

Have you seen this invasive plant?

Yellow starthistle is an aggressive winter annual that infests millions of acres of rangeland in the western U.S.

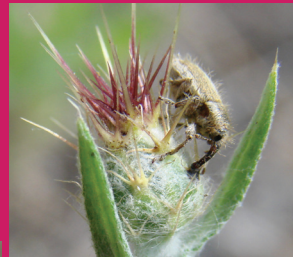
Learn more at www.nwcb.wa.gov

Yellow starthistle typically grows 1-3 feet tall, develops a deep taproot and can form spiny thickets.



Plants are densely covered by thin white, woolly hairs and appear grayish to bluish-green. Lower leaves are typically deeply lobed, while upper leaves become smaller, narrower and pointed.

Stems are winged and have solitary yellow flowerheads at the tips. Distinct sharp, stiff, straw-colored spines (3/8 - 3/4 inches long) radiate from the base. Flowers produce seeds either with or without bristles. A single plant can produce thousands of seeds.



Eustenopus villosus, a seed-feeding weevil, is a biological control agent released to control yellow starthistle. Biocontrol is best used in conjunction with revegetation of native and desirable plants.

Why is yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) a noxious weed?

- It is a fast spreading invader that displaces desirable plant communities and contaminates feed and seed crops. Ingestion by horses causes chewing disease and can be fatal.

Where do you find yellow starthistle?

- It grows in open, sunny habitats including rangelands, pastures, roadways and disturbed areas. Though primarily found east of the Cascades, it also grows in western Washington.

What can you do?

- Prevent seed spread to new areas by cleaning shoes, equipment and vehicles of soil, seeds and plant material.
- For best results, use a combination of control methods to prevent seed production and deplete the seedbank.
- Control and monitor infestations frequently. Carefully timed herbicide applications, hand-pulling, mowing, grazing and/or burning over a number of years can reduce populations.
- Biological control may be appropriate for some infestations.
- Contact your county noxious weed board for herbicide and management recommendations. For more information go to www.nwcb.wa.gov and www.invasives.wsu.edu.



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