

Anchorage's most troublesome weeds.

- Hand pulling is effective on many species.
- Herbicides are most effective when applied before the plant reaches flowering stage.
- Keep a sharp eye out for years. Most of these seeds are viable for YEARS.
- If you notice these plants on public lands, please contact the District so we can monitor the location.



Orange or Yellow Hawkweed (Devil's Paintbrush)

Forms a dense mat that eliminates other species. Spreads easily by seeds or roots. Herbicides are most effective as mechanical methods will not eliminate.



Purple or Yellow Loosestrife

Occurs in wetlands and creeks. Very damaging. Displaces native vegetation, wildlife habitat and wildlife forage through rapid growth and heavy seed production. To eradicate, dig all roots, make note of location and monitor in subsequent years.



Thistles: Bull & Canada

Very difficult to control once established. Canada Thistle produces chemicals that inhibit the growth of surrounding plants. Also reported to accumulate nitrates that cause poisoning in animals when eaten. Mow Canada Thistle monthly for several years. Herbicides must be used during rosette stage. Bull Thistle reproduces only by seed and can be eradicated by pulling.

Wear gloves!



Tansy Ragwort

Extremely poisonous to livestock and contains a toxic alkaloid that reacts with enzymes to cause cumulative liver damage. Pull before the plant goes to seed.



Spotted Knapweed

Inhibits establishment and growth of surrounding plants. Reproduces entirely by seeds that stay viable for up to eight years. Mechanically pull the weed before it fully blooms. Can cause "chewing disease" in horses although grazing animals generally avoid it due to its bitter taste.



Buttercup (Creeping)

Grows in masses, originating from a root cluster. Can obstruct fish passages in creeks if allowed to establish. Be sure to remove all roots when pulling. Poisonous to cattle.



Yellow Toadflax

What we think of as "Wild Alaska Snapdragons" contains a glucosidal poison that is unpalatable and moderately poisonous to livestock. Vigorously reproduces by seeds and roots, taking over an area quickly. Eradication can be accomplished by repeated mowing, tilling or pulling over several years.

