

Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)



Canada thistle is a long-lived perennial that reproduces by roots which is how it produces large dense patches. The goal of Canada thistle treatment is to starve the extensive root system. It will take several years of persistence.

These methods below will ensure that no flowers will be produced and no seed set.

- Mow or clip plants as often as possible during the growing season
- It's important to leave at least 9 leaves per stem (cut at a height of 8 inches or more to achieve)
- Bag and dispose of all clippings in order to minimize fire fuels. Dispose of in the GVM compactor
- If possible, apply herbicide in early October

Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*)



Musk thistle is a biennial which means it only lives for two years. The first year it presents itself as a rosette at ground level. The second year it bolts and sends up a tall flowering stalk with many purple flower heads. Whenever it is clipped or mowed it quickly regrows new flowers.

- Pull, dig or spray all rosettes throughout the growing season
- Pull, dig or spray all bolting plants including roots prior to flowering
- Once flowering has begun, remove (clip) ALL seed heads and place in garbage bags for disposal in the GVM compactor
- Once flowering has begun, there is a high probability that herbicides will be ineffective. Remember musk thistle will die after flowering anyway

Diffuse Knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)



Diffuse knapweed is a biennial species that can sometimes live longer than 2 years and turn into a short-lived perennial. As do other biennials, it starts with a rosette the first year and then bolts the second year. Spotted knapweed (*C. stoebe* ssp. *micranthos*) is very similar but with purple flowers. The two species hybridize producing plants with white and purple flowers on the same plant. Both are prolific seeders.

- Pull, dig or spray first year rosettes
- Monitor for new rosettes
- Pull, dig, mow or spray plants that are getting ready to bolt but not yet flowering
- Pull, clip or dig mature plants that have set seed however handle with great care. Place them into bags gently and dispose

Got Noxious Weeds?

Your GVM Ecology Team ...

- Offers free landowner consultations to identify your noxious weeds and provide priorities for treatments. Call the main office to schedule yours today. They are available in late summer only.
- Provides a treatment manual that is available at the HOA office or the GVM website.
- Provides literature from the Larimer County Weed District as well as weed identification books at the HOA office.
- Once your weeds are identified you need to decide what methods you want to use for treatment. If you decide on herbicide, GVM can provide some with a sprayer.
- Follow all safety precautions if you use herbicides
- In some cases, it may help to re-seed the treatment area with native seed
- Remember that using herbicide on a flowering plant is ineffective.

GVM has many more weed species than are described here.

For more information, visit the Larimer County Weed District.

larimer.org/weeds/

Common Mullein

(Verbascum thapsus)



Mullein is an extremely common weed in GVM and the surrounding area. It is so abundant and seeds remain in the soil for so long that the state and county consider it the lowest priority. It should be treated only after more serious weeds are under control.

All Thistles Are Not Bad!



Please remember that all thistles are not bad. We have a native thistle here that should not be removed or sprayed with herbicide. The native Prairie thistle has white flowers and blue-green foliage.

GVM Ecology

Quick Guide to Noxious Weed Treatments

2016



They may look pretty but they can quietly dominate our beautiful meadows and forests.

Managing noxious weeds improves your property, your neighbor's property and all of GVM's public spaces.

It's also State law!