

YELLOW STARHISTLE

Centaurea solstitialis

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 Yellow Starthistle get here?

It is native to southern Europe and western Eurasia and introduced in contaminated alfalfa seed. First collected in California in 1869, yellow starthistle was considered a serious weed in the Sacramento Valley by 1917. To date, yellow starthistle has infested millions of acres across the western United States.



Origin: Southern Europe and Western Eurasia
Noxious Weed List: NV-Yes, A-listed; CA-Yes C-listed
Habitat: Sunny disturbed areas, roadsides
Life Cycle: Winter annual
Flowering time: June to September
Spread: Seeds
Height: 2-6ft, commonly 3ft
Stems: Pale blue-green, woolly, winged appearance
Leaves: Alternate, blue-green, hairy pale green. Lower leaves are deeply lobed.
Flowers: Single oval-shaped head with sharp yellow spines in a star arrangement at the base of the head.
Flower color: Yellow



Why is it a threat to the Tahoe Basin?

- ⊗ Deeps tap root contributes to soil erosion
- ⊗ Dense monocultures limit access to hiking trails
- ⊗ Displaces native vegetation



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: **C-Listed:**

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| -Only found in a few places so far | -Widespread |
| -Control required in all infestations | -Control is at discretion of state quarantine officer |
| -Not allowed in nurseries | -Not allowed in nurseries |

Do Not Disturb!
TAHOE NATIVE



Hawksbeard

- ☺ **Flower:** Strap shaped petals whose ends look like teeth; no spines
- ☺ **Flower color:** Yellow
- ☺ **Stem:** Branching towards top, nearly leafless
- ☺ **Leaves:** Gray-green, divided, at base of stem; resembling dandelion leaves

Call Us!
NONNATIVE INVASIVE



Yellow Starthistle

- ☹ **Flower:** Single oval-shaped head with sharp yellow spines
- ☹ **Flower color:** Yellow
- ☹ **Stem:** Pale blue-green, woolly, with a winged appearance
- ☹ **Leaves:** Alternate, blue-green, hairy

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.

