

# KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR NEW INVASIVE PLANTS IN MINNESOTA

These species could be spreading in your area.  
Early detection and eradication can prevent an invasion.

Eradicate List

• Positive Report



To report an infestation, contact [Arrest.The.Pest@state.mn.us](mailto:Arrest.The.Pest@state.mn.us) or 1-888-545-6684

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# INVASIVE PLANTS IN MINNESOTA

## PALMER AMARANTH (*Amaranthus palmeri*)

**Annual herb.** Grows 6-10 feet tall. **Leaves** are alternate, oval to diamond shaped, sometimes with a white v-shaped mark, and often with a small, sharp spine on the tip. The petiole is longer than the length of the leaf. There are separate male and female plants. Female plants have long main terminal seedhead with stiff, sharp bracts that give **seedheads** a prickly feeling. Adapts quickly, prolific seed producer, competes aggressively, develops herbicide resistance to **threaten** cropland and conservation plantings.

## ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

**Woody, perennial vine** grows over 60 feet long. **Leaves** alternate, toothed, shape variable; teardrop-shaped to round with a pointed tip. **Flowers** small and greenish-yellow; male and female flowers on separate plants. Blooms in early summer, fruits in fall. **Fruit** greenish to yellow, grows in clusters of 3-7 along stem at leaf axils. Fruit splits open to reveal a bright red inner-fruit. **Threatens** woodlands, forests, savannas and floodplains.

## BROWN KNAPWEED (*Centaurea jacea*)

**Perennial herb.** Plant forms a basal rosette then bolts. **Stems** are 1-4 feet tall. **Leaves** are alternate, lance shaped and hairy, occasionally with wavy leaf edges or lobed. Small, single **flowers** are clustered together to form composite flower heads; mostly pink/purple, sometimes having white centers; bracts below the flowers are rounded and wide at the tip, often having brown tips that do not have fringe. **Threatens** meadows, hayfields, pastures, riparian areas, and forest openings.

## YELLOW STARHISTLE (*Centaurea solstitialis*)

**Annual or biennial herb.** Plant forms a basal rosette then bolts. **Stems** are winged, branched and covered with wooly hair. Plant height averages from 1-3 feet. Basal **leaves** are deeply lobed; stem leaves are alternate, narrow, have few to no lobes. **Flower** heads are golden yellow with sharp yellowish spines forming a circle of spines around each flower head. **Seeds** at center of seedhead have fluffy hairs. **Threatens** prairies, fields, woodlands and pastures.

## MEADOW KNAPWEED (*Centaurea x moncktonii*)

**Perennial herb.** Plant forms a basal rosette then bolts. Multiple **stems** grow upright, openly branched near mid-stem, and grow 2-3 feet tall. **Leaves** are simple, alternate, lance-shaped and hairy, occasionally with wavy edges or lobed. Small, single **flowers** are clustered together to form composite flower heads; mostly pink/purple, sometimes having white centers; bracts below the flowers are rounded and wide at the tip and have fringe. **Seeds** are 1/8 inch long and light brown. **Threatens** meadows, hayfields, pastures, riparian areas, and forest openings.

## DIFFUSE KNAPWEED (*Centaurea diffusa*)

**Biennial or perennial herb.** Plant forms a basal rosette then bolts. **Stem** is single and upright with numerous branches, growing up to 3.5 feet tall. **Leaves** are alternate and finely divided; basal leaves are hairy, grayish green, and highly divided. Small, single **flowers** are clustered together to form composite flower heads; mostly white, sometimes pink; bracts have rigid, sharp spines. **Seeds** are light brown to black and 1/8 inch long. **Threatens** prairies, pastures, hayfields and forest openings.

## BLACK SWALLOW-WORT (*Cynanchum louiseae*)

**Herbaceous, perennial vine** twines 3-8 feet high. **Leaves** opposite, toothless, narrowly to broadly oval, pointed tips, dark green and shiny. **Flowers** tiny, dark purple with 5 pointed, downy, triangular petals that are as long as wide. **Seedpods** milkweed-like, slender and tapered. **Threatens** woodlands, forests, grasslands and savannas.

## GRECIAN FOXGLOVE (*Digitalis lanata*)

**Perennial herb.** Forms rosette during first year of growth. Flowering **stems** are mostly unbranched and grow 2-5 feet tall; covered with woolly hairs. **Leaves** are simple, alternate, and oblong-shaped with pointed tip. **Flowers** are tubular, arranged in elongated color; creamy white to pale yellow with brownish-purple venation inside. **Fruit** is a pod covered with hooks that attach easily to fur and clothes. **Threatens** prairie and savannah communities, grasslands, river bluffs and forest margins. **Caution!** **Poisonous** - avoid handling with bare skin.

## TEASELS - common and cutleaf

(*Dipsacus fullonum* and *Dipsacus laciniatus*)

**Herbaceous monocarpic perennial herb,** flowers once then dies. Form basal rosettes for at least one year until enough resources are acquired to produce flowering stalk. At maturity, flowering **stalks** may grow 2-7 feet. **Leaves** are opposite, large and prickly; wrap around the stalk to form cups that can hold water; cutleaf teasel has deeply-lobed leaves while common teasel leaves are unlobed. **Flower** distinctive for bristly egg shape and is white to lavender/purple. Cutleaf teasel stiff flower bracts are not taller than the flower cluster, while the bracts of common teasel are may be taller than the flower. **Seed** slightly hairy, grayish brown, inside capsule. **Threatens** pastures, sedge meadows, prairies, and seeps.

## GIANT HOGWEED (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

**Herbaceous monocarpic perennial herb,** flowers once then dies. Grows a larger rosette each year eventually producing a 7-15 foot flower stalk. **Leaves** 3-part compound, 1-4 feet wide, deeply incised and pointed. **Flowers** white in multiple broad domed umbels. **Flower stalk** hollow with coarse hairs and reddish purple splotching. **Threatens** river corridors and woodland edges. **Caution!** Plant sap on skin causes severe burns if exposed to sunlight.

## JAPANESE HOPS (*Humulus japonicus*)

**Herbaceous annual vine,** grows up to 35 feet in one season. **Leaves** opposite, toothed, palmately divided with at least 5 lobes. Leaf **stem** as long or longer than leaf length. Leaves and stem with hooked climbing hairs. **Flowers** mid to late summer, male and female flowers on separate plants. Female flowers develop into cone shaped hops fruit with overlapping scales. **Threatens** floodplains, wet forests, stream banks and lakeshores in sun or shade.

## DALMATIAN TOADFLAX (*Linaria dalmatica*)

**Perennial herb.** First year plant develops a rosette of leaves. **Stems** of adult plant are upright, waxy and grow up to 4 feet tall; base may be woody and is often branched. **Leaves** are heart-shaped, waxy, bluish-green and clasp the stem. Multiple **flowers** are arranged in spikes on the stems. They are bright yellow and sometimes have an orange center, have spurs and resemble snapdragon flowers. **Seed** pods are 1/2 inch long and contain 140-250 small winged seeds. **Threatens** grasslands in pastures, rangelands, and natural areas in the west.



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