

DIFFUSE KNAPWEED

Centaurea diffusa

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 Diffuse Knapweed get here?

It was first recorded in North America in 1907, when contaminated alfalfa seed came to the Pacific Northwest from Asia. It spread along roadsides and irrigation ditches and is now found in disturbed soil throughout the Western and Northeastern United States.



Origin: Southern Europe
Noxious Weed List: NV-Yes, B-listed; CA-Yes, A-listed
Habitat: Well drained/dry sunny vacant lots, roadsides, highly traveled or disturbed sites, waste areas, trails
Life Cycle: Short-lived perennial
Flowering time: June to September
Spread: Seeds and tumbleweeds, which form when the plant breaks off at the base after a fall frost and are carried by vehicles and wind.
Height: 1.5-2 ft
Stems: Stiff, branches at 90° angles, rough to touch
Leaves: Covered with fine hairs; upper leaves narrow and entire, lower leaves finely divided
Flowers: Small, solitary or in clusters at end of stem. Yellowish green bracts have spines resembling the teeth of a comb.
Flower color: White to pale pink



Why is it a threat to the Tahoe Basin?

- ⊗ Single, long taproot contributes to soil erosion
- ⊗ Very aggressive weed that can infest large areas quickly, particularly undisturbed grassland and riparian communities
- ⊗ Increases roadside maintenance



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

B-listed:

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

Do Not Disturb!
TAHOE NATIVE



Aster species

- ☺ **Flower:** Yellow disk center with many thin petals radiating outwards
- ☺ **Flower color:** Variable
- ☺ **Stem:** Slightly hairy to smooth
- ☺ **Leaves:** Thin, lance-shaped, alternate on the stem

Call Us!
NONNATIVE INVASIVE



Diffuse Knapweed

- ☹ **Flower:** Small blooms have yellowish green bracts with spines resembling the teeth of a comb
- ☹ **Flower color:** White to pale pink
- ☹ **Stem:** Branches at 90° angles, rough to touch
- ☹ **Leaves:** Covered with fine hairs; upper leaves narrow and entire, lower leaves finely divided

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 NTCDD (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.

