

Larimer County Noxious Weed Management Plan



November 20, 2018



Larimer County Noxious Weed Management Plan

Larimer County Department of Natural Resources

Land Stewardship Program

www.larimer.org/weeds

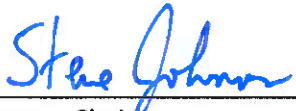
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The Larimer County Land Stewardship Board thanks the landowners and residents of Larimer County, Colorado, who offered their time, talents and efforts in developing this plan.

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Steve Johnson, Chair
Larimer County Board of County Commissioners



Date

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Diffuse Knapweed © Casey Cisneros

Introduction

Invasive species cause significant damage to natural resources and infrastructure throughout the world. Impacts to agriculture, infrastructure and ecological systems associated with invasive species cost an estimated \$100 billion annually in the United States, according to the National Invasive Species Council. In 1992, the Colorado state legislature adopted the Noxious Weed Act (Colorado Revised Statute Title 35 Article 5.5), outlining mitigation strategies and requirements for invasive exotic plant species that threaten the environment, agriculture, the economy and human health in the state. As stipulated by the law, Larimer County government is mandated to pursue compliance from landowners and land managers in the unincorporated portions of the county. The following noxious weed management plan for unincorporated Larimer County is intended to inform stakeholders and guide decision making.

Colorado Noxious Weed Act

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act (CNWA) is administered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). The Commissioner of the CDA makes Rules regarding the CNWA based upon recommendations from the State Weed Coordinator and the state Noxious Weed Advisory Committee. The Rules prioritize management of noxious weed species at a state and county level by species designation (List A, List B or List C noxious weeds) and by creating management plans for List A and List B species, the latter for which may include containment boundaries.

As mandated by the CNWA, all municipalities and counties* throughout the state of Colorado must:

1. Appoint a local advisory board to make noxious weed management recommendations.
2. Create a noxious weed management plan for lands within a given jurisdiction.
3. Manage all noxious weeds in the rights-of-way and public lands within their jurisdiction.
4. Educate, support and, when necessary, compel private landowners and public land managers to meet minimal levels of compliance in accordance with the CNWA.

*There is a federal lands exemption to the CNWA. Larimer County does not have noxious weed enforcement responsibility on federal lands within the unincorporated county.



Horsetooth Mountain Open Space © Jeanie Sumrall-Ajero

Classification of Noxious Weeds in Larimer County

The Rules created for the CNWA designate three categories of noxious weeds: List A, List B and List C. List A species must be managed for eradication with the goal of elimination from the state of Colorado. List B species must be managed for eradication outside of the CDA-designated county containment boundary and associated buffer zone. Inside the containment boundary, a List B species must be suppressed and stopped from spreading onto adjacent property. List C species are recommended for management, but management is not required by law and is left to the local governing entity's discretion. The CDA will provide technical support when available (e.g., biocontrol agents). A noxious weed species List designation is based on reported occurrence throughout the state, invasion potential and associated risks. To see the state list of noxious weeds and species fact sheets, visit:

www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/noxious-weed-species

This management plan addresses noxious weed species known to occur within Larimer County. This management plan will be reviewed and revised as needed to reflect current information.

List A Species

- Cypress spurge (*Euphorbia cyperissias*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Hairy willow-herb (*Epilobium hirsutum*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Knotweed species (*Polygonum cuspidatum*, *Polygonum cuspidatum* and *Polygonum x bohemicum*)
- Mediterranean sage (*Salvia aethiopsis*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County

List B Species

- Absinth wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Black henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Bouncingbet (*Saponaria officinalis*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Chamomile (*Matricaria perforata*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Chinese clematis (*Clematis orientalis*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Cutleaf teasel (*Dipsacus spp.*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) Broadleaf and (*Linaria genistifolia*) Narrowleaf
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County

- Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Hoary cress (*Cardaria draba*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Jointed goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Moth mullein (*Verbascum blattaria*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County



Scotch Thistle © Steve Priest

- Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Russian-olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Salt cedar (*Tamarix spp.*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium* or *o. tauricum*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Sulfur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Wild caraway (*Carum carvi*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County

List C Species

- Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Common burdock (*Arctium minus*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County

- Common mullein (*Verbascum Thapsus*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Common St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Downey brome (*Bromus tectorum*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Perennial sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County
- Redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
 - Distribution in Larimer County



Common Burdock © Larimer County

Noxious Weed Management

To meet compliance of the CNWA, responsible parties shall treat each noxious weed species according to state and local management goals. If the goal is to eradicate a given species, then those plants must be prevented from producing viable seed and any vegetative propagules treated to kill each individual. If the goal is suppression, then the given species must be prevented from spreading onto neighboring properties. A single growing season is not enough time to effectively meet these goals. Each noxious weed infestation should be managed in perpetuity or until the seed bank has been exhausted.

Integrated Weed Management (IWM) is the practice of using a variety of management techniques to treat noxious weeds and is the most effective and efficient means to meet state and local management goals. To learn more about IWM, visit [USDA Integrated Weed Management Resource Center](#).

Weed Management on Public Lands

The CNWA states that public lands must meet or exceed the same standard of noxious weed control as the surrounding private property before legal actions toward private landowners can take place. Any public agency that manages land or rights-of-way must do so in accordance with local and state noxious weed management goals.

Citizens are encouraged to report noxious weeds growing on public lands by contacting the Larimer County Weed District office or by contacting the appropriate land management agency directly.

Weed Management on Private Lands

It is the responsibility of all landowners in Larimer County to manage List A and B noxious weed species in accordance with local and state noxious weed management goals. Larimer County provides numerous services aimed at empowering landowners to successfully manage noxious weeds, including:

- Offering site visits during the growing season to provide management recommendations.
- Selling herbicides to treat noxious weeds. An herbicide cost-share is available for those who live within the Weed District.
- Providing a list of commercial applicators that are both licensed and insured for-hire in northern Colorado.
- Providing cost-sharing to landowners within the Weed District who hire a private contractor. Outside of the Weed District boundary, landowners may apply for cost-share if funding is available through grants or other supplemental sources (*site visit and prior approval necessary*).
- Plant identification either by uploading a photo to the website or dropping off a specimen in the Weed District office.
- Offering community presentations on concepts and recommendations for weed management at neighborhood, community or other meetings.
- Providing printed educational and information materials (available at the Larimer County Weed District office).

For additional information regarding these services, contact the Larimer County Weed District office or visit www.larimer.org/weeds.

Noxious Weed Compliance Procedure

Larimer County has developed a noxious weed compliance process to be fair and consistent to landowners. At any time during the process, if a landowner conducts appropriate noxious weed control techniques that meet species-specific goals, then they are in compliance. Citizens can report noxious weeds growing on private lands to the Larimer County Weed District office.

The following compliance procedure is tracked using workflow software to ensure follow through and accuracy:

1. Noxious weeds are reported by citizens or field staff to Weed District office clerk.
2. Complaint verified by staff within 5 business days.
3. If no previous contact has been made with the landowner or manager, a courtesy letter is sent to the responsible party with a list of available resources for how to manage the specific weed species. Landowners have 10 business days to notify Larimer County of their management plan to address the specific species. If courtesy letters have been sent to the responsible party in previous years, or a high priority noxious weed is near seeding stage, staff can choose to skip this step and move to a certified enforcement letter.
4. Staff verifies if management actions have been conducted. If no actions have taken place and the responsible party has not communicated his or her intentions to County staff, a certified enforcement letter is sent to the responsible landowner stating that a certain management action is mandatory within 10 business days. If the certified letter is returned to sender, then an enforcement action can take place without further notification.
5. Staff requests a right-of-entry from the Board of County Commissioners to conduct enforcement action. The most likely enforcement actions will be herbicide application, mowing or hand pulling and disposal, depending on management goals.
6. Conduct enforcement action (management of noxious weed infestation) with Larimer County licensed staff or a hired contractor.
7. Track and assess all direct costs to conduct enforcement action and send an invoice via certified mail to landowner. Landowner has until October 15 of that calendar year to pay invoice in full.
8. If payment is not received, a Notice of Lien letter is sent to the landowner and a delinquent invoice is sent to the Larimer County Assessor for a lien to be placed on the property.

Noxious Weed Act Compliance

Each noxious weed complaint is investigated if an infestation is reported to be within unincorporated Larimer County and is viewable from a public road or with landowner permission.

Both private citizens and County staff can report a noxious weed complaint by calling the Larimer County Weed District office or submitting it online at www.larimer.org/weeds. High priority noxious weeds can be investigated without a formal complaint, identified as **Proactive** below.

Proactive: The State of Colorado has determined that certain exotic plant species are detrimental to the environment, economy or human health. Larimer County is mandated to seek compliance with the law.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture has designated all noxious species as one of three designations that determine priority: List A, List B and List C. Proactive investigation applies to state List A and List B noxious weed species that are mandated for eradication or in infestations larger than 1 acre with greater than 80% canopy cover. For example, County staff will pursue investigation of noxious weed issues without a formal complaint in the following circumstances:

- If there has been a formal complaint made and the neighboring property has the same noxious weed species as named in the complaint.
- If staff identifies an infestation of 1 or more acres.



Myrtle Spurge © Jeanie Sumrall-Ajero

The priority ratings for violations pertaining to the Colorado Noxious Weed Act are outlined below: Larimer County prioritizes noxious weeds in accordance with the state listing status and resources available. **Enforcement actions will be reserved for landowners who:**

1. Do not address List A noxious weed species.
2. Do not address List B noxious weed species outside any containment boundary or in a containment buffer zone.
3. Do not address dense infestations (>80% canopy cover) over 1 or more acres, per landowner, of List B noxious weeds inside containment boundary.
4. Are chronic offenders (two growing seasons of notifications) inside or outside the containment boundaries who have made no effort to communicate with Larimer County regarding their intentions to manage noxious weeds.

Noxious Weed Priority Ratings

Noxious weed designations are determined by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Larimer County utilizes the same designations – List A, List B and List C – when assigning priority to certain species. The table below only specifies species currently found in Larimer County.

List A Species	Proactive & Complaint	Complaint Only
Cypress spurge (<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>)	X	
Hairy willow-herb (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>)	X	
Knotweeds (<i>Polygonum sp.</i>)	X	
Mediterranean Sage (<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>)	X	
Myrtle spurge (<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>)	X	
Orange hawkweed (<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>)	X	
Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)	X	
Yellow starthistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)	X	

List B Species	Proactive & Complaint	Complaint Only
Absinth wormwood (<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>)	X	
Black henbane (<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>)	X	
Bull thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>)	X	
Bouncingbet (<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>)		X
Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)	X	

Chinese clematis (<i>Clematis orientalis</i>)	X	
Common tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>)	X	
Common teasel (<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>)	X	
Corn chamomile (<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>)		X
Cutleaf teasel (<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>)	X	
Dalmatian toadflax, broad-leaved (<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>)	X	
Dame's rocket (<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>)	X	
Diffuse knapweed (<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>)	X	
Hoary cress (<i>Cardaria draba</i>)	X	
Houndstongue (<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>)	X	
Jointed goatgrass (<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>)	X	
Leafy spurge (<i>Euphorbia esula</i>)	X	
Mayweed chamomile (<i>Anthemis cotula</i>)		X
Moth mullein (<i>Verbascum blattaria</i>)	X	
Musk thistle (<i>Carduus nutans</i>)	X	
Oxeye daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>)	X	
Perennial pepperweed (<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>)	X	
Russian knapweed (<i>Acroptilon repens</i>)	X	
Russian-olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>)		X
Salt cedar (<i>Tamarix chinensis</i> , <i>T. parviflora</i> and <i>T. ramosissima</i>)	X	
Scentless chamomile (<i>Tripleurospermum perforata</i>)		X
Scotch thistle (<i>Onopordum acanthium</i> , <i>O. tauricum</i>)	X	
Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>)	X	
Sulfur cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla recta</i>)	X	
Wild caraway (<i>Carum carvi</i>)	X	
Yellow toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>)	X	

*For List C species and all other troublesome weeds, the County will conduct education and outreach but no enforcement actions.

List C Species	Proactive & Complaint	Complaint Only
Bulbous bluegrass (<i>Poa bulbosa</i>)		X
Chicory (<i>Cichorium intybus</i>)		X
Common burdock (<i>Arctium minus</i>)		X
Common mullein (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>)		X
Common St. Johnswort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)		X
Downy brome (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>)		X
Field bindweed (<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>)		X
Perennial sowthistle (<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>)		X
Poison hemlock (<i>Conium maculatum</i>)		X
Puncturevine (<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>)		X
Redstem filaree (<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>)		X



Larimer County Land Stewardship Program Staff © Larimer County

For more information regarding noxious weed management or Larimer County Weed District services, please visit www.larimer.org/weeds or call (970) 498-5768.