http://www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com>





# Invasive Plants in the Riding Mountain Area



Invasive Species Council of Manitoba

Invasive Plant Species are plants that are growing outside of their country of origin. They are problematic because they come to Canada without their natural predators and diseases which gives them a distinct advantage over our native plant communities, pasturelands, haylands, wetlands and woodlands. Once established they out compete our valuable forage resources and are extremely difficult and costly to control.

## **Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)**

Perennial herb grows 0.5-1m. Milky sap in stem and leaves. Leaves alternate, narrow with pointed tips, smooth and hairless. Flowers on paired, yellowish-green, cup-shaped bracts. Bracts in clusters of 7-10 at top of stem, bloom late spring to mid summer. Seed pods attach to center of paired bracts. Threatens prairies, pastures, roadsides, ditches, agricultural lands and open woodlands.

## **Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)**

Aromatic perennial that can grow to be 1.5 to 2 m tall. Deeply divided, fern-like leaves. Strongly aromatic when leaves crushed. Extensive root system. Produces numerous button-shaped, bright yellow flowers in dense clusters at the top of the plant. Threatens pastureland, roadsides, river banks, abandoned fields and natural areas. Reproduces through seeds and root fragments.

## **Red Bartsia (*Odontites serotina*)**

Stems are erect and branching, growing 15-30 cm tall. Leaves grow in pairs and are 3 cm long and clasps the stem, both stem and leaves are hairy. Flowers are reddish-purple and grow in spike-like clusters on the top half of the stem. Flowering occurs from late July to fall. Seeds have coarse hairs which stick to clothing, fur and vehicles, which allows them to travel long distances. Once seeds infest crop or pasture land this plant becomes extremely difficult to remove. It also out competes native vegetation.

## **Yellow Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)**

Perennial plant that can grow to 1 m tall. Can contain 1 to 25 unbranched erect stems. Numerous pale green, soft lance-shaped leaves that alternate on stem. Bright yellow flowers, arranged alternately in dense spikes at the end of stems. Flowers look like snapdragons and can have orange colouring on throat. Reproduces through seeds, as well as creeping roots (rhizomes). Threatens rangeland, cultivated fields, and native grasslands.

## **Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria damatica*)**

Perennial plant grows up to 1.2 m tall. Leaves are broad and clasp the stem. Flowers are bright yellow and resembles snapdragons. Similar to yellow toadflax flowers, but leaves are broadly heart-shaped. Reproduces from seed and horizontal roots. Threatens disturbed sites, cultivated fields, and native grassland.

## **Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)**

Smooth stems are multiple, unbranched and can grow up to 1 m tall. Leaves are spoon shaped and notched. Flowers can be 5 cm in diameter, yellow centers with 20-30 white petals and notched tip, reproduces through seeds. Threatens croplands, rangelands and natural areas. Often found in "wildflower" seed mixes.

## **Scentless Chamomile (*Matricaria perforate*)**

Annual or biennial up to 1 m tall. Fern-like leaves, finely divided. Flowers resemble ox-eye daisy, many occur on branching stems. Reproduces only by seed. Threatens croplands, rangelands and natural areas.

## **Nodding Thistle (*Carduus nutans*)**

Biennial in first year, forms rosettes; second year can grow up to 2.5 m tall. Lower stems have spiny, lengthwise ridges. One or many stems can grow from one root crown. Alternating, deep green leaves with light green mid-vein and waxy surface. Flower heads are solitary at the end of stems and composed of hundreds of tiny reddish purple flowers. Reproduces only by seed and dies after seeding. Threatens rangeland, native grasslands and meadows.

## **Common Burdock (*Arctium minus*)**

A biennial plant that forms large rosettes in its first year and a flowering stalk in its second. The leaves are large, heart shaped and hairy on the underside. Flowers occur in July and are pink-purple and are enclosed in a prickly burr. A problem in pastures, hay fields and open prairie. Also acts as a secondary host for pathogens such as powdery mildew and root-rot which in turn affects economically important plants.

## **Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum species*)**

An aggressive perennial with multiple square stems growing on a single root system. Dark green leaves 3-10 cm long grow in opposite pairs and attach directly to the stem. A spike of purple flowers form an the end of each stem. Degrades natural habitats including wetlands and riparian areas, reduces biological diversity by out-competing native vegetation, affects entire wetland community. Estimated cost of control, losses and damages associated with purple loosestrife is \$45 million US dollars annually.

## **Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)**

A toxic biennial plant that can grow 0.5-1.5 m tall. Leaves are hairy and rough, resembling a houndstongue. Flowers bloom in mid June and vary in colour from red to burgundy. The seeds have numerous barbs that can attach to people, animals and equipment. The value of livestock can decrease if the burrs become embedded in the hair/wool. Alkaloids in the plant are toxic to cattle and horses and can be fatal if consumed in large quantities.

Photos courtesy of Bugwood.org

Funding is provided by Growing-Forward a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Initiative.

**For control management of these species please visit the following website:**

**<http://www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com>**

**Mapping information: [www.prips.usask.ca](http://www.prips.usask.ca)**