

COMMON WEEDS IN THE COUNTY OF TWO HILLS

SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE (*Tripleurospermum perforatum* syn. *T. Inodorum*)



Provincial Designation: **NOXIOUS**

Scentless chamomile, also known as mayweed, scentless mayweed or daisy, is distinguished by its white daisy-like flowers and its finely divided fern-like leaves. The flowers are solitary at the ends of smooth, erect or semi-erect branches and measure 2 to 3 cm in diameter. Scentless chamomile is an annual, biennial or short-lived perennial that reproduces by seed.

Prevention: does not compete well with vigorous, healthy plant communities. Dispersal by weed seed contamination in crop/grass seed and livestock forage is common.

For more information:

- [Alberta Invasive Species Fact Sheet-Scentless Chamomile](#)
- [Agri-Facts Scentless Chamomile](#)

YELLOW CLEMATIS (*Clematis tangutica*)

AKA Golden Clematis, Golden Tiara, Virgins-Bower, Radar Love, Helios



Provincial Designation: **NOXIOUS**

Yellow Clematis is a perennial vine. Vines grow rapidly either along the ground or will climb and cover other shrubs/trees, fences and trellises. Producing several stems per plant that can grow up to 4 m in length. Young stems are pliable while the older stems can become very woody. Leaves are green and compound with 5-7 lance-shaped leaflets 5-6 cm long, which may be lobed. Leaf tips are pointed and leaf edges are coarsely toothed. Leaves may be slightly hairy on the underside and are deciduous. Flowers are lemon-yellow, nodding, with four petals. Flowers are bell-shaped at first and then split as the petals spread. Petals may be silky-hairy on the outside and occasionally tinged purplish-brown. Flowers are borne at the ends of stems or in leaf axils, usually solitary but sometimes 2 or 3 together, on a short (0.5-3 cm) flower stem.

Key Identifiers

- Lemon yellow flowers
- Usually 5 leaflets
- “Puffball” infestations

Prevention: Yellow clematis is distributed mainly through the nursery trade, and then spreads far beyond the gardens and flowerbeds via its abundant, wind dispersed seed. Do not purchase plants or seeds labeled with any of the names listed above.

For more information:

- [Alberta Invasive Species Council Fact Sheet-Yellow Clematis](#)
- [Government of Alberta-Yellow Clematis](#)

WHITE COCKLE (*Lychnis alba* syn. *Silene alba* S. *Latifolia*)



Provincial Designation: **NOXIOUS**

A biennial or short-lived perennial, with branched roots and stems. Grows to 1 m in height. Stems have hairs on lower section that become glandular near flower. Leaves egg-shaped, lower leaves up to 10 cm long, reducing in size upward. Stem leaves opposite. Inflorescence of unisexual (the plants either male or female) flowers, rather showy, evening blooming and scented, several to many in open, spreading, leafy-bracted clusters. Petals 5, white, tips wide, deeply notched into 2 lobes, 2 appendages above each petal in center of flower dividing into 2 lobes Sepals 5, united, forming a downy, sticky tube 15-20 mm. The calyx of the male flower has 10 veins, and the female's 20 veins are longer, and inflate with ripening. Capsules egg-shaped, to 20 mm long, with 10 teeth; seeds about 1.5 mm long, dark bluish-brown, prominently warty-pimply in concentric rows.

Key Identifiers

- Flowers white with 5 lobed/notched petals
- Leaves are opposite and hairy
- Flowers open at night and have a pleasant odor
- Stems are hairy and may become almost woody when mature
- Has a tap root and lateral roots

For more information:

- [Alberta Invasive Species Council Fact Sheet- White Cockle](#)
- [Alberta Weed Monitoring Network- White Cockle](#)

FIELD SCABIOUS (*Knautia arvensis*)



Provincial Designation: **NOXIOUS**

Field scabious is native to Europe and was introduced as an ornamental plant. It is a tall perennial that favors grassy areas and develops a deep tap root. Flowers are a composite of small, violet-blue to purple florets clustered into a head resembling a single flower up to 4 cm wide, and occur singly at the ends of stems

Key Identifiers

- Upper leaves pinnately lobed and opposite
- Entire plant covered in short, stiff hairs
- Pink-blue flowers in dense heads

For more information:

- [Alberta Invasive Species Council Fact Sheet-Field Scabious](#)
- [Alberta Weed Monitoring Network-Field Scabious](#)

LEAFY SPURGE (*Euphorbia esula*)



Provincial Designation: **NOXIOUS**

A long-lived perennial that forms an extensive, persistent, creeping root system. Stems are arranged in clumps, smooth and hairless, grow up to 1 m tall and contain a milky latex. Leaves are numerous and attached directly to the stem, arranged alternately or sometimes spirally. The leaves are up to 7 cm long, narrow, waxy, have smooth edges and are bluish-green in color, turning yellowish or reddish-orange in late summer.

Flowers are small, yellowish-green, lack both petals and sepals, and are supported by 2 green, heart-shaped, leaf-like bracts, arranged in numerous small clusters. Seeds are about 2mm, smooth, oblong, light gray to dark brown in color and grow in pods on top of the bracts. When mature the dried seed

Pods explode. CAUTION: All parts of the plant contain a milky-colored latex that can poison livestock and cause skin irritation on humans.

Key Identifiers

- White latex in all parts of the plant
- Deep and spreading roots with buds
- Greenish-yellow bracts under flowers

For more information:

- [Alberta Invasive Species Council Fact Sheet- Leafy Spurge](#)
- [Alberta Weed Monitoring Network- Leafy Spurge](#)

COMMON TANSY (*Tanacetum vulgare*)



Provincial Designation: **NOXIOUS**

Common tansy is a perennial forb that reproduces by both seed and short rhizomes (underground horizontal roots). Common tansy forms dense stands and the plants contain alkaloids that are toxic to both humans and livestock if consumed in large quantities. Cases of livestock poisoning are rare, though, because tansy is unpalatable to grazing animals. Stems are branched, erect, often purplish-red, and dotted with glands. There are many stems per plant and can grow up to 1.5 m tall. Flowers are yellow, numerous, and button-like, occurring in dense, flat-topped clusters at the tops of the stems (0.5-1 cm wide).

Key Identifiers

- Short rhizomes
- Fern-like, aromatic leaves
- Yellow, button like flowers in clusters

For more information:

- [Alberta Invasive Species Council Fact Sheet-Common Tansy](#)
- [Alberta Weed Monitoring Network-Common Tansy](#)

CANADA THISTLE (*Cirsium arvense*)



Provincial Designation: **NOXIOUS**

A colony-forming, aggressive perennial, that spreads primarily by its creeping root system. Stems are grooved, upright, hollow and woody, branching near the top, and grow to 1.5 m tall. Leaves are lance-shaped, dark green, shiny on the surface and occur alternately, slightly clasping the stem. Lower leaves are largest and decrease in size upward along the stems. Leaf edges can vary from smooth with no spines to irregularly lobed with sharp spines.

Flowers form at the ends of stems in clusters of one to several. The flower head is urn-shaped and the bracts are spineless. The color of the flowers may vary from plant to plant, being purple, pink or white. Seeds are borne in an achene to 4 mm long which is tufted.

Key Identifiers

- Deep creeping roots
- Irregularly-lobed leaves with spines on margins only
- Male and female flowers on separate plants

For more information:

- [Alberta Invasive Species Council Fact Sheet- Canada thistle](#)
- [Alberta Weed Monitoring Network- Canada thistle](#)

YELLOW TOADFLAX (*Linaria vulgaris*)



Provincial Designation: **NOXIOUS**

This perennial plant makes seed, but reproduction is primarily by sprouting from its extensive, creeping root system (rhizomes) – 2-3 week old seedlings can produce creeping roots. The ability of this plant to form large colonies allows it to crowd out other vegetation. Flowers are bright yellow, arranged alternately in dense spikes at the ends of stems and have a long spur extending from the base that is usually as long as the flower itself – in all, to 3.5 cm long. The snapdragon-like flowers can have orange coloring on the throat. The seeds are winged, disk-shaped, and dark brown to black. Common toadflax is easily confused with Leafy spurge before flowering, but toadflax stems do not contain the milky latex that spurge does.

Once present, it establishes dense patches that are extremely difficult to control, let alone eradicate. Multiple control methods and several years of commitment provide the best success.

Key Identifiers

- Creeping roots
- Narrow lance shaped leaves
- Yellow snap dragon like flowers

For more information:

- [Alberta Invasive Species Council Fact Sheet- Yellow Toadflax](#)
- [Alberta Weed Monitoring Network-Yellow Toadflax](#)