

***A GUIDE TO  
AZTEC AREA  
INVASIVE WEEDS***





## **Russian Knapweed:**

*(Acroptilon repens)*

May – October / Perennial

Russian knapweed is a creeping, herbaceous perennial that reproduces from seed and vegetative root buds. It bolts in May and June and flowers through the summer into fall. Russian knapweed is toxic to horses. The best control strategy for Russian knapweed is to put constant stress on the plant which causes it to expend nutrient stores in its root system. The use of more than one management technique will bring about better results, such as chemicals and mowing.



## **Pigweed:**

(Amaranthus Retroflexus)

June – October / Summer Annual

Pigweed is a summer annual that reproduces from seed clusters at the top of the stalk. Before it seeds cut Pigweed with a weed eater or shovel. After seeding, cut with a shovel and remove to prevent the spreading of seeds.



## **Russian Thistle:**

(Salsola Pestifer)

June – October / Summer Annual

Russian Thistle grows a 1 to 3 foot stalk and has a round shape. This weed is also called the “Tumbleweed” and is famous for its tumbling affects when the weed has dried. Russian Thistle germinates in the end of summer. Each plant produces more than 10,000 seeds. Cut and remove Tumbleweeds before the spine starts to dry and harden to prevent spreading of seeds.



## **Kochia:**

(Kochia Scoparia)

June – October / Summer Annual

Kochia reproduces by seeds that emerge in early spring and throughout the weed season. This is another type of “Tumbleweed”. The bushy plant grows 1 to 7ft tall and have taproots which allow them to out compete plants for water. The plant is dark green when young and turns red as it matures. Small, green flowers and seeds are produced in narrow heads, pointed and attached directly to the stems. In the fall and winter, the dried plants often break away from the roots and tumble over the ground, scattering the seeds.



## **Spurge:**

(*Euphorbia Serpens*)

March – August / Spring/Summer Annual

This weed is commonly known as Creeping Spurge. The stems are short stocks and have leaves growing on opposite ends of the stem. Tiny, white flowers are typically grouped along the stem or at the stem tips. It germinates in April and May and grows low across the ground. Cut this plant at the crown just below the ground to prevent spreading.



## **Puncture Vine:**

(*Tribulus Terrestris*)

May – October / Summer Annual

Puncture Vine is commonly known as the “Goatshead” weed because of its prickly seeds that are often tracked in the home under shoes or by pets. Puncture Vine will start growing in May but will not produce seeds until the flower has bloomed, which usually takes around 2-3 weeks. The plant can survive until the first winter freeze. Cut this plant at the crown just below the ground to prevent spreading.



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## **Ragweed:**

(Ambrosia Spp.)

June – October / Summer Annual

Leaves have strong smell when crushed and are lacy. Shallow rooted, stems are rough and branching. Seed leaves have a purple underside and purple splotches around the edge of leaf.

Ragweed can be difficult to control. It must be cut very low to the ground and cut often. Some Chemicals are effective when used in conjunction with mowing, but you should consult a professional before applying any chemicals.



## **Cheatgrass:**

Summer Annual  
(*Bromus tectorum*)

Cheatgrass is an annual bunchgrass, usually germinating in the autumn, overwintering as a seedling, then flowering in the spring or early summer. Cheat Grass has an extensive root system. The wide-spreading lateral roots are one of the keys to the survival of this plant. The seeds are dispersed by wind, small rodents, or attachment to animal fur, within a week of maturity. They are also moved as a contaminant in hay, grain, straw, and machinery.

Burning before the grass goes to seed can be a very effective control, but use extreme caution. Cheatgrass can be dry and burn rapidly.



## **Lambsquarter:**

(Kenopodium Spp.)

June – September / Summer Annual

Lambsquarter reproduces from small black sticky seeds. The seeds are spread by sticking to animals. Cut this weed before it grows its seeds. Avoid contact with seeds to prevent spreading.



## **London Rocket:**

(Sisymbrium Irio)

November – March / Winter Annual

One of the first weeds to appear in the growing season. It produces seeds from its stalk below the flowers. Cut before it flowers with a weed eater or shovel, or after it flowers with a shovel to prevent the spreading of seeds.



## **Flixweed:**

(*Descurainia Sophia*)

November – March / Winter Annual

Flix Weeds reproduces by seed in April. Cut early to prevent the spreading of the seeds. Produces elongated seeds below the flowers. Cut with a shovel or weed eater before seeding. After seeding cut Flix Weed with a shovel to prevent seeds from spreading.



## **Tansy Mustard:**

(*Descurinia Pinnata*)

November – February / Winter Annual

One of the first weeds to appear in the growing season and produces seeds from its stalk below the flowers. Cut before it flowers with a weed eater or shovel, or after it flowers with a shovel to prevent spreading of seeds.



## **Silverleaf Nightshade:**

(*Solanum Elaeagnifolium*)

June – October / Summer Annual

Silverleaf Nightshade reproduces by seed or from anyplace along the root system. It has a tap root that extends deep into the ground. Cut with a shovel and avoid bursting cherries. Cut as far below ground as possible.



## **Field Bind Weeds:**

(*Convolvulus Arvensis*)  
June – August / Summer Annual

Field Bind Weed reproduces by seed or root stalk. Roots can grow up to 20 to 30 feet in the ground and are common in areas converted from agricultural land. The pink and white flowers are from the morning glory family and have arrow shaped leaves. Cut Bind Weed early and often.

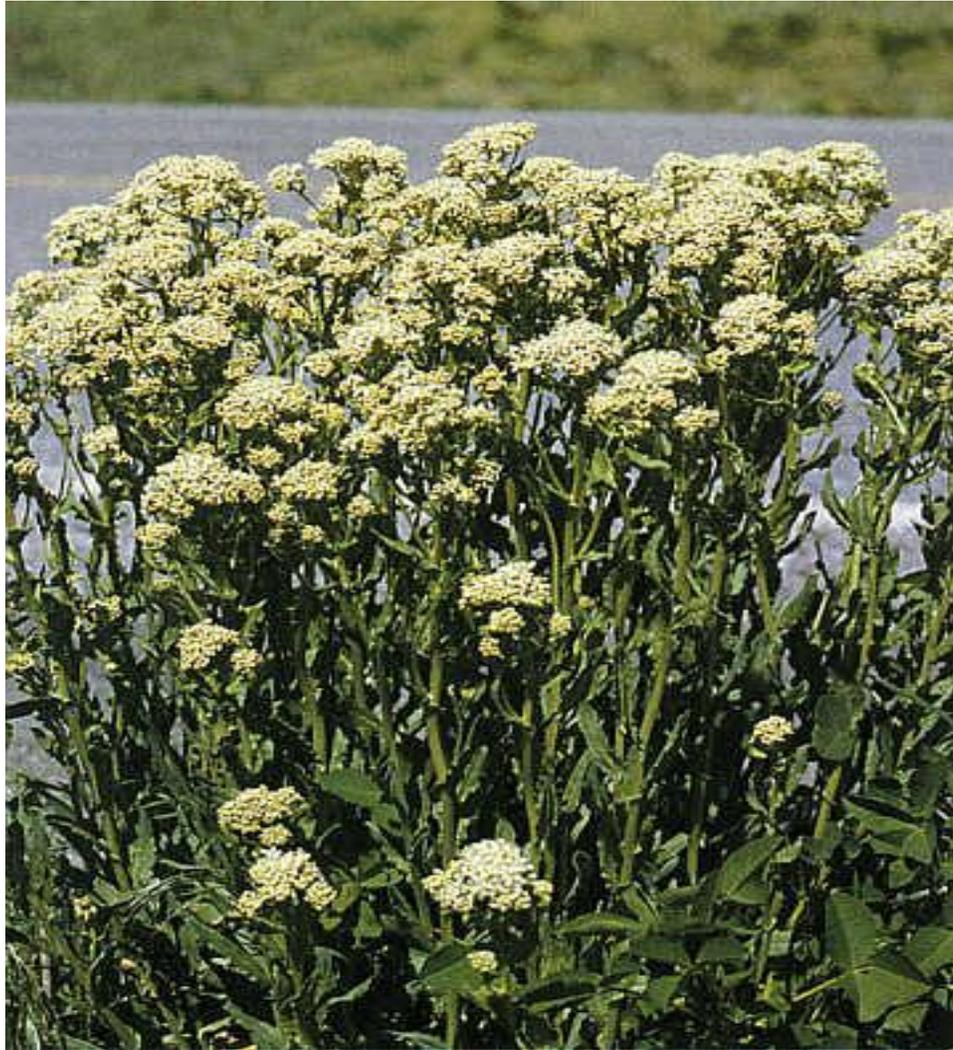


## **Purslane:**

(*Portulaca oleracea* )

June – October / Summer Annual

These weeds grow low across the ground. The leaves are opposite of each other and are typically  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch long. Leaves are thick, succulent and fleshy. This weed produces tiny yellow flowers that bloom with sunlight. The stems can grow 4 to 20 inches long and are a purplish – red color. Cut this plant at the crown below the ground.



## **Hoary Cress:**

(Lepidium Draba)

Spring & Summer – Perennial

Also known as “White Top” it is deeply rooted and invasive mustard perennial. Stems may grow up to two feet in height. The weed produces grayish-green leaves that are shaped like an arrowhead. Hoary Cress has numerous white flowers with a flat top appearance which draws the nickname of White Top. Two small, flat, reddish-brown seeds are contained in each of the heart shaped seed pods. The deep and creeping rootstalks make this weed difficult to control and the spread of root pieces allows the start of new plants.



## **Yellow Foxtail:**

(*Setaria glauca*)

Summer Annual or Biennial

Also known as Yellow Bristlegrass; a clump forming summer annual with a seedhead that resembles a fox's tail. The bristles turn yellow at maturity, giving the plant its name. The Yellow Foxtail has leafy blades about 2 to 12 inches long and most have a spiral twist. Cut before the seeds form to prevent spreading.



## **Green Foxtail:**

(*Setaria Viridis*)

Summer Annual

Green Foxtail is a clump forming weed with a seed head that resembles a foxtail. Its leaves are sheathes and blades without hairs and can reach 12 inches in length. The flower is a seed head that is bristly and around six inches in length. The difference between Green Foxtail and Yellow Foxtail is that Green Foxtail does not have the silky hair found on the leaves or base of the weed. Cut before the seeds form to prevent spreading.



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## **Russian Olive:**

Perennial

(*Elaeagnus angustifolia* L.)

Russian olive can out compete native vegetation, interfere with natural plant succession and, and severely tax water reserves. It rapidly colonizes lowland field and often dries up irrigation ditches. Russian olive is capable of fixing nitrogen in its roots and can therefore grow on bare mineral substrates and dominate riparian vegetation. The fruits eaten by birds disseminate seeds of this species to areas not yet invaded by Russian olive.

Russian olive is very difficult to control. It requires a mixture of mechanical and chemical controls. New trees can sprout of root crowns. As a rule, removing or controlling isolated patches of invasive plants first before attacking the large contiguous areas of weeds is the best long-term strategy for noxious weed control.



## **Salt Cedar:**

(*Tamarix* spp.)

Salt cedar is an aggressive, woody shrub with large sprays of small whitish or pinkish flowers that are born in finger-like clusters. Leaves are very small and scaly and arranged alternatively. It increases the salinity of surface soil, rendering the soil inhospitable to native plant species and generally lowers the wildlife habitat value. It uses more water than comparable native plant communities and dries up springs and wetlands.

For smaller infestations, cut the salt cedar stems off at ground level (within 2 inches of the soil surface) and immediately paint the cut surface with triclopyr or imazapyr.