

Orange Hawkweed
Hieracium aurantiacum



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INVASIVE WEED INV

INVASIVE WEED

Orange hawkweed* has not been found in the Fairbanks area– if you find it PLEASE CONTACT an invasive plant specialist!

Orange hawkweed has spread across southcentral and southeast Alaska and could easily be transported north to the Fairbanks area on vehicle tires, through gardening materials, and many other pathways.

Hawkweed forms a dense mat which displaces native vegetation and can become a nuisance species in agricultural and natural areas.

Key characteristics for identifying orange hawkweed include; its reddish-orange flowers, basal rosette of leaves, height of 12 inches or less, and fine hairs on leaves and stem.

Orange hawkweed is very difficult to eradicate once it has become established in an area, so it is important to prevent its spread and act quickly once it is found. This plant reproduces vegetatively, so it must be dug up, controlled using herbicides, or covering with a weed barrier.



*AK Designated Noxious Weed

If you find this plant or would like more information about it, please contact Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District or the UAF Cooperative Extension Service

**FSWCD: 479-1213
CES: 474-1530
www.fairbanksweeds.org**



Canada Thistle
Cirsium arvense



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Canada thistle* has not been found in the Fairbanks area– if you find it PLEASE CONTACT an invasive plant specialist!

Canada thistle was recently found in Stevens Village and was successfully eradicated in Delta Junction. This plant seems very well adapted to a northern climate and could potentially thrive if transported to Fairbanks.

This plant is an aggressive agricultural weed and can displace native plants, decreasing biodiversity.

Canada thistle grows up to 4 feet tall, has an extensive root system, leaves with spiny edges, and purple to white flowers.

Canada thistle reproduces through its extensive root system, making most mechanical controls unsuccessful. Mowing can be effective if repeated for several years. Herbicides are also a control option.

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Leafy Spurge
Euphorbia esula



INVASIVE WEED

Leafy spurge* has not been found in the Fairbanks area– if you find it PLEASE CONTACT an invasive plant specialist!

Leafy spurge has been found in Dawson City, Yukon Territory, which has an environment very similar to interior Alaska. It could easily be transported along the road system and become a problem for the Fairbanks area.

Leafy spurge is a highly competitive invader that can displace native vegetation, destroy wildlife habitat and forage, and can have detrimental effects on rangeland and cropland.

Leafy spurge is a deep rooted perennial. It grows up to 3.5 feet in height, the leaves are alternate and lance-shaped, and the flowers are small and yellow-green. All plant parts contains milky white latex.

If mechanical methods are used to control this plant, the entire root system must be removed. Herbicides are a more effective option for control of this species, and biological control offers promising results.



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Perennial Sowthistle
Sonchus arvensis



INVASIVE WEED

Perennial sowthistle* is now found throughout the urbanized area of interior Alaska. It can be found in many settings including; roadsides, gardens, and gravel pits.

Perennial sowthistle outcompetes other plants by forming dense stands which reduce water and nutrient resources. It can become a nuisance plant in many different settings, including cropland and landscaping.

While this plant is often mistaken for a dandelion, it is much taller (2-4 feet tall) and has leaves with prickly edges. Like dandelion, perennial sowthistle has an extensive root system, yellow flowers, and plant parts that produce a milky white sap when broken.

Control of perennial sowthistle is very difficult. It is a prolific seeder and can reproduce from small root fragments. It is also resistant to some common herbicides. Herbicide use, repeated mowing, or digging up the entire root system are the only known effective control methods.



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Reed Canarygrass

Phalaris arundinacea



INVASIVE WEED

Reed canarygrass is a new invader to Fairbanks— PLEASE CONTACT an invasive plant specialist if you see this plant!

Reed canarygrass has been found in several locations in the Fairbanks area, and these small populations have been targeted for control by the Fairbanks Cooperative Weed Management Area. Weed barriers have been used to control some of these populations.

If it spreads, reed canarygrass could invade wetlands, river banks, ditches, and wet areas, affecting fish, moose, and wildlife habitat. If introduced to a stream bank, reed canarygrass could alter the flow by constricting the channel and promoting sediment deposition.

Identification of grass species can be challenging, but some key characteristics include a height of 2-6 feet and robust leaves up to 1/2 inch wide.



Control methods include herbicide use and weed barriers.

Panicles are compact initially, but open at maturity (see photo above right).

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Purple Loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria

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Purple loosestrife* has not been found growing outside of gardens in Fairbanks – PLEASE CONTACT an invasive plant specialist if you see this plant!

Purple loosestrife is grown in some gardens in Fairbanks. This plant has the potential to harm the natural environment and human economy. The current climate in interior Alaska may be too harsh for the plant to escape cultivation and establish in natural areas.

Purple loosestrife outcompetes native vegetation and takes over wetland environments, decreasing biodiversity, eliminating wildlife habitat, and resulting in ecosystem-wide impacts. It can also be a problem in urban or agricultural areas.

Purple loosestrife is a perennial that grows from 1 to 8 feet tall. It reproduces through underground stems and seeds. Leaves can be opposite or whorled and the flowers have 5-7 petals each. The easiest way to differentiate it from fireweed is its square stem. Fireweed has a round stem. Loosestrife also flowers later than fireweed (July-September).

Purple loosestrife is difficult to control once established. Control options are herbicide use or digging up the entire plants including roots.
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Cheatgrass
Bromus tectorum

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Cheatgrass is a new invader to Fairbanks– PLEASE CONTACT an invasive plant specialist if you see this plant!

Cheatgrass has been found at Chena Hot Springs and in Nenana within the past several years.

Cheatgrass impacts wildlife habitat, plant diversity, fire regimes, and soil erosion. Cheatgrass is a significant agricultural pest and can easily contaminate grain, hay, and straw. It can cause expensive vet bills for pets and livestock by creating skin abscesses and catching in their mouths and ears!

Cheatgrass is an annual plant that grows up to 3 feet tall with leaves that are covered in soft hairs. The flowers and seed-heads droop. Each seed-head (panicle) contains 3-8 spikelets. Cheatgrass has long awns similar to foxtail.

Control options include hand-pulling or herbicide use.



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Ornamental Jewelweed
Impatiens glandulifera



INVASIVE WEED

Ornamental Jewelweed has not been found growing outside of gardens in Fairbanks– PLEASE CONTACT an invasive plant specialist if you see this plant!

Ornamental jewelweed is sometimes planted as an ornamental in gardens and landscaping. However, it could escape cultivation and spread rapidly! No ornamental jewelweed has been found outside of cultivation in Fairbanks, but wild populations have been found in Juneau, Haines, and Anchorage.

Impacts include the reduction of native plant populations and wildlife habitat, and altered water flow, which can impact erosion and flooding.

Ornamental jewelweed is an annual that grows from 3-6 feet tall. Leaves are opposite, sharply toothed, and approximately 6 inches long. Flowers can be white, pink, purple, or red. Seed pods explode at touch when mature.

Hand-pulling, frequent mowing, and herbicides can all effectively control this plant.



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Spotted Knapweed
Centaurea stoebe



INVASIVE WEED

Spotted knapweed has been found in one location in Fairbanks— PLEASE CONTACT an invasive plant specialist if you see this plant!

Spotted knapweed was found in Fairbanks in 2011 off College Road. This is the first known discovery in interior Alaska. It is also found in southcentral and southeast Alaska.

Spotted knapweed invades a variety of different habitats including open forest, fields, and disturbed areas. It displaces native vegetation, causes agricultural problems, and reduces the forage potential for wildlife and livestock. Spotted knapweed is allelopathic, therefore inhibiting the growth of nearby plants.

Spotted knapweed is a biennial to perennial plant with a basal rosette of deeply lobed leaves, alternate stem leaves, and 1-4 ft tall stems. Flowers are pink to light purple.

Controls of spotted knapweed are hand-pulling, digging, and herbicide use.



If you find this plant or would like more information about it, please contact Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District or the UAF Cooperative Extension Service

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Hempnettle
Galeopsis
spp.



INVASIVE WEED

Hempnettle* is commonly found in gardens, farms, fields, and other disturbed areas across interior Alaska.

Hempnettle is a major agricultural pest and can also be a nuisance in gardens, landscaping, and other areas where the soil has been disturbed. This pest can form dense stands where it out-competes desired vegetation for sunlight, nutrients, and water. It produces huge amounts of seeds which can be transported by machinery, vehicles, and other vectors.

Hempnettle is an annual plant that grows up to 3 feet tall. Its leaves are toothed and opposite and it has a square stem. The flowers are white to pink.

Hempnettle is difficult to control once established, so prevention is key. Diligence is required to deplete the seed bank in established stands. Control methods include mechanical means (pulling, cutting, digging) and chemical methods (herbicide). Tilling and plowing are not recommended as a control method because they will often bring seeds to the top of the soil.



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Waterweed
Elodea spp.



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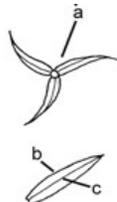
INVASIVE WEED

If you think you have found waterweed in a new location, PLEASE CONTACT an invasive plant specialist, bring a sample, and record the location found!

Waterweed has been found in the Chena River, Lake, and Slough. There are also infestations in Anchorage and Cordova.

When introduced into a water body, waterweed often forms a dense monoculture. This dense mat reduces habitat for fish and other aquatic species and can alter water flow and other properties, such as decreased dissolved oxygen levels and increased sedimentation. It can also result in impacts to recreation by clogging waterways.

Waterweed is a long-lived underwater plant with trailing stems and green, semi-translucent leaves arranged in whorls of 3 around the stem. Stems are usually branched and can be lighter in color than the leaves.



- a. Only 3 leaves encircle the stem
- b. Leaf edges appear smooth
- c. Leaf vein is smooth underneath



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment. www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Prevent spread of aquatic invasive species by remembering to **CLEAN • DRAIN • DRY** all recreational equipment

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Common Tansy
Tanacetum vulgare



INVASIVE WEED

Common tansy is grown in gardens, but there are only a few escaped populations along roads in Fairbanks— if you find it, PLEASE CONTACT an invasive plant specialist!

Common tansy is a perennial herbaceous plant that grows up to 5 feet tall. The stem is single but branched at the top, supporting numerous button-like yellow flower heads. Leaves are alternate, compound, and strongly aromatic when crushed.

Common tansy thrives in disturbed soil, such as roadsides, gardens, and fields. It can be toxic to animals in large doses. Common tansy crowds out desirable vegetation and can reduce forage for livestock and wildlife.

Common tansy regenerates from root fragments, making mechanical control methods difficult. Control methods include digging— if all roots are removed, repeated hand-pulling, or herbicides.



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