Farmer’s Guide to Invasive Species

Invasive weeds in your back forty.

Six key invasive weeds to have in your farm’s Early Detection, Rapid Response plan.

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Barbed Goat Grass *Aegilops triuncialis*

**Description**

This annual grass has rigid, pointed, and sharp blades with white hairs close to the stem. The flower has long barbs and produces seeds resembling wheat kernels. Barbed goatgrass reproduces by seed.

**Where**

Range lands and dry land crop fields.

**Response**

Mow or graze to prevent seed production and notify local noxious weed authorities.

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**What is EDRR?**

Early Detection, Rapid Response: A weed population is much harder to control after it reaches a certain size. If the population is caught early, it can be eradicated quickly with less effort and fewer resources.

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**How to Report Weeds**

It’s easy! Call 1-866-INVADER or report online at www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org

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**Basic Control Measures**

If you suspect any invasive weeds on your property, quarantine the area to the best of your abilities and focus on sanitation of any equipment that is used near that area.

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**Definitions:**

- **Rhizomes**- fleshy underground roots
- **Stolons**- aboveground stems that produce roots

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Photo Credits:

Thanks to Becky Koepke-Hill for assisting Teen Weed Spotters in the creation of this brochure!

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Teen Weed Spotters is a cooperative program of Benton Soil & Water Conservation District and OSU Extension Service, Benton County 4-H. Youth involved in this program learn how to identify, map and remove invasive weed species. They provide education and outreach to local residents to heighten awareness about invasive weed species.

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Coltsfoot  
_Tussilago farara_

**Description**
Yellow, dandelion-like flowers appear before the leaves from February to April and produce fluffy, white seed heads. Leaves are large, dark green, and emerge directly from the ground. Upper surface is waxy with a white, felt-like lower surface. Stems and large veins are purple. Rhizomes are the primary mode of spread.

**Where**
Gravel areas or near roadsides.

**Response**
Do not disturb site until the population is eradicated as any escaped rhizome part will start a new patch.

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Goat’s Rue  
_Galega officinalis_

**Description**
Seedling leaves are dark green, oval, and large. Mature leaves have 6–10 pairs of leaflets. Each plant may have up to 20 hollow stems. Flowers are white or a blue-to-purplish color in a long cluster. One to nine seeds are produced in a narrow, straight, smooth pod. Goats rue has a deep taproot. Primary reproduction is by seed.

**Where**
Found in moist or irrigated pastures, or pastures along streambanks.

**Response**
Mow before flowers set to prevent seed production.

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Purple Nutsedge  
_Cyperus rotundus_

**Description**
Ridged, shiny, narrow, blunt-tipped leaves emerge from a short 3-sided (triangular cross-section) stem. Stems are produced by small, reddish-skinned tubers. Tubers are often formed in chains and are the primary mode of spread.

**Where**
Found in moist areas like stream banks, irrigated soil, and ditches, but can grow in drier conditions.

**Response**
Quarantine area and inform local noxious weed authorities.

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Paterson’s Curse  
_Echium plantagineum_

**Description**
Basal rosette with thick, hairy leaves produces a 1–3 feet tall, branched flower stalk. Flowers are mainly a dark blue, but may be pink or white and appear mostly in June. Seeds are in a bristly husk. Reproduction is primarily by seed.

**Where**
Found in woodlands, pastures, and fields.

**Response**
Mow before flowers set to prevent seed production.

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Common Reed  
_Phragmites australis_

**Description**
Green leaves emerge from persistent thatch in the spring and produce plume-like flowers at the ends of the stalks in the summer. Stems are hollow, woody and up to 4 meters tall. Leaves are up to 40 cm long. Plants reproduce primarily via rhizomes and stolons.

**Where**
Found in any sites that hold water: ditches, dips, slues...

**Response**
Do not disturb site until the population is eradicated as any escaped rhizome or stolon part will start a new patch.