

LEAFY SPURGE



This plant is characterized by its milky sap and heart-shaped yellow bracts. It is a serious problem on TVW. Root systems may be as deep as 14' and seed capsules explode often sending seeds as far as 15'.

CANADA THISTLE



This aggressive weed is difficult to control. What appear to be new seedlings are usually new shoots arising from extensive creeping root systems. Breaking up the roots by plowing or digging only serves to increase the number of plants. It is especially prolific in areas burned by the fire. Scotch thistle and Bull thistle (below) are also plants that should be eliminated if possible.

SCOTCH THISTLE AND BULL THISTLE



FOXTAIL BARLEY



Foxtail barley is native to North America and common in wet or alkaline soils. It can be found around our ponds at TVW. Awns (see photo on right) can cause serious injury to animals' eyes, nose, throat and ears.

KNAPWEED - SPOTTED AND DIFFUSE

Spotted



Diffuse



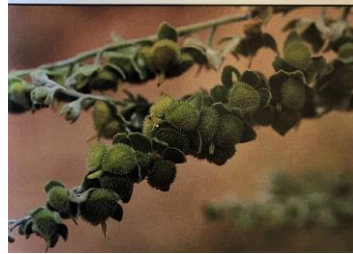
These non-native plants are a recent addition to TVW and are spreading rapidly. They represent a threat to pastures and rangelands. They are highly competitive and can exclude many desirable species. They may release chemicals which inhibit surrounding vegetation.

CHEATGRASS (DOWNY BROME)



Cheatgrass, an annual, is considered an invader which competes with more desirable perennial grasses for moisture and becomes a nuisance and a fire hazard after maturity. Mow and keep away from your house and outbuildings.

HOUNDSTONGUE



Although you might not notice this biennial in summer because its flowers are somewhat inconspicuous, once the nutlets (seeds) form, you may find them sticking to your clothing or dog's fur. It is toxic to animals, especially horses lacking desirable forage. It is designated as a Colorado noxious weed.

FIELD BINDWEED
(Wild morning glory)



This is a perennial with an extensive root system is a serious weed problem in most parts of the US. It is difficult to eradicate because its root system can penetrate the soil to a depth of 20'. Seeds remain viable for up to 50 years. It is considered a noxious weed in Colorado.

CURLYCUP GUMWEED (Rosinweed)



This native plant is considered undesirable as forage and is unpalatable to livestock. Indians used it as treatment for asthma, bronchitis, colic, and skin rash. It has become a nuisance plant at TVW as it spreads easily.

RUSSIAN THISTLE (Tumbleweed)



Since Russian thistle was introduced from Russia in the late 1800's, it has become one of the most common and troublesome weeds in the drier regions of North America. It can knock down fences when numerous bushes collect against them. It has small thorns that can puncture hands when being pulled out of the ground.

WILD ALYSSUM



This spring blooming annual shows up “en mass” after a drought and is common in dry, gravelly waste areas and cropland. It is a nuisance when it appears in your garden and the dry plant/seeds cling to your gloves and pants as you attempt to pull it out of the ground. It is prolific so expect to deal with it every spring or early summer.

LOCOWEED (SILKY CRAZYWEED)



This member of the Pea Family is a perennial, herbaceous legume common on western rangelands. It is lovely to look at but toxic to livestock. Livestock generally avoids it, but once eaten, they seek out plants.

COMMON MULLEIN



This biennial was introduced from Europe and is a common sight in meadows, waste areas and disturbed ground. It produces a large number of seeds, hence is difficult to control. Its numbers usually decline once the land is returned to its natural state. Livestock will not eat it but its woolly basal leaves provide a cozy home for insects. Its leaves can be made into a tea that is calming to the stomach. The tall stalk can provide seeds for birds and small animals in deep snow.