

SPOTTED KNAPWEED

Centaurea biebersteinii

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 Spotted Knapweed get here?

Spotted knapweed came to the Pacific Northwest from Europe in the 1890's from either contaminated alfalfa seed or in soil used as ballast on cargo ships. This invasive weed spreads rapidly in vehicles, contaminated hay bales, and farm equipment.



Origin: Europe
Noxious Weed List: NV-Yes, A-listed; CA-Yes A-listed
Habitat: Roadsides, disturbed slopes, well-drained sites
Life Cycle: Perennial
Flowering time: June-October
Spread: Seed
Height: 1-3 ft
Stems: Multiple hairy, slender stems growing from the base and branching towards top
Leaves: Silvery, lobed, alternate along stem
Flowers: Bracts on flower head have black tips
Flower color: Pink/purple to white



Why is it a threat to the Tahoe Basin?

- ⊗ Highly competitive weed that produces chemicals to displace native Sierra plants
- ⊗ Dense stands increase erosion and decrease water quality
- ⊗ Irritates human skin



NOXIOUS WEED:

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

Those listed as A-Listed are:

- Only found in a few places so far
- Control required in all infestations
- 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



Spotted Knapweed

- ☹ **Flower:** Bracts on flower head have black tips
- ☹ **Flower color:** Pink to purple to white
- ☹ **Stem:** Silvery, slender, branching towards top
- ☹ **Leaves:** Silvery, lobed, alternate along 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.

