

RUSSIAN KNAPWEED

Acroptilon repens

EARLY DETECTION, RAPID RESPONSE.

Invasive weeds reduce land values, degrade natural areas and once established are very difficult to control. When found, the plants must be removed and the area monitored to prevent future spread. The Invasive Species Program (ISP) is a joint effort between TRCD and NTCD who collaborate with the *Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group (LTBWCG)*, a diverse group of agencies and community members dedicated to preventing and controlling invasive weed species in the Tahoe Basin. An early detection and rapid response network is coordinated by the LTBWCG to ensure that the entire basin is surveyed annually. TRCD offers one-on-one vegetation consultations for homeowners to help identify and control local invasive weed infestations and to find native plant alternatives. By being an extra set of eyes, educated homeowners increase our ability to detect new infestations in Tahoe.

How did Russian Knapweed get here?

Russian Knapweed was introduced to North America in contaminated alfalfa seed from Turkistan around 1900 and has spread across the Western United States in hay bales. It can be found on all continents except Antarctica.



Origin: Caspian and Black Sea region
Noxious Weed List: NV-YES, B-listed ; CA-YES, B-listed
Habitat: Roadsides, dry disturbed sites
Life Cycle: Perennial
Flowering time: June-September
Spread: Underground rhizomes (roots)
Height: 1 to 3 ft
Stems: Hairy, branching from above mid-stem or not at all
Leaves: Gray green; leaves are small and linear on upper branches, lobed near bottom of stem.
Flowers: Small, urn-shaped, bracts are straw colored with a broad papery tip
Flower color: Pink to lavender to white



Why is it a threat to the Tahoe Basin?

- ⊗ Long taproot contributes to soil erosion
- ⊗ Highly competitive weed that produces chemicals that displaces native Sierra plants
- ⊗ Not a food source for wildlife



NOXIOUS WEED:

An invasive plant that is difficult to control, aggressive, and intrusive, as well as detrimental to important native species.

Those listed as B-listed are:

- Established in scattered populations
- Control required in areas where populations aren't well established
- Not allowed in nurseries

Do Not Disturb!
TAHOE NATIVE



Entire-leaved Aster

- ☺ **Flower:** Slightly twisted petals with yellow center
- ☺ **Flower color:** Violet
- ☺ **Stem:** Hairy, violet-green
- ☺ **Leaves:** Alternate on stem, simple lance shaped

Call Us!
NONNATIVE INVASIVE



Russian Knapweed

- ☹ **Flower:** Small, urn-shaped; bracts are straw colored with a broad papery tip
- ☹ **Flower color:** Pink to lavender to white
- ☹ **Stem:** Hairy, branching from above mid-stem or not at all
- ☹ **Leaves:** Gray green; leaves are small and linear on upper branches, lobed near bottom of stem

Think you spotted this invasive weed?

- 1) Please contact your local Resource Conservation District. In California, call TRCD (530) 543-1501 ext. 113. In Nevada, call NTCD (775) 586-1610 ext. 28.
- 2) A member of the Invasive Species Program (ISP) staff will come identify the plant and record the weed's location to add to our Basin-wide map.
- 3) District staff will work with you to determine the best method of control that fits your property and the invasive weed(s) present. With your permission, the District will monitor the site after control measures are completed to ensure control efforts succeeded.
- 4) At your request, your local RCD also provides native and adapted plant consultations to homeowners free of charge. After evaluating your property, staff can provide plant plans for your yard and accompany you to a local nursery to help pick out native plants that will thrive on and add beauty to your landscape.

