



Wallowa County Weed Watch

Russian and Meadow Knapweed

ALERT! Catch these two noxious knapweeds before they spread. Originally from Europe and Eurasia, Russian and Meadow knapweed are showing up in Wallowa County.

The Problem

Meadow and Russian Knapweed invade open lands including roadsides, fields and pastures. Once established these weeds form single species stands, robbing livestock and wildlife of forage and quality habitat. Seeds of these plants are easily dispersed by humans, animals, wind and water.

Livestock won't eat Russian Knapweed due to its bitter flavor. It is also toxic to horses. Russian Knapweed spreads mainly by creeping adventitious roots that can get up to 23 feet deep (think quack-grass x 100). It is very competitive and can be poisonous to plants growing nearby.

Meadow Knapweed can hybridize with other species, **including Yellow Starthistle**, making it very dangerous!

Russian and Meadow Knapweed are very rare in Wallowa County. There are less than ten known sites, combined. Vigilant identification of new sites and aggressive treatment can prevent these dangerous weeds from spreading

Identification

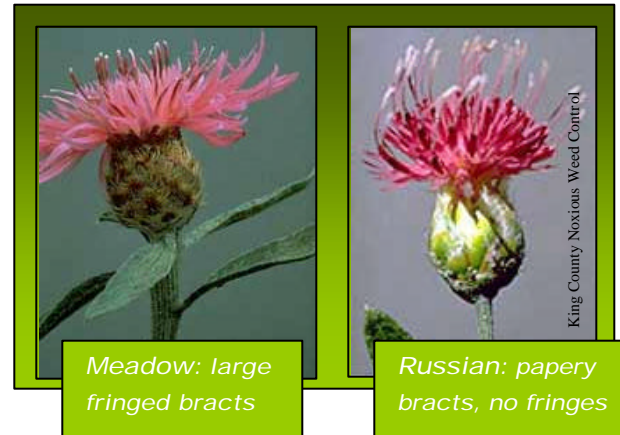
Both knapweeds are perennials about 3 feet tall with pinkish purple flowers. Lower leaves on both plants are long and lobed, while upper leaves smaller with smooth or jagged edges.

Russian Knapweed has silvery green leaves, fringeless papery bracts below the flower petals and a distinctive black sheath on the roots.

Meadow Knapweed has deep green leaves, deeply fringed bracts, and a woody or fleshy taproot (no black sheath).

Treatment

Tordon and Transline provide very good control of Russian and Meadow Knapweed. Apply Tordon in early spring before the plant bolts or use Transline up to the bud stage. Roundup can be used at the bud stage. For fall treatment, use Tordon or Transline. Chemical control must be accompanied by planting competitive species to be effective in the long run. **Report all sightings!**



Meadow: large fringed bracts

Russian: papery bracts, no fringes



Meadow
(above)
Russian
(right)

Read and follow all label instructions when applying herbicides. Trade names have been used to simplify instructions and no endorsement or warranty is expressed or implied by the Wallowa County Weed Board or this brochure.

For more information or to report weed sites call:

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