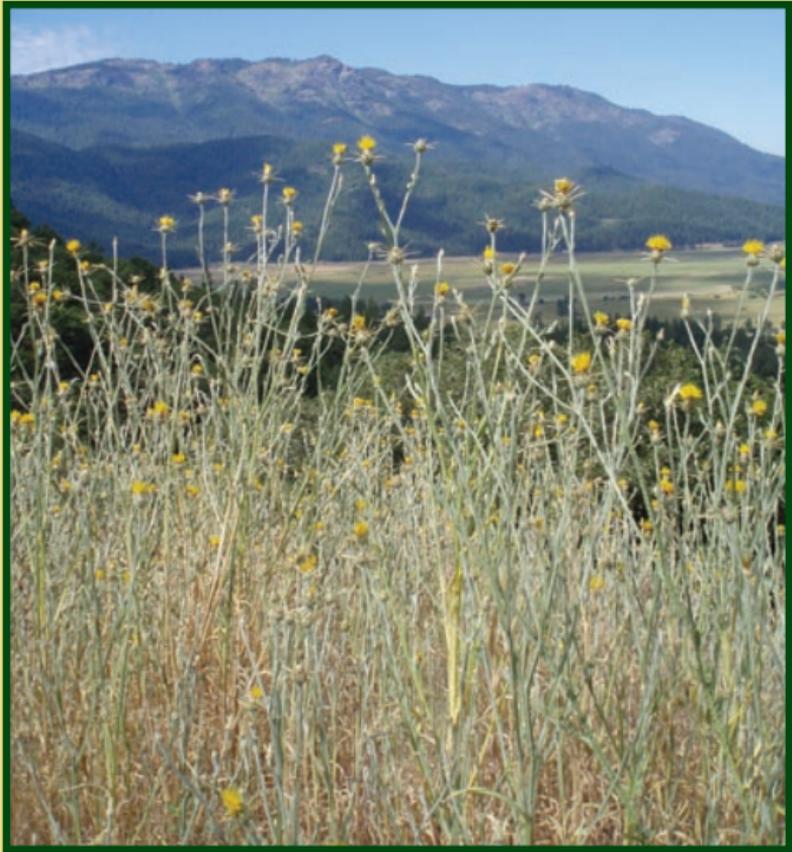




United States Department of Agriculture

# INVASIVE PLANTS of the Plumas National Forest



A Comparison Guide to  
Non-native Invasive Plants and Common Look-alikes

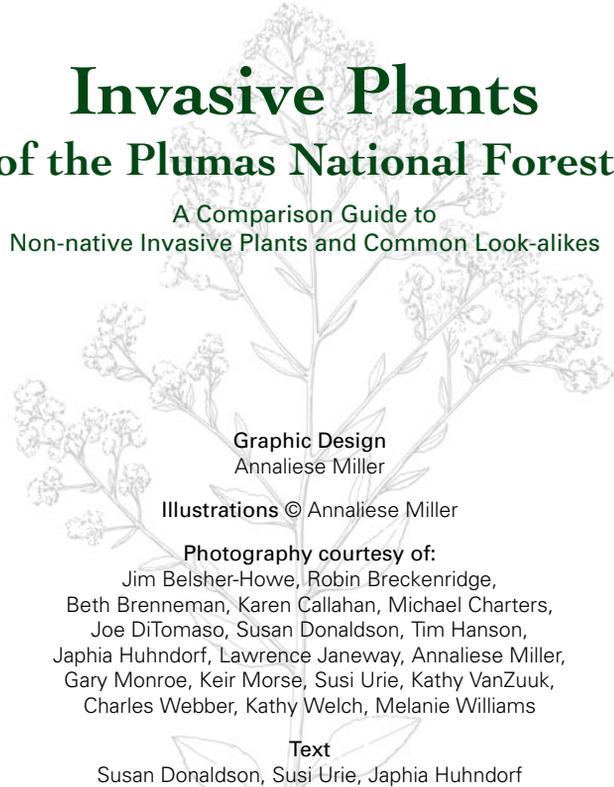


Forest  
Service

Plumas  
National Forest

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R5-TP-036

June  
2014



# Invasive Plants of the Plumas National Forest

## A Comparison Guide to Non-native Invasive Plants and Common Look-alikes

**Non-native invasive plants** are aggressive plants that have been introduced into an environment outside of their native range. Sometimes referred to as alien species, these invasive weeds have been separated from the natural enemies that help control them in their homeland.

They grow rapidly, reproduce profusely, and compete with native plants for water, light and nutrients. Some of these invasive weeds have been designated as noxious by California law, requiring control efforts by property owners.

Non-native invasive plants tend to outcompete native plants, especially where lands have been disturbed. When they displace native plants and animals, they lower diversity, reduce hunting and fishing potential, change the aesthetics of a habitat, inhibit recreational activities and tourism, crowd out endangered species, and reduce forage value. For example, tall whitetop, which grows along the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork of the Feather River, outcompetes other riparian species, creating dense monocultures. Tall whitetop also has extensive but easily-broken root systems, which cause soil destabilization, streambank erosion, and can threaten water quality.

If you find an invasive weed, please report the infestation to the appropriate Plumas National Forest Ranger District office or County Agriculture Department. (See contact information on back page.)

**Graphic Design**  
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**Illustrations** © Annaliese Miller

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## Preventing the Spread of Weeds

Prevention is the least expensive and most effective way to halt the spread of noxious and invasive weeds.

This requires:

- Educating workers and the public about the importance of managing weeds on an ongoing basis
- Properly identifying weed species
- Avoiding or treating existing weed populations
- Preventing weed seeds or other plant parts from establishing new or bigger populations

Steps you can take:

1. Use this book to identify invasive weeds in your area.
2. Inspect your work or play area. Identify any invasive weeds; map the location of the weeds.
3. Clean vehicles, shovels and other soil-disturbing equipment prior to entering a site to avoid introducing weeds.
4. Don't introduce weed-contaminated soil, fill, or other materials to new sites. Use certified weed-free products.
5. Check shoes, clothing, bicycles and vehicles regularly for weed seeds or other plant parts. Carefully remove and dispose of weedy materials.
6. Pressure-wash vehicles and equipment after driving in weedy areas. Periodically monitor and treat areas to prevent weedy plants from establishing.
7. Establish a decontamination area such as a tarp for cleaning clothing and equipment.
8. Don't walk, ride or drive through infestations. When operating vehicles, stay on established roads or trails.
9. If dogs accompany you, check their paws and coats for weed seeds and other plant parts and remove them.
10. Don't plant invasive weeds in your garden or landscape.
11. Get advice for treatment on private property from your local county agriculture department. *(See contact information on back page.)*

## How to Use the Guidebook

This guidebook will help you identify the invasive plant species threatening the Plumas National Forest. Compare invasive plants with common "look-alikes" to help you differentiate between desirable native plants and non-native invasive plants.

**Look for these face icons at the top of the page.**

☹️ = Non-native invasive plants

😊 = Desirable look-alikes (native and non-invasive)

😬 = Plants that could potentially become invasive.  
*(You may choose to avoid planting species that may become invasive on your property.)*

The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal IPC) has assigned overall threat rankings to weed species: High, Moderate, and Limited. These rankings, as well as California's state noxious weed ratings below, are provided for each species.

**"A" rated:** very invasive, but have a limited distribution throughout the state and are considered top priority for control before they become widespread.

**"B" rated:** very invasive and more widespread. Priority of "B" rated weed treatment is decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the local value of resource being compromised, local distribution, and funds available.

**"C" rated:** generally spread beyond the point where the state of California can justify spending limited resources, but the private citizen may control them on their own.

Relative abundance of each species is also provided.

Common: Found at numerous locations in the area

Moderate: Found at several locations; large populations may occur at a few locations

Infrequent: Only at one or a few locations; no large populations

**INDEX** COMMON NAME *Scientific Name* CODE Page

**THISTLES AND LOOK-ALIKES**

☹ **Invasive**

BULL THISTLE	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	CIVU	10-11
CANADA THISTLE	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	CIAR4	12-13
ITALIAN THISTLE	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	CAPY2	14-15
MUSK THISTLE	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	CANU4	16-17
SCOTCH THISTLE	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	ONAC	18-19

😊 **Look-alike**

ANDERSON'S THISTLE	<i>Cirsium andersonii</i>	CIAN	20-21
SNOWY THISTLE		CIOCC	22-23

*Cirsium occidentale* var. *candidissimum*

**KNAPWEEDS AND LOOK-ALIKES**

☹ **Invasive**

DIFFUSE Knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	CEDI3	24-25
RUSSIAN Knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	ACRE	26-27
SPOTTED Knapweed		CESTM	28-29

*Centaurea stoebe* ssp. *micranthos*

😊 **Look-alike**

AMERICAN-ASTER	<i>Symphytotrichum</i> spp.		30-31
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**YELLOW ASTERS**

☹ **Invasive**

MALTA STARThistle	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	CEME2	32-33
YELLOW STARThistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	CESO3	34-35
RUSH SKELETONWEED	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	CHJU	36-37
STINKWORT	<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>	DIGR3	38-39

😊 **Look-alike**

TARWEED	<i>Madia</i> spp.		40-41
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**BLACKBERRIES**

☹ **Invasive**

HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	RUAR9	42-43
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😊 **Look-alike**

CALIFORNIA BLACKBERRY	<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	RUUR	44-45
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**INDEX** COMMON NAME *Scientific Name* CODE Page

**MUSTARDS AND LOOK-ALIKES**

☹ **Invasive**

DYER'S WOAD	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	ISTI	46-47
HOARY CRESS	<i>Lepidium draba</i>	LEDR	48-49
TALL WHITETOP	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	LELA2	50-51

😊 **Look-alike**

YARROW	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	ACMI2	52-53
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**TOADFLAXES AND LOOK-ALIKES**

☹ **Invasive**

DALMATIAN TOADFLAX		LIDAD	54-55
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*Linaria dalmatica* ssp. *dalmatica*

YELLOW TOADFLAX	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	LIVU2	56-57
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😊 **Look-alike**

SNAPDRAGON	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	ANMA3	58-59
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**BROOMS**

☹ **Invasive**

FRENCH BROOM	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	GEMO3	60-61
SCOTCH BROOM	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	CYSC4	62-63
SPANISH BROOM	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	SPJU2	64-65

**GRASSES**

☹ **Invasive**

BARBED GOATGRASS	<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	AETR	66-67
JOINTED GOATGRASS	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	AECY	68-69
MEDUSAHEAD	<i>Elymus caput-medusae</i>	ELCA13	70-71

😊 **Look-alike**

SQUIRRELTAIL	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	ELEL5	72-73
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**OTHERS**

☹ **Invasive**

TREE OF HEAVEN	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	AIAL	74-75
SULFUR CINQUEFOIL	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	PORE5	76-77

😊 **Look-alike**

SLENDER CINQUEFOIL	<i>Potentilla gracilis</i>	POGR9	78-79
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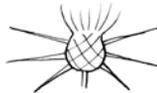
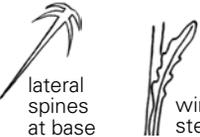
## QUICK REFERENCE ID

THISTLES	Flower Head	Leaves
Bull Thistle	 vase	 rough, prominent veins
Canada Thistle <i>similar to Italian thistle, bracts without spines</i>	 drop	 lobed, spiny
Italian Thistle <i>similar to Canada thistle, bracts with spines</i>	 elliptical	 lobed, spiny hairy underneath
Musk Thistle	 disk	 midrib, hairless
Scotch Thistle	 oval	 cobwebby hairy
Anderson's Thistle <i>(look-alike)</i>	 cylinder	 small flat hairs
Snowy Thistle <i>(look-alike)</i>	 reflexed bracts	 woolly hairs

## QUICK REFERENCE ID

KNAPWEEDS	Bracts	Lower Leaves
Diffuse Knapweed	 spiny combs	 deeply lobed
Russian Knapweed	 papery	 lobed
Spotted Knapweed	 spots	 deeply lobed
American-aster spp. <i>(look-alike)</i>	 no spines, yellow disk	 narrow, entire

**QUICK REFERENCE ID**

<b>YELLOW ASTERS</b>	<b>Bracts</b>	<b>Stems</b>
Malta Starthistle	 short, weak spines purple tipped	 lateral spines midway winged stem
Yellow Starthistle	 long, stout spines straw colored	 lateral spines at base winged stem

<b>YELLOW ASTERS</b>	<b>Flowers/Plant</b>	<b>Stems</b>
Rush Skeletonweed	 mostly smooth, hairless	 bottom of stem with stiff downward pointing hairs
Stinkwort	 sticky-glandular, smells of camphor	 densely branched
Tarweed (look-alike)	 sticky-glandular	 open, less dense branches

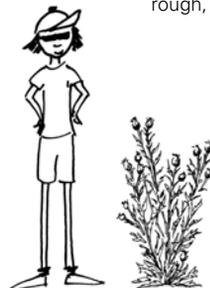
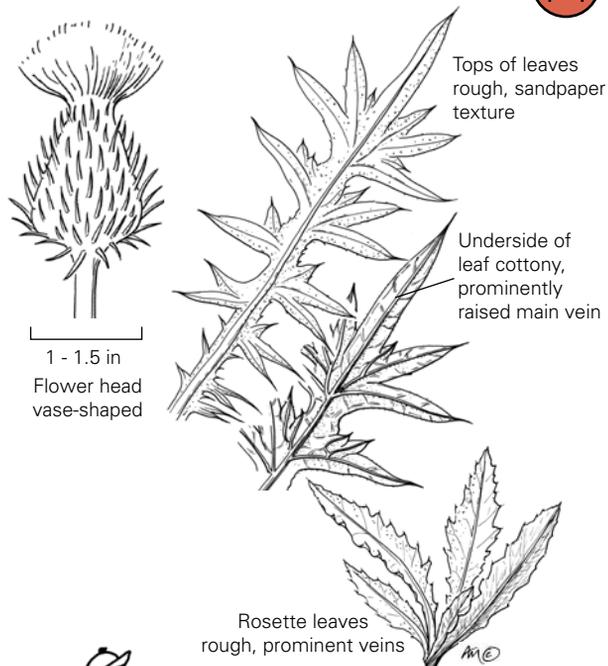
**QUICK REFERENCE ID**

<b>BROOMS</b>	<b>Seed Pods</b>	<b>Leaves</b>	<b>Stems</b>
French Broom	 hairy	 3 leaflets, evergreen	 round 8-10 ridged
Scotch Broom	 only margins hairy	 3 leaflets, sometimes simple	 sharply 5 angled
Spanish Broom	 hairy	 simple	 round finely ribbed



Plant: Brenneman; Flower: Donaldson

<b>Also Known As</b>	Common thistle
<b>Habitat</b>	Meadows, roadsides, disturbed sites
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Biennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	Mid-July to fall
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Common
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Throughout; all ranger districts
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California C-rated; Cal IPC: Moderate

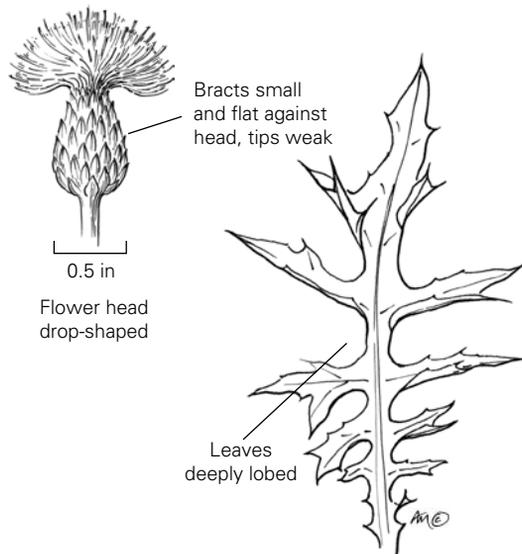


- Height: 1 - 6 ft commonly 2 - 3 ft
- Stems: spiny and winged
- Leaves: sandpaper texture, prominent veins
- Flowers: in clusters at ends of branches
- Flower color: pink to purple



Donaldson

<b>Also Known As</b>	Field thistle
<b>Habitat</b>	Roadsides, rangelands, forests, lawns, gardens, moist and disturbed sites
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	Mid-July to fall
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Common
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Widespread, most abundant in north; also in Little Grass Valley Reservoir area
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California B-rated; Cal IPC: Moderate

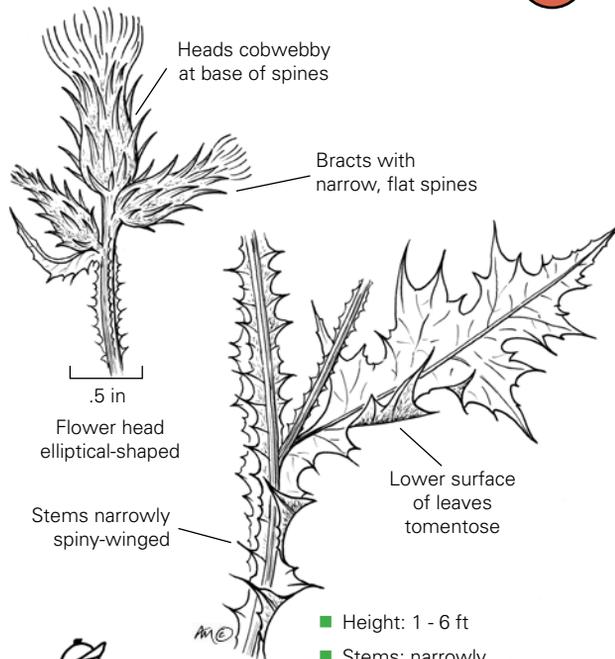


- Height: 1.5 - 4 ft, commonly 2 - 3 ft
- Stems: smooth and ridged with no spines
- Leaves: smooth and sessile
- Flowers: multiple small flower heads in clusters on each stem
- Flower color: light purple to white



T. Hansen

<b>Also Known As</b>	<i>C. pycnocephalus</i> ssp. <i>pycnocephalus</i>
<b>Habitat</b>	Roadsides, rangelands, forests, lawns, gardens, disturbed sites
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Annual
<b>Flowering Time</b>	March to July
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Feather River Ranger District, lower elevations on west side
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California B-rated; Cal IPC: Moderate

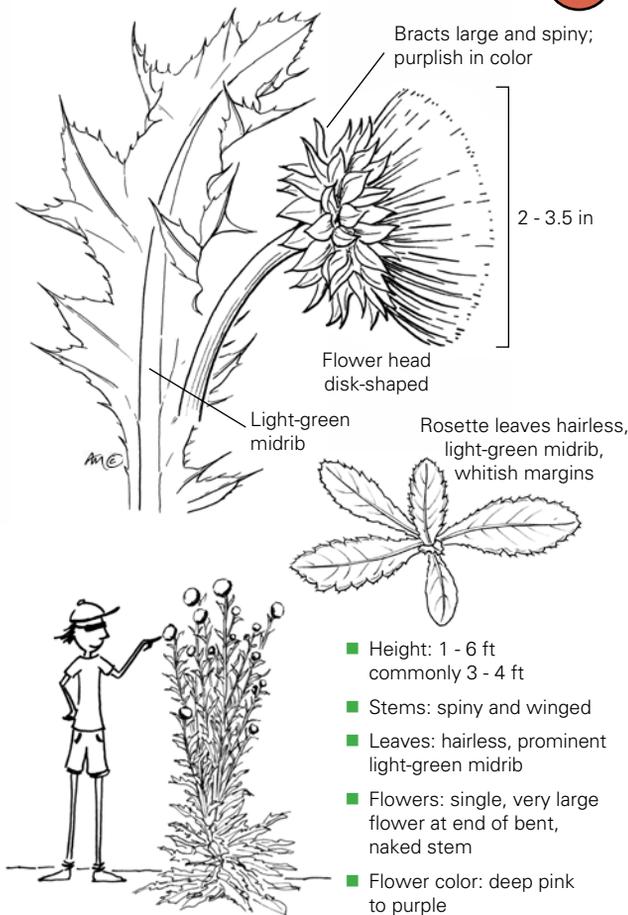


- Height: 1 - 6 ft
- Stems: narrowly spiny-winged
- Leaves: deeply lobed, spine-tipped; upper leaves hairless, lower leaves tomentose/flatly hairy
- Flowers: 2 - 5 flower heads per stem
- Flower color: pink to purple



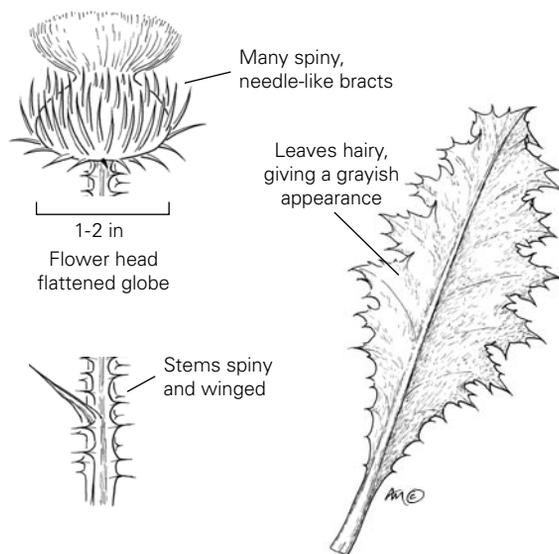
Plant, Miller, Flower, Donaldson

<b>Also Known As</b>	Nodding thistle
<b>Habitat</b>	Pastures, forest, rangelands, roadsides, waste areas, ditches
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Biennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	Mid-July to fall
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Limited east of Lee Summit on Beckwourth Ranger District
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California A-rated; Cal IPC: Moderate





Donaldson



<b>Also Known As</b>	Winged thistle
<b>Habitat</b>	Waste areas, roadsides, disturbed soils
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Biennial; rarely annual
<b>Flowering Time</b>	Mid-July to fall
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Beckwourth Ranger District; extreme east side
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California A-rated; Cal IPC: High



- Height: up to 10 ft, commonly 5+ ft (the tallest of the thistles)
- Stems: spiny, prominently winged
- Leaves: hairy and sessile
- Flowers: in groups of 2 or 3 on branched tips
- Flower color: purple

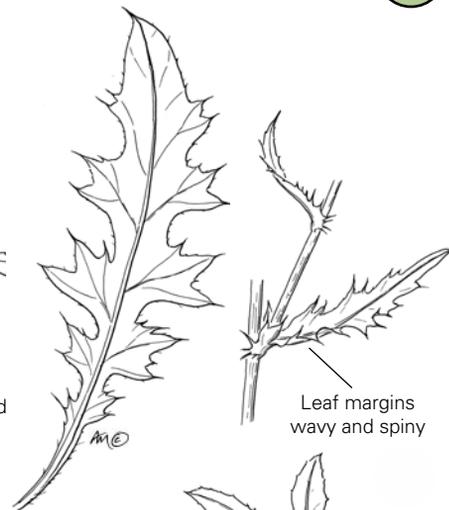


Breneman



0.75 - 1.5 in

Flower head cylinder-shaped



Leaf margins wavy and spiny

Rosette leaves not prominently veined, small flat hairs

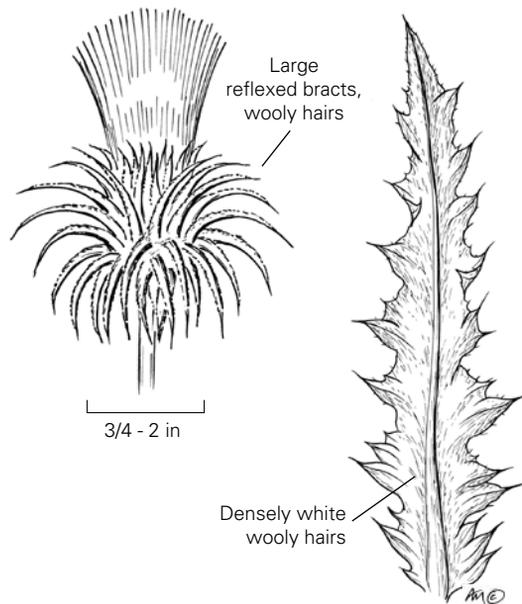
- Also Known As Rose thistle
- Habitat Open places, woodlands, forests
- Life Cycle Biennial
- Flowering Time July to fall
- Relative Abundance Common
- Plumas NF Distribution Throughout; above 3000 ft elevation



- Height: 2 - 4 ft
- Stems: purplish and thornless
- Leaves: divided and wavy with spiny margin
- Flowers: single flower at end of stem
- Flower color: rose red to reddish purple



Plant, Urie; Flower, Monroe Calphotos



<b>Also Known As</b>	None
<b>Habitat</b>	Disturbed areas, shrubby areas, open woodlands
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Biennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	July to September
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Common in Northern California
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Throughout; below 6000 ft elevation

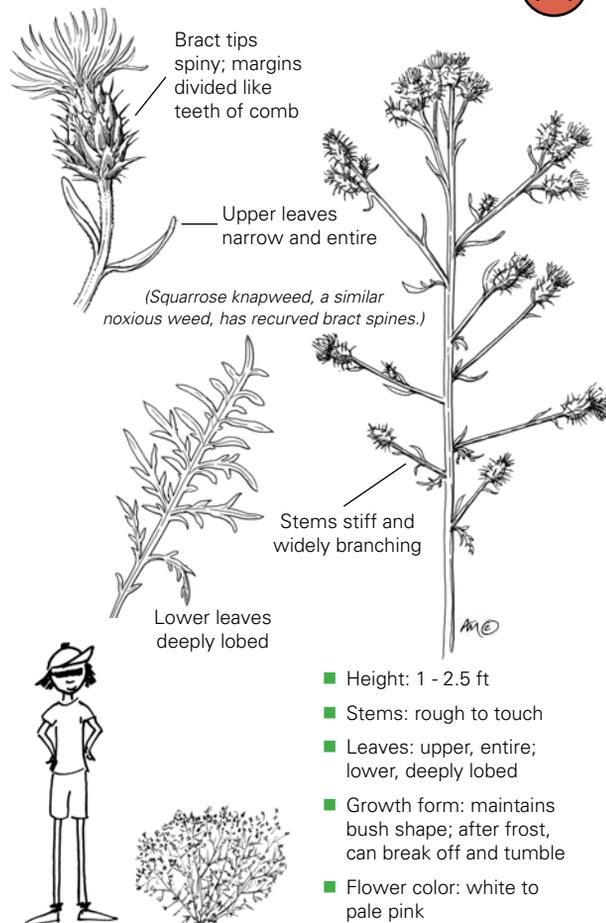


- Height: 1.5 to 6.5 ft
- Stems: densely white woolly hairs
- Leaves: densely white woolly hairs on both surfaces
- Flowers: single or in clusters at the end of branches
- Flower color: pink to red

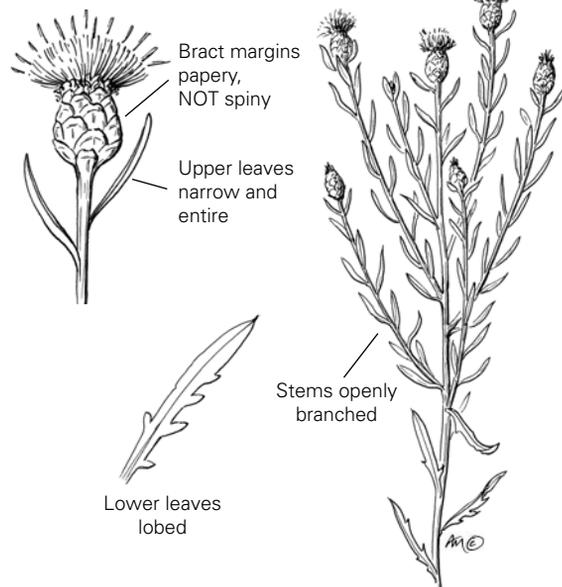


Donaldson

<b>Also Known As</b>	Tumble knapweed
<b>Habitat</b>	Roadsides, waste areas, dry rangelands, disturbed sites
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Annual to short-lived perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	June to August
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Not currently known on PNF lands, but occurs nearby and may invade
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California A-rated; Cal IPC: Moderate



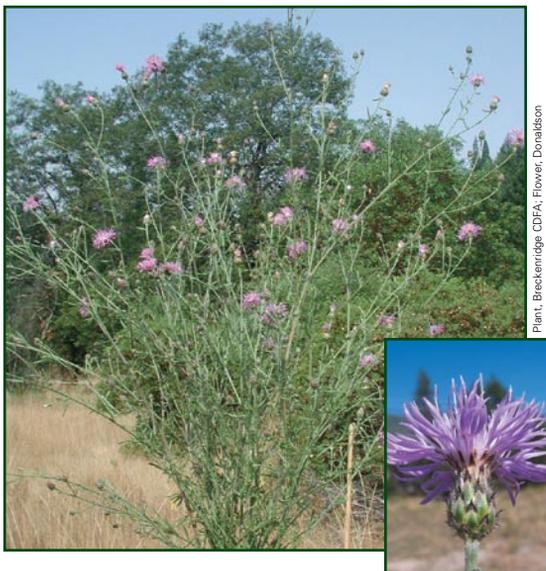
- Height: 1 - 2.5 ft
- Stems: rough to touch
- Leaves: upper, entire; lower, deeply lobed
- Growth form: maintains bush shape; after frost, can break off and tumble
- Flower color: white to pale pink



<b>Also Known As</b>	Creeping knapweed
<b>Habitat</b>	Roadsides, riverbanks, ditches, pastures, waste places
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Rhizomatous perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	July to fall
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Not currently known on PNF lands, but occurs adjacent to the extreme east side
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California B-rated; Cal IPC: Moderate

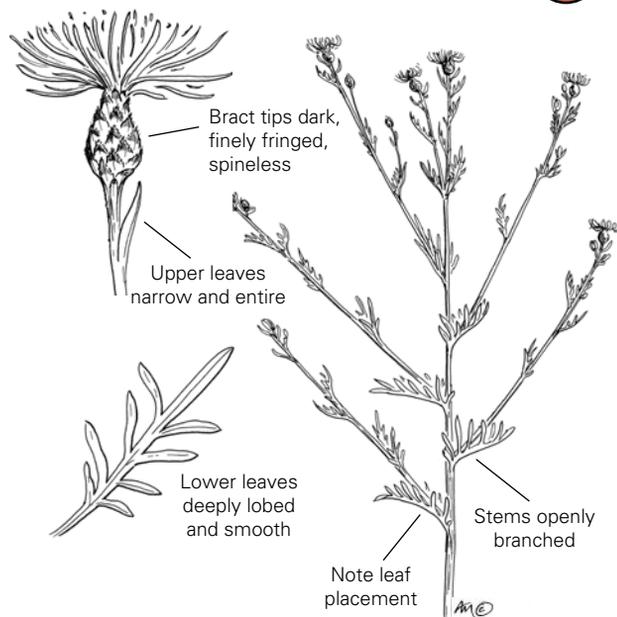


- Height: 1 - 3 ft, generally 2 - 3 ft
- Stems: erect, cobwebby
- Leaves: upper, entire; lower and rosette, lobed
- Growth form: thick rounded clumps with drooping branches
- Root: black below crown
- Flower color: pink to purple



Plant: Breckenridge CDPA; Flower: Donaldson

- Also Known As** *Centaurea maculosa*
- Habitat** Disturbed soil, rangelands, pastures, meadows, roadsides, areas with summer rainfall
- Life Cycle** Perennial; sometimes biennial
- Flowering Time** July to early September
- Relative Abundance** Moderate
- Plumas NF Distribution** Throughout; scattered sites on all ranger districts.
- Noxious Weed List** California A-rated; Cal IPC: High

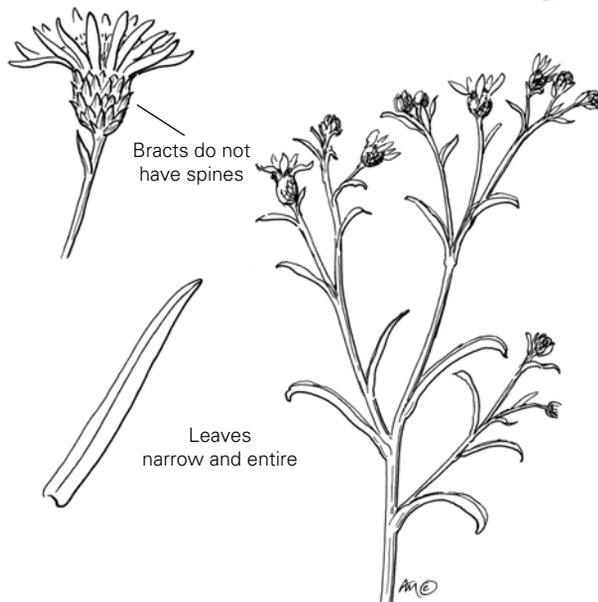


- Height: 1 - 5 ft; generally closer to 3 ft
- Stems: erect and rough
- Leaves: upper, linear; lower, divided
- Growth form: tall with open branching
- Flower color: pink to purple



Donaldson

<b>Also Known As</b>	Most species formerly in the genus <i>Aster</i>
<b>Habitat</b>	Meadows, gardens
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Annual or perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	Late July to fall
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Common
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Different species found throughout area



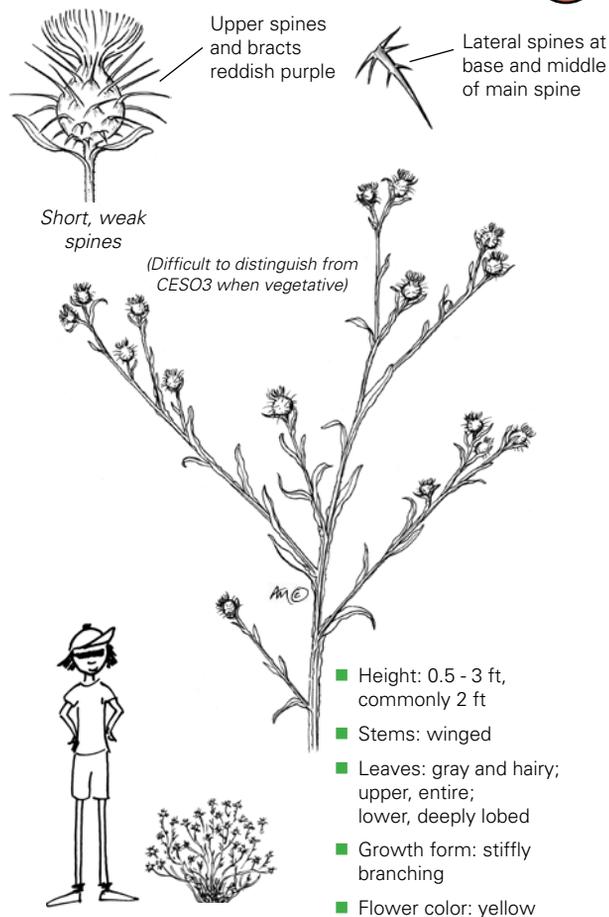
- Height: variable, often 1 - 2 ft
- Stems: smooth to hairy
- Leaves: upper and lower leaves narrow and entire
- Growth form: ranges from short to tall
- Flower color: variable, often pink to purple with yellow center



T. Hanson

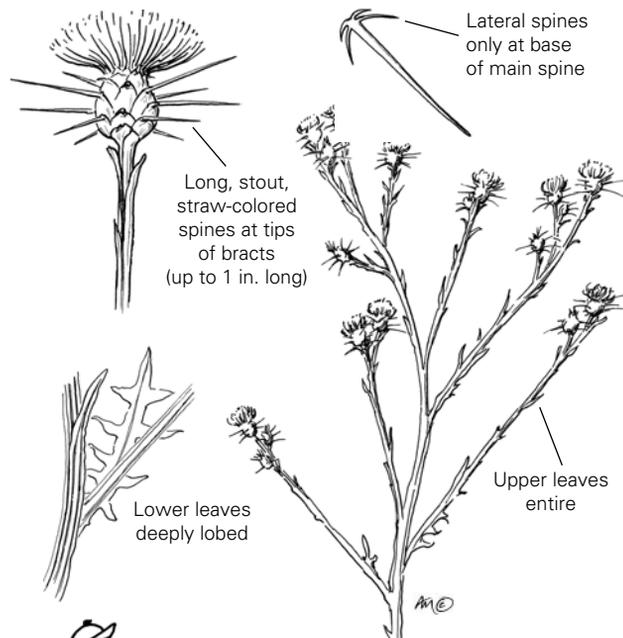
<b>Also Known As</b>	Tocalote
<b>Habitat</b>	Roadsides, disturbed areas, grasslands
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Annual
<b>Flowering Time</b>	April to August
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Known from western side of Feather River Ranger District; could be more widespread, but misidentified as yellow starthistle
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California C-rated; Cal IPC: Moderate

32

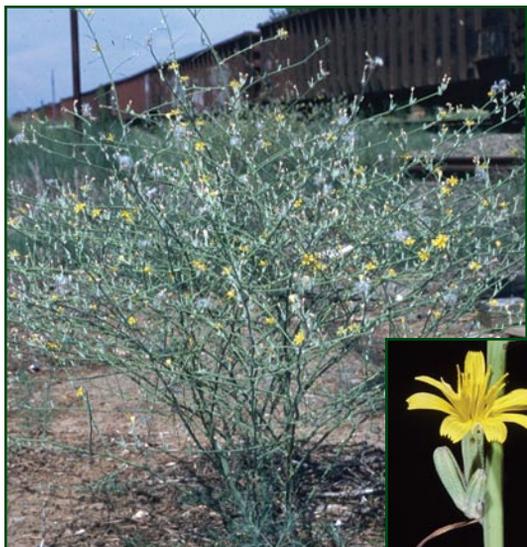




<b>Also Known As</b>	None
<b>Habitat</b>	Roadsides, waste areas, grasslands
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Annual
<b>Flowering Time</b>	Late June to September
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Common
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Throughout, especially abundant along highways and near development
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California C-rated; Cal IPC: High



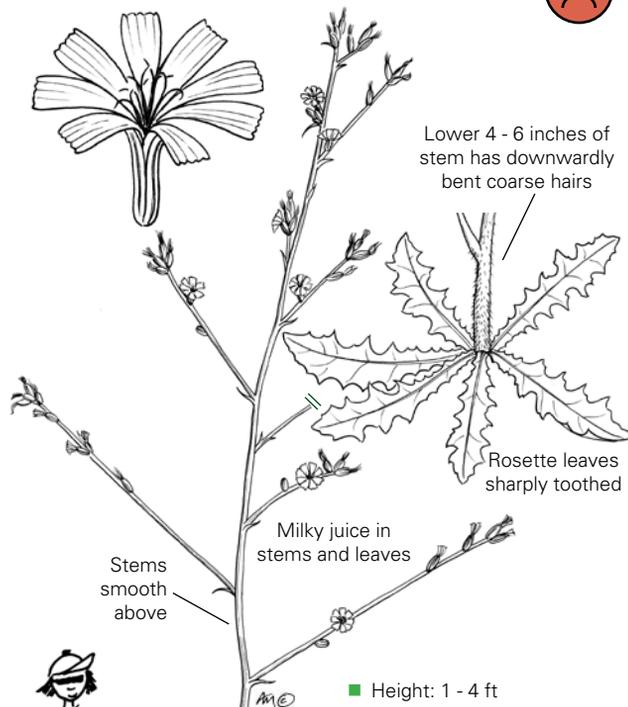
- Height: 0.5 - 5 ft, commonly 2 ft
- Stems: winged
- Leaves: gray and hairy; upper, entire; lower, deeply lobed
- Growth form: stiffly branching
- Flower color: yellow



Difomaso



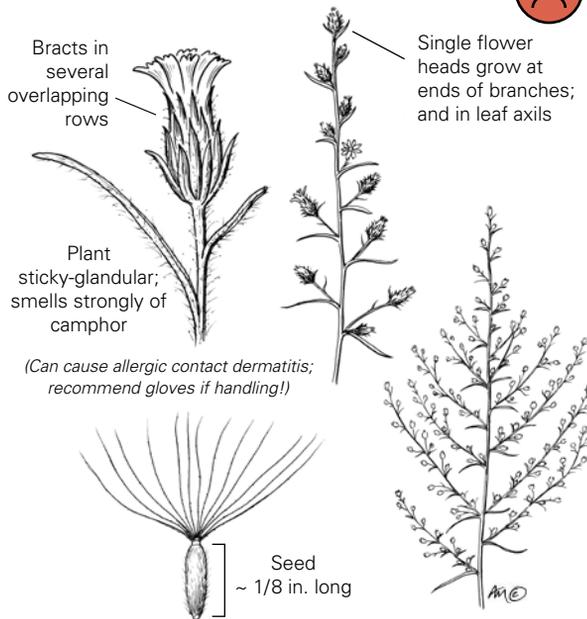
- Also Known As** Skeleton weed, hogbite
- Habitat** Roadsides, rangelands, pastures, disturbed soils
- Life Cycle** Perennial with extensive, deep root system
- Flowering Time** Mid-July through frost
- Relative Abundance** Infrequent
- Plumas NF Distribution** Widely scattered but increasing on west side of Feather River Ranger District. Also known near Lee Summit and town of Graeagle.
- Noxious Weed List** California A-rated; Cal IPC: Moderate



- Height: 1 - 4 ft
- Stems: rigid and wiry; highly branched; cut surfaces exude milky sap
- Leaves: upper, narrow and entire, inconspicuous; stems often lack leaves
- Growth form: bushy
- Flower color: yellow



Williams



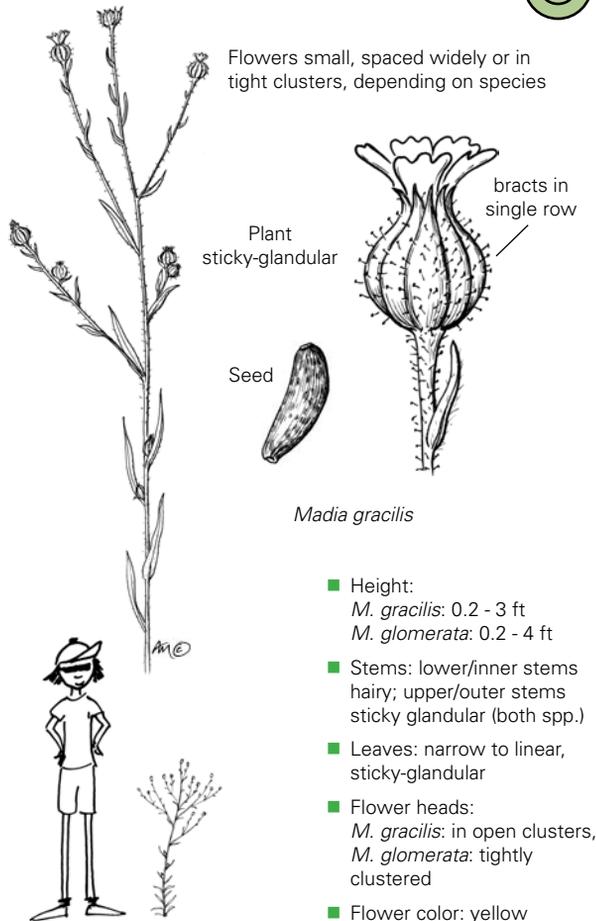
<b>Also Known As</b>	None
<b>Habitat</b>	Meadows, roadsides, waste places, gardens
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Annual
<b>Flowering Time</b>	September to November
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Moderate
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Increasing in the North Fork Feather River canyon, also scattered on west side of Feather River Ranger District
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California-NO; Cal IPC: Moderate



- Height: 0.5 - 3 ft
- Stems: many-branched, sticky-glandular
- Leaves: narrow, alternate, reduced upwards, and sticky-glandular
- Flower heads: single flower heads grow at ends of branches; and in leaf axils
- Flower color: yellow



Also Known As	<i>Madia</i> (several common species)
Habitat	Meadows, open and disturbed places
Life Cycle	Annual
Flowering Time	<i>M. gracilis</i> : April - July <i>M. glomerata</i> : June - August
Relative Abundance	Common
Plumas NF Distribution	Throughout; common on all ranger districts

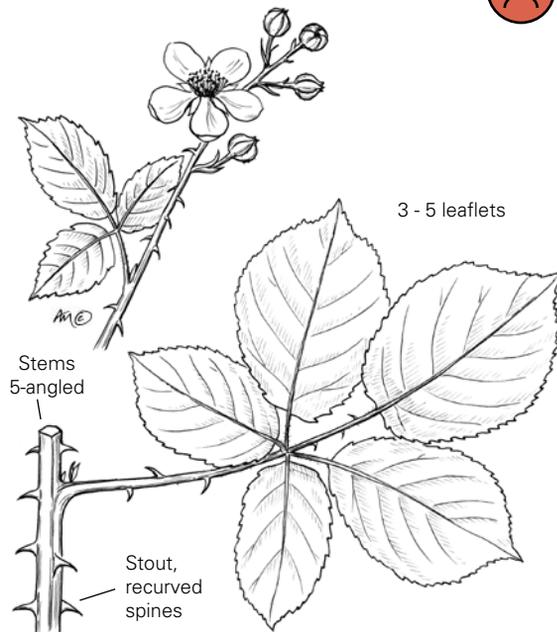


*Madia gracilis*

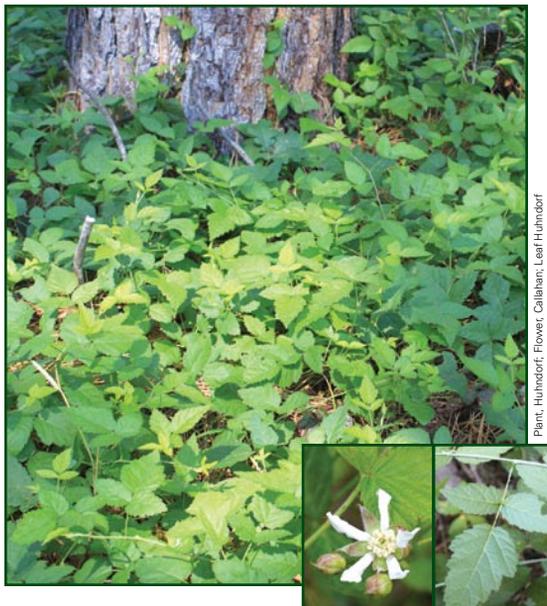
- Height:  
*M. gracilis*: 0.2 - 3 ft  
*M. glomerata*: 0.2 - 4 ft
- Stems: lower/inner stems hairy; upper/outer stems sticky glandular (both spp.)
- Leaves: narrow to linear, sticky-glandular
- Flower heads:  
*M. gracilis*: in open clusters,  
*M. glomerata*: tightly clustered
- Flower color: yellow



<b>Also Known As</b>	<i>Rubus discolor</i>
<b>Habitat</b>	Roadsides, riparian areas, and disturbed sites
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Perennial, each cane lives 2 years
<b>Flowering Time</b>	April to July
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Common
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Throughout, very common along the North Fork Feather River, its tributaries, and Portola area
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California B-rated; Cal IPC: High

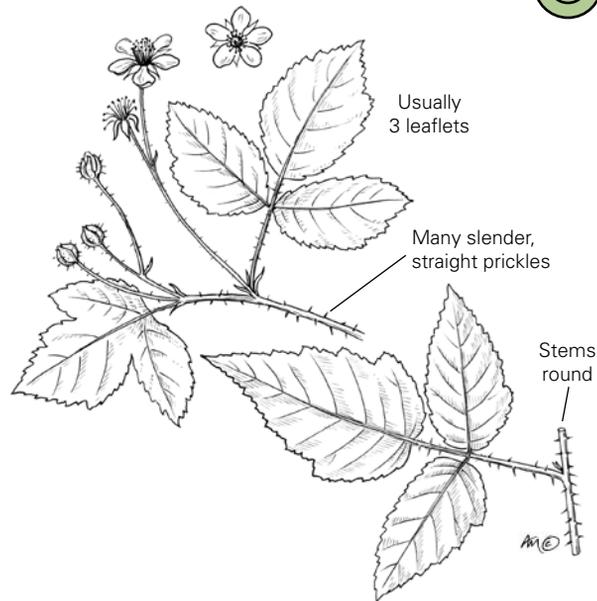


- Height: up to 8 ft, especially when mounded on old canes
- Stems: 5-angled, with stout, recurved spines
- Leaves: 3 - 5 leaflets, white underneath
- Flowers: large clusters at the end of branches
- Flower color: pink

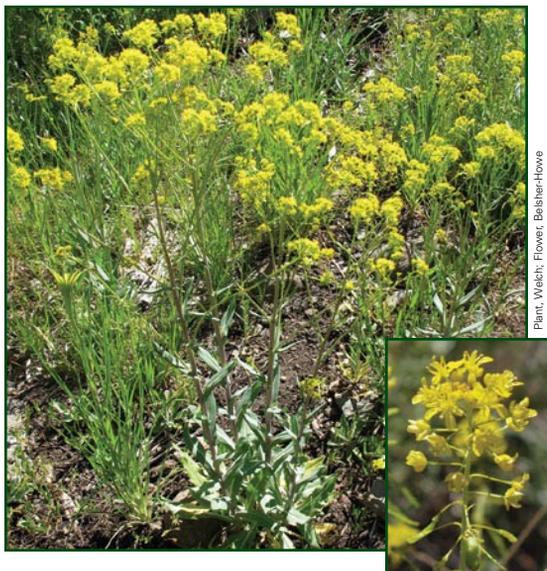


Plant, Humidorf; Flower, Callahan; Leaf, Humidorf

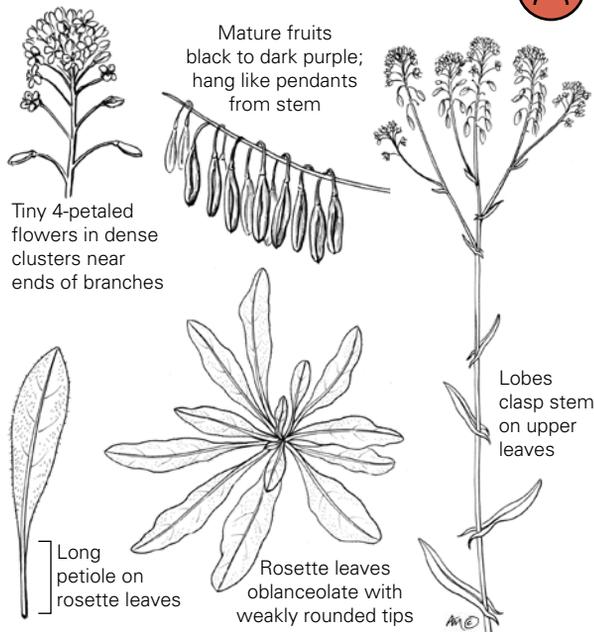
<b>Also Known As</b>	Pacific blackberry
<b>Habitat</b>	Forests, openings, disturbed areas
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Perennial, each cane lives 2 years
<b>Flowering Time</b>	March to July
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Common
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Throughout; all ranger districts



- Height: generally up to 1 ft; stems longer but low-growing
- Stems: round, with many slender, straight prickles
- Leaves: Usually 3 leaflets, green underneath
- Flowers: 1 - 5 flowers per cluster
- Flower color: white



Plant, Weech; Flower, Balsher-Howe



Mature fruits black to dark purple; hang like pendants from stem

Tiny 4-petaled flowers in dense clusters near ends of branches

Long petiole on rosette leaves

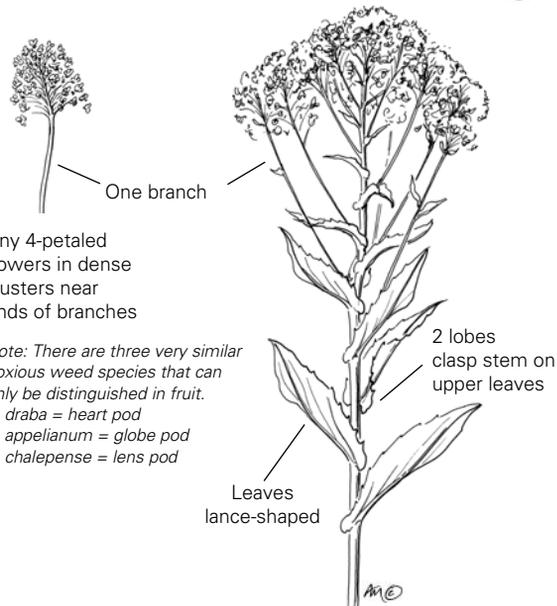
Rosette leaves oblanceolate with weakly rounded tips

Lobes clasp stem on upper leaves

- Also Known As** Marlahan mustard
- Habitat** Meadows, roadsides, streambanks, rangelands
- Life Cycle** Biennial to short lived perennial
- Flowering Time** June to July
- Relative Abundance** Infrequent
- Plumas NF Distribution** Mt Hough and Beckwourth Ranger Districts. Known from near Cooks Creek, Indicator Peak, Doyle Crossing, and occasional along Hwy 70.
- Noxious Weed List** California B-rated; Cal IPC: Moderate



- Height: up to 4 ft
- Stems: single stem gives rise to multiple branches with multiple flower clusters
- Leaves: blue-green foliage with cream-colored midrib; upper leaves clasp stem, arrowhead-shaped; lower leaves petiolate
- Flower color: yellow



Tiny 4-petaled flowers in dense clusters near ends of branches

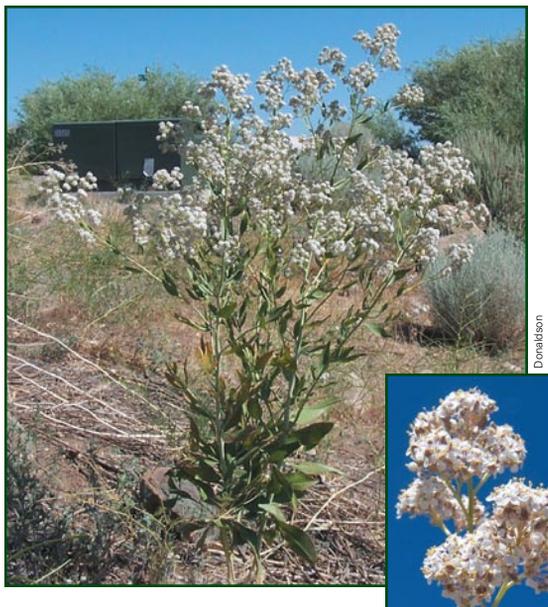
*Note: There are three very similar noxious weed species that can only be distinguished in fruit.*

- L. draba* = heart pod
- L. appelianum* = globe pod
- L. chalepense* = lens pod

<b>Also Known As</b>	Whitetop, short whitetop, <i>Cardaria draba</i>
<b>Habitat</b>	Meadows, fields, roadsides, ditches, streambanks, rangelands
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Rhizomatous perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	May to June
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Scattered on Mount Hough Ranger District and around Portola, but not on Beckwourth Ranger District
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California B-rated; Cal IPC: Moderate

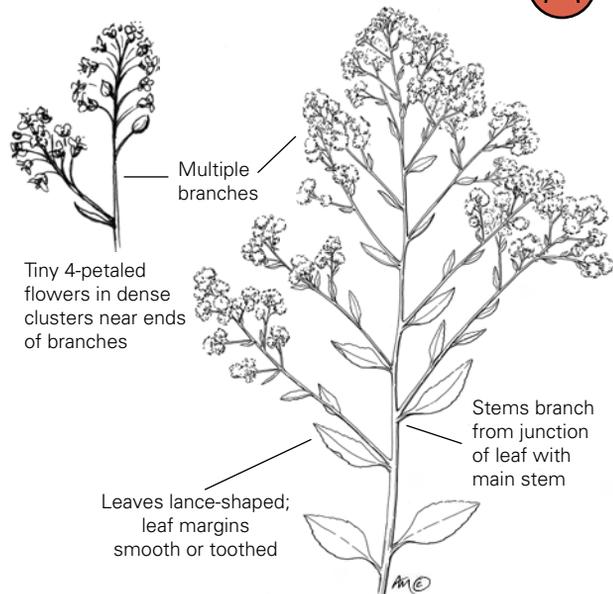


- Height: up to 2 ft commonly 1 ft
- Stems: many stems give rise to multiple branches with one flower cluster
- Leaves: blue-green foliage; upper leaves clasp stem; lower leaves petiolate
- Seed shape: round
- Flower color: white

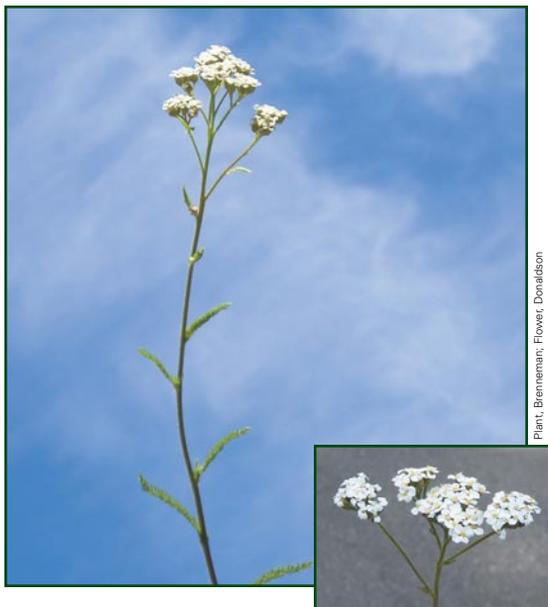


Donaldson

<b>Also Known As</b>	Perennial pepperweed
<b>Habitat</b>	Riparian areas, floodplains, meadows, seasonally wet areas, roadsides
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Rhizomatous perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	Late June to August
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Moderate
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Throughout; scattered on all ranger districts
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California B-rated; Cal IPC: High



- Height: 1 - 6 ft commonly 3+ ft
- Stems: each stem gives rise to multiple branches with multiple flower clusters
- Leaves: upper leaves, sessile; lower leaves, petiolate; basal leaves, much larger than upper leaves
- Seed shape: round
- Flower color: white



Plant, Breneman; Flower, Donaldson

<b>Also Known As</b>	Common yarrow, milfoil
<b>Habitat</b>	Gardens, meadows, grasslands, forests
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	June to September
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Common
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Throughout; common on all ranger districts

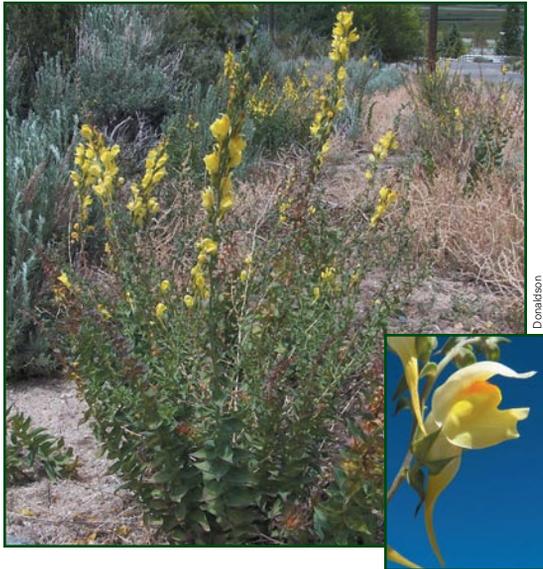


Flower heads flattened, dome-shaped corymbs

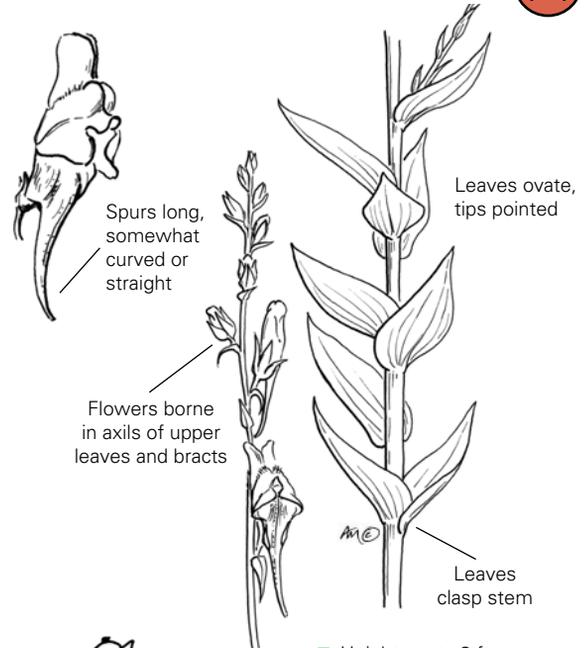
Leaves hairy and very finely pinnately divided, appearing feather-like



- Height: 2 - 3 ft
- Stems: hairy-wooly
- Leaves: feather-like; evenly distributed along stem; lower leaves larger
- Flower color: white or pink



Donaldson



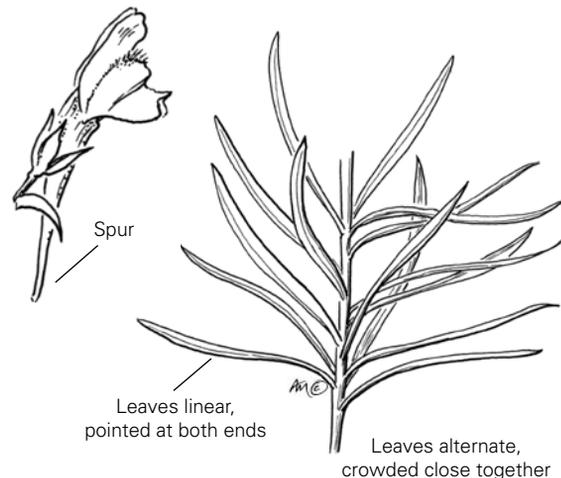
<b>Also Known As</b>	Wild snapdragon, <i>Linaria genistifolia</i> ssp. <i>dalmatica</i>
<b>Habitat</b>	Roadsides, pastures, rangelands, cultivated fields
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	July to fall
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Known from Murdock Crossing on Beckworth Ranger District and near Wolf Creek on Mt Hough Ranger District
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California A-rated; Cal IPC: Moderate



- Height: up to 3 ft
- Stems: erect and branched
- Leaves: ovate, alternate and entire; succulent and waxy
- Growth form: more scattered than yellow toadflax
- Flower color: yellow, with orange, bearded throat



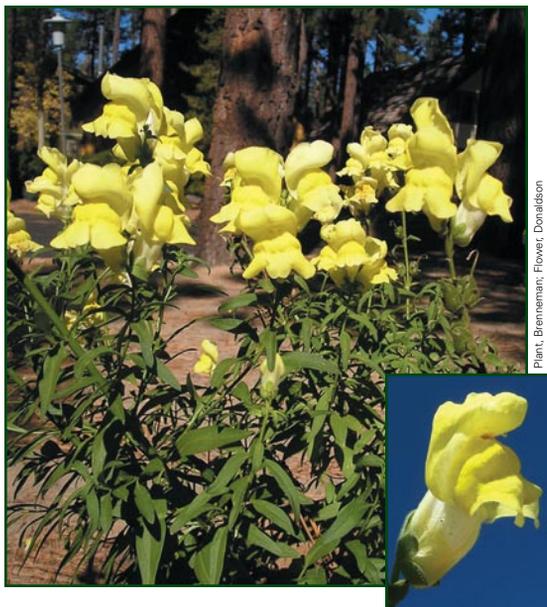
Plant: Bremner, Flower, Charles Webber © CA Academy of Sciences



<b>Also Known As</b>	Butter and eggs
<b>Habitat</b>	Rangelands, roadsides, waste places, cultivated fields
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	July to fall
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Moderate
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Not currently known on PNF lands
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California-NO; Cal IPC: Moderate

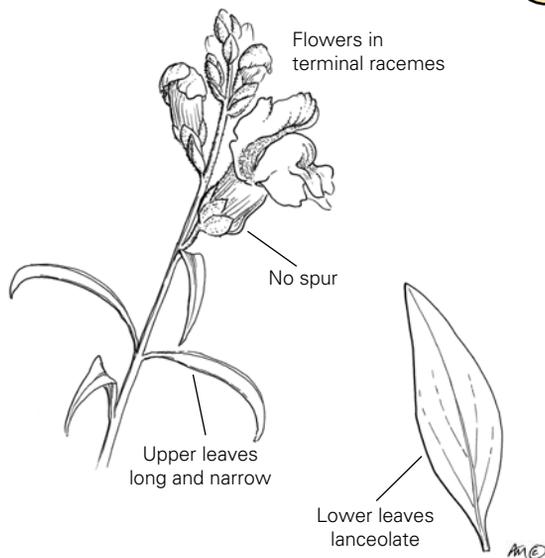


- Height: 1 - 2 ft; shorter than dalmatian toadflax
- Leaves: linear, smooth to sparsely hairy; succulent and waxy
- Growth form: tends to grow in crowded patches
- Flower color: yellow, with orange, bearded throat



Plant, Bremner, Flower, Donaldson

<b>Also Known As</b>	None
<b>Habitat</b>	Ornamental gardens
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Annual to perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	June to fall
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Occasionally escaped from cultivation
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Not naturalized on PNF lands; common garden flower



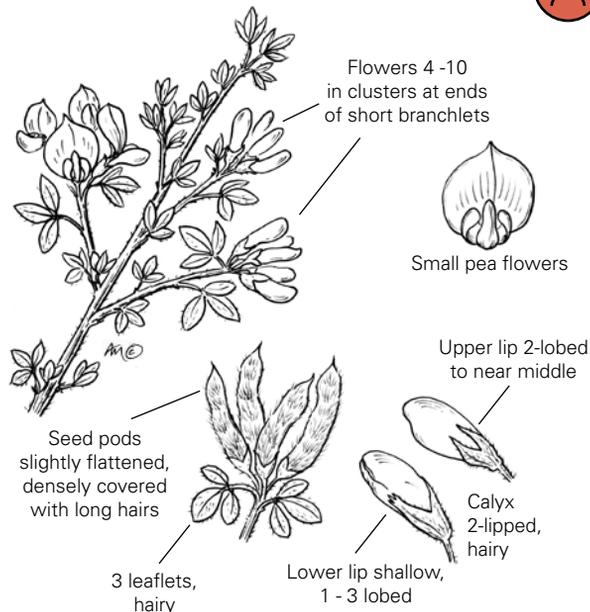
- Height: 0.5 - 3 ft
- Leaves: upper, long and narrow; lower, lanceolate; soft, not waxy
- Flowers: fuzzy-hairy
- Flower color: yellow, but other colors are available



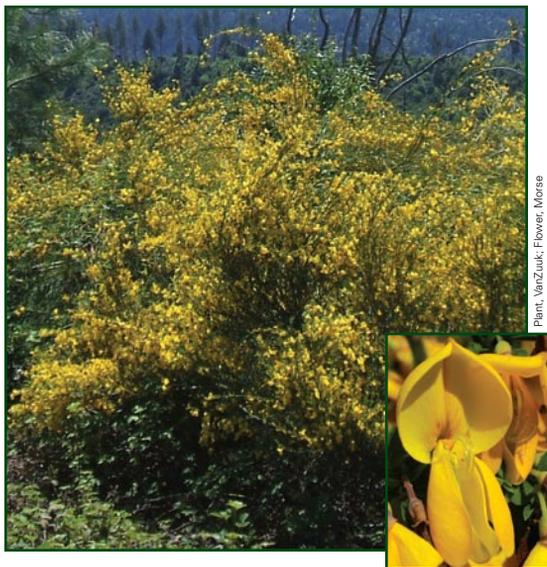
Plant, Huhndorf; Flower, Belsler-Howe



<b>Also Known As</b>	Soft broom, canary broom, Montpellier broom
<b>Habitat</b>	Roadsides, forests and rangelands
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Long lived perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	May to July
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Feather River and Mt Hough Ranger Districts; abundant on far west side and occurs in North Fork Feather River canyon
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California C-rated; Cal IPC: High

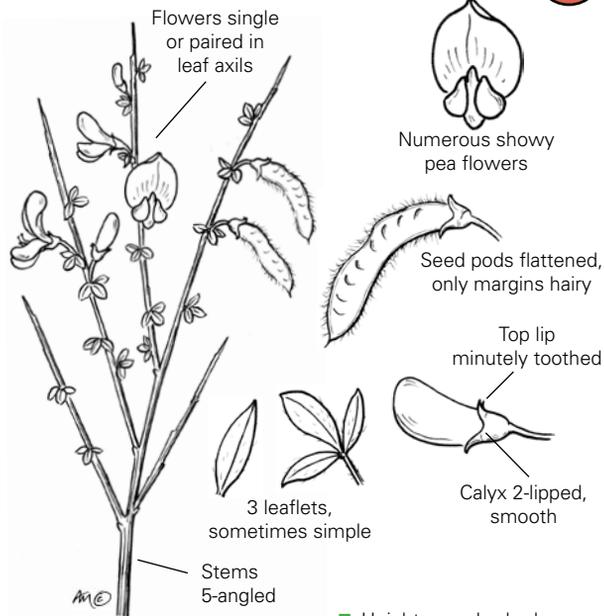


- Height: woody shrub, up to 8 ft
- Stems: 8 - 10 ridges; round cross-section
- Branches: dark green, twigs silvery-silky-hairy
- Leaves: 3 leaflets, usually dense; evergreen
- Flower color: yellow; slight fragrance

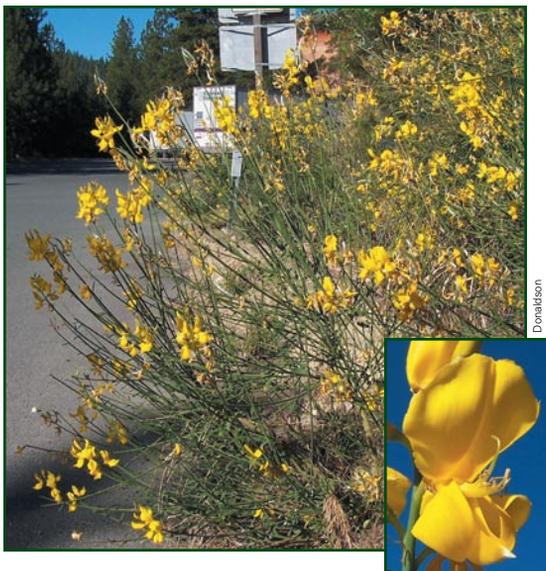


Plant, VanZuuk; Flower, Morse

<b>Also Known As</b>	Common broom, English broom
<b>Habitat</b>	Pastures, forests, disturbed areas
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Long lived perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	May to July
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Moderate
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Known on all ranger districts; abundant on far west side, occurs in North Fork Feather River canyon, scattered on far east side
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California C-rated; Cal IPC: High

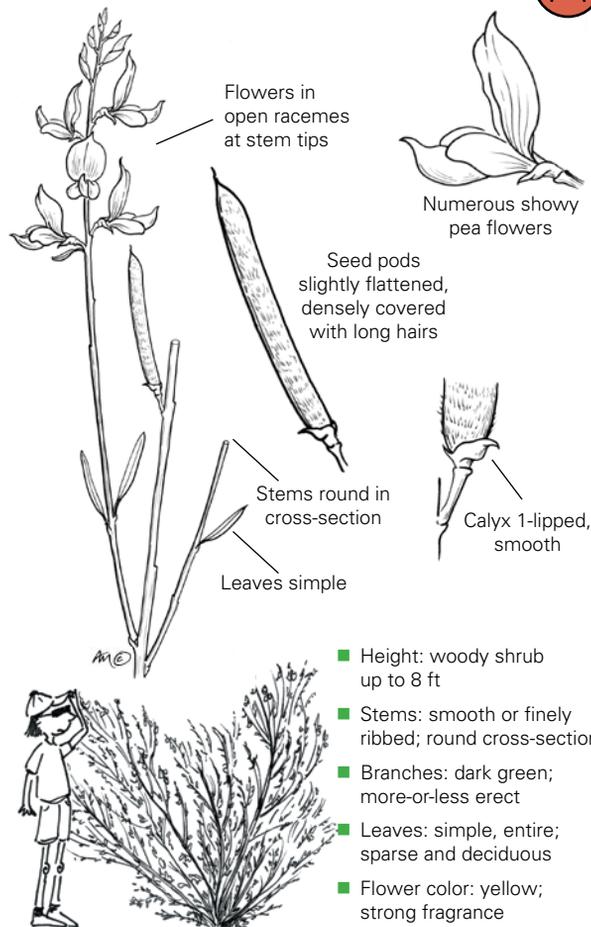


- Height: woody shrub up to 8 ft
- Stems: 5-angled; star-shaped cross-section
- Branches: dark green; more-or-less erect
- Leaves: 3 leaflets, sometimes simple on new twigs, deciduous
- Flower color: deep yellow; slight to no fragrance

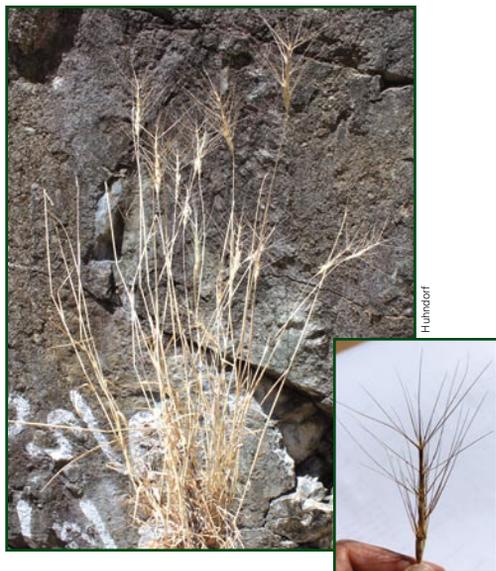


Donaldson

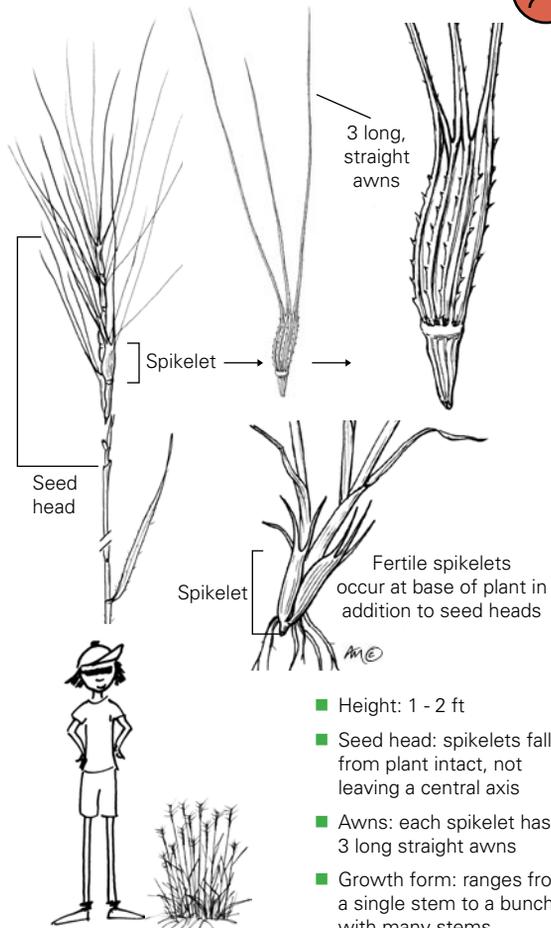
<b>Also Known As</b>	Weaver's broom
<b>Habitat</b>	Roadsides, forests and rangelands
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Long lived perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	May to July
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Occasional on western edge of Feather River Ranger District
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California C-rated; Cal IPC: High



- Height: woody shrub up to 8 ft
- Stems: smooth or finely ribbed; round cross-section
- Branches: dark green; more-or-less erect
- Leaves: simple, entire; sparse and deciduous
- Flower color: yellow; strong fragrance



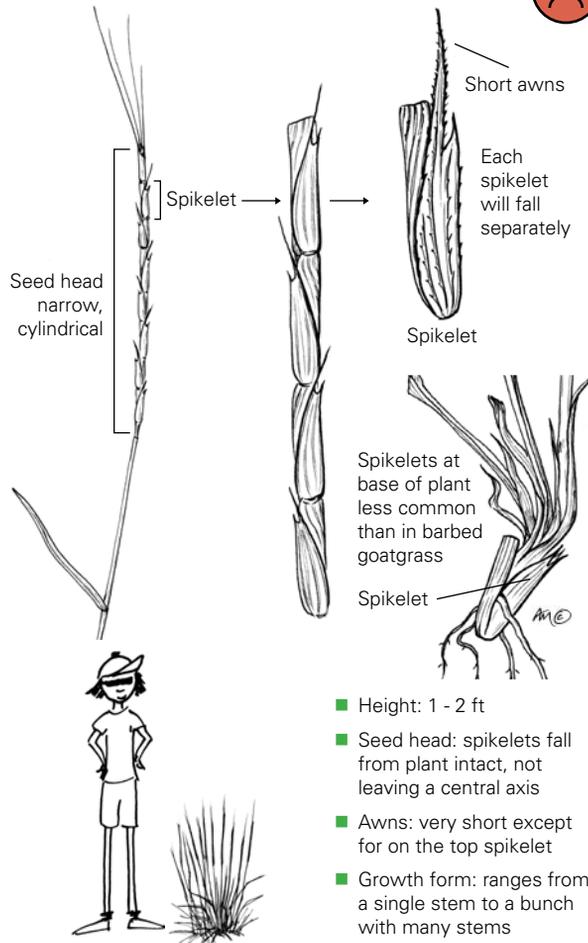
<b>Also Known As</b>	None
<b>Habitat</b>	Rangelands, roadsides, disturbed places
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Annual
<b>Flowering Time</b>	May to July
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Moderate
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Feather River and Mount Hough Ranger Districts; roadsides; North Fork Feather River canyon and occasional on far west side
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California-NO; Cal IPC: High



- Height: 1 - 2 ft
- Seed head: spikelets fall from plant intact, not leaving a central axis
- Awns: each spikelet has 3 long straight awns
- Growth form: ranges from a single stem to a bunch with many stems

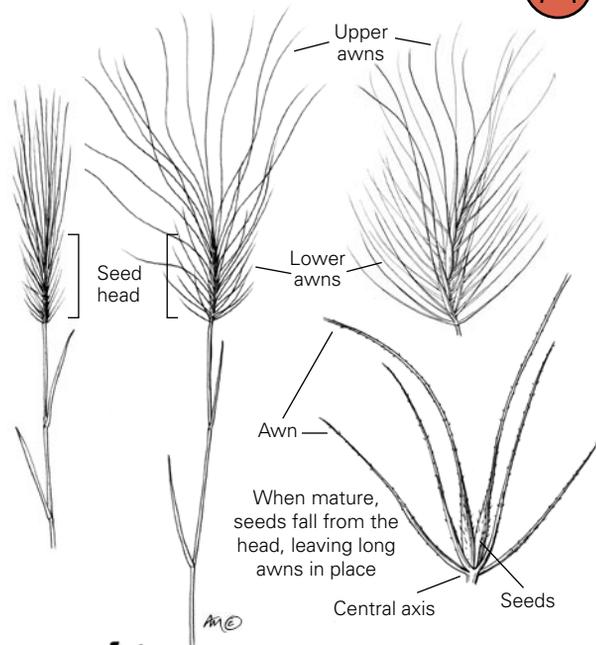


<b>Also Known As</b>	None
<b>Habitat</b>	Roadsides, disturbed, dry places, cultivated fields
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Annual
<b>Flowering Time</b>	May to July
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Mount Hough and Feather River Ranger Districts; known along Hwy 70 corridor and suspected in Sierra Valley near Beckwourth Ranger District
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California-NO; Cal IPC: None





<b>Also Known As</b>	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>
<b>Habitat</b>	Rangelands, roadsides, disturbed places
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Annual
<b>Flowering Time</b>	April to July
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Common
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Throughout; common in disturbed areas of all ranger districts
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California-NO; Cal IPC: High

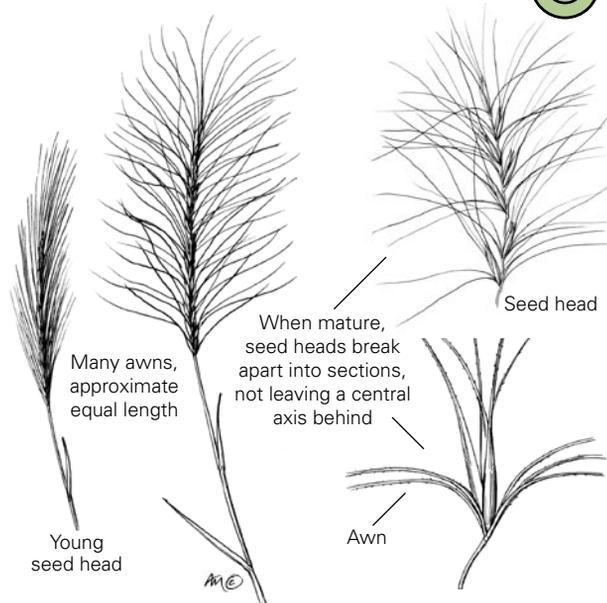


- Height: 1 - 2 ft
- Seed head: central axis with awns persists into winter
- Awns: upper are long and wavy; lower are shorter
- Growth form: ranges from a single stem to a bunch with many stems
- Key feature: very long, upward-pointing, wavy awns

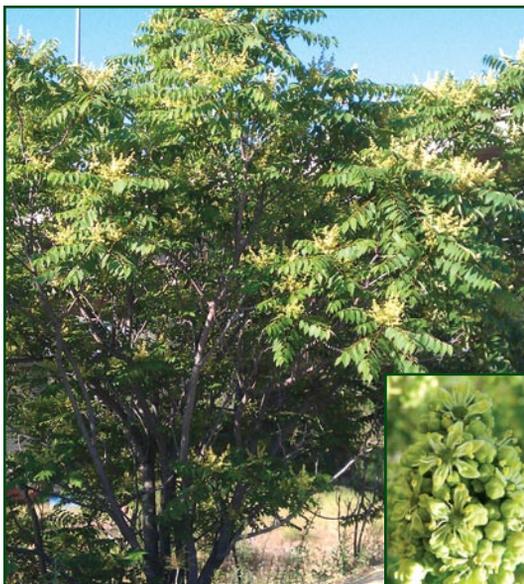


Huhndorf

<b>Also Known As</b>	Bottlebrush
<b>Habitat</b>	Forests, grasslands, most plant communities
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	June to August
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Common
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Throughout; common in all ranger districts



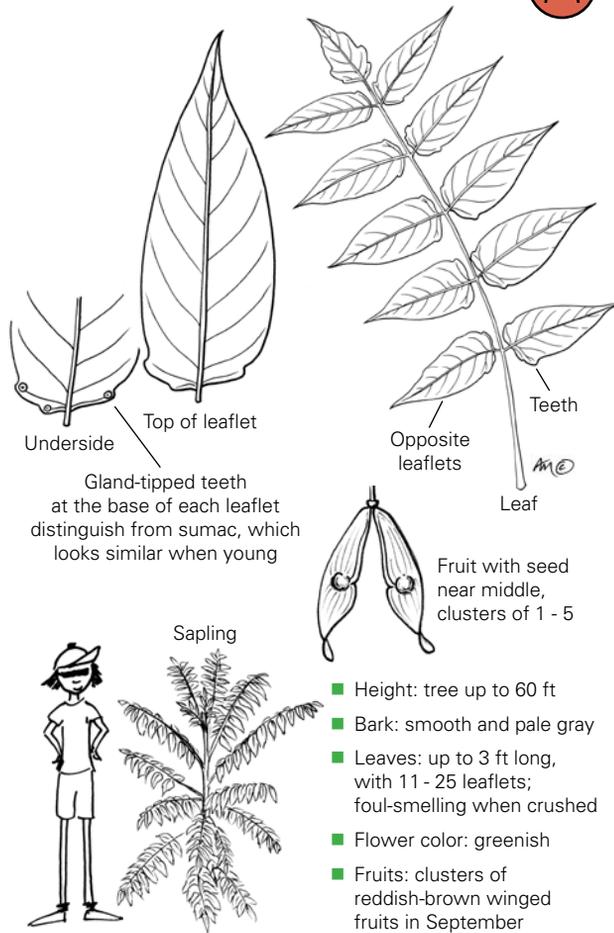
- Height: 1 - 2 ft
- Seed head: spikelets fall from plant intact, not leaving a central axis
- Awns: approx. equal length; often reddish when young, straw-colored when mature
- Growth form: generally in bunches with several to many stems
- Key feature: awns bent to nearly horizontal when mature



Plant, Williams, Flower, T. Hanson



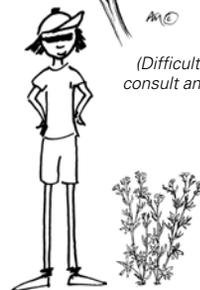
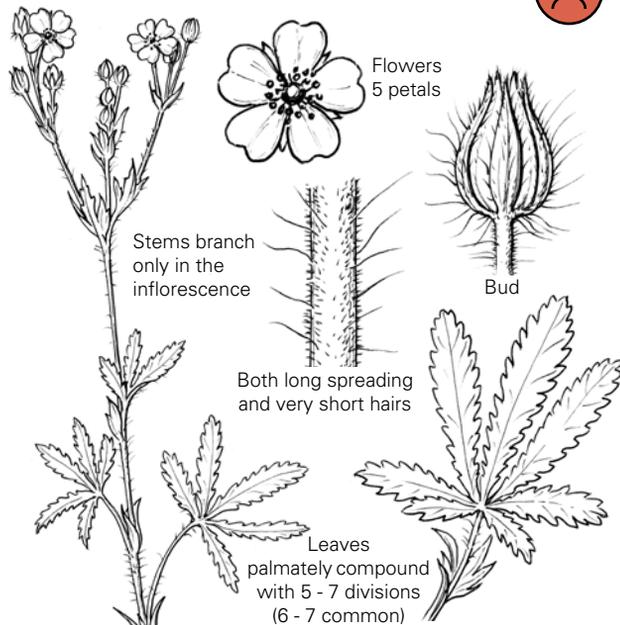
<b>Also Known As</b>	Stink tree
<b>Habitat</b>	Disturbed areas, riparian areas, often near old habitations
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Tree; perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	June
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Feather River and Mount Hough Ranger Districts; occasional in the North Fork Feather River canyon
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California C-rated; Cal IPC: Moderate





D.Tomaso

<b>Also Known As</b>	Roughfruit cinquefoil
<b>Habitat</b>	Roadsides, pastures, rangeland, wildlands, disturbed areas
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Tap-rooted perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	May to July
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Infrequent
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Occasional throughout but not well documented
<b>Noxious Weed List</b>	California-NO; Cal IPC: None

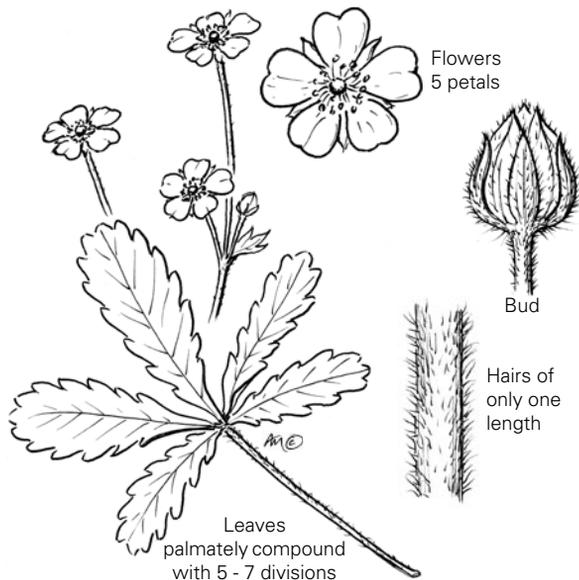


(Difficult to ID, consult an expert)

- Height: 2 ft
- Stems: hairs glandular, almost appearing shiny
- Leaves: upper and lower surfaces stiff-hairy; undersides green (not silvery like most potentillas); hairs glandular, almost appearing shiny
- Growth form: shrub
- Flower color: light yellow



Plant, Charlene, CalPhotos, Flower, D.Tromas



<b>Also Known As</b>	Graceful cinquefoil, western cinquefoil
<b>Habitat</b>	High mountain meadows, open forests
<b>Life Cycle</b>	Perennial
<b>Flowering Time</b>	June to August
<b>Relative Abundance</b>	Common
<b>Plumas NF Distribution</b>	Throughout; all ranger districts



- Height: up to 2.5 ft
- Stems: have hairs of only one length
- Leaves: hairy, especially below; undersides gray-green, silvery; leaf margins evenly toothed
- Flower color: yellow

## GLOSSARY

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**Alternate:** Borne singly and changing sides at each node, such as leaves.

**Awn:** A thin, bristle-like extension, often part of a grass seed head.

**Axil:** The angle formed between the stem and any part, such as a leaf, attached to it.

**Bract:** A modified leaf at the base of a flower.

**Corymb:** A flat-topped or round-topped arrangement of flowers where the lower flower stalks are longer than the upper stalks.

**Cyme:** A branched inflorescence in which the terminal flower blooms first.

**Disk flower:** The tiny, tubular flower of the Asteraceae that forms the center disk of the flowerhead.

**Divided:** Deeply lobed leaf in which lobes are indented to the base or the midrib.

**Elliptic:** Shaped like an ellipse or a narrow oval, broadest in the middle.

**Entire:** The margins are smooth, without teeth or lobes.

**Inflorescence:** A flower cluster.

**Linear:** Narrow and flat with sides or edges parallel, as in a leaf.

**Lobed:** Bearing lobes cut less than halfway to base or midvein.

**Margin:** The outer edge of the leaf, which may be smooth, serrated, lobed, etc.

**Midrib:** The middle vein of a leaf.

**Oblanceolate:** leaf shape in which the length is at least 3x longer than wide, but broadest above middle.

**Oblong:** Leaf shape in which the leaf is two to four times longer than it is wide, with nearly parallel sides.

**Opposite:** Leaves or other structures borne across from each other at the same node.

## GLOSSARY

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**Ovate Leaf:** Egg-shaped leaf that is attached at the broad end.

**Palmate:** Having three or more veins or lobes radiating from a central point, similar to the fingers on a hand.

**Panicle:** A branched inflorescence in which the flowers bloom from the bottom up.

**Petiole:** The stalk of a leaf.

**Pinnate:** A compound leaf with leaflets arranged on opposite sides of the axis.

**Raceme:** A simple, elongated arrangement of flowers.

**Ray flower:** Long, narrow flower that radiates outward from central disk flowers in the Asteraceae family. Each ray flower resembles a single petal.

**Rhizomatous:** Having rhizomes, or horizontal underground stems that produce shoots above and roots below.

**Rosette:** A dense, basal cluster of leaves arranged in a circular fashion around one point, usually at ground level.

**Serrate:** With sharp teeth directed forward; generally refers to leaf edges.

**Sessile:** Without a stalk of any kind; for example, a leaf directly attached to a stem.

**Spike:** An unbranched, long flower stalk in which the flowers attach directly to the stem and mature from the bottom upwards.

**Spikelet:** in grasses, the basic unit of the seed head, sometimes falling intact from plant.

**Toothed:** Having sharp points or lobes along a margin, as on a leaf.

**Tomentose:** Covered with dense, generally flattened and matted hairs.

**Umbel:** A flat-topped flower cluster with all branches attached at the same point.

**Winged stem:** A stem with one or more thin, flat margins protruding along the length of the stem.

## WEED MAPPING

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The Plumas-Sierra Weed Management Group and the Plumas National Forest have been mapping weeds since 2001. Regular mapping and inventory helps us determine which species are present in the area, what management methods are appropriate, and whether management has been a success. We can also track patterns of spread and plan preventive practices.

We welcome your mapping information, for the species in this guide and/or any other species rated as “High” by Cal-IPC or “A” by California.

Please include:

- the date surveyed
- the weed name and code (preferably the scientific name)
- the location of the observation using UTM's if available. If using a global positioning system (GPS) unit, set your meter to datum NAD83.
- a thorough description of the location
- the size of the infestation in square feet or acres
- the density of the infestation (number of plants or estimated percent cover)
- any control methods you employed

Please do not take any management actions or remove plants until they have been positively identified. Consult your county or Plumas National Forest weed contact for assistance.

Forward the data to the appropriate contact. See listings on next page.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### **For weed information and mapping on the Plumas National Forest, contact District Botanists:**

Beckwourth Ranger District (Blairsden):  
(530) 836-7167

Mount Hough Ranger District (Quincy):  
(530) 283-7657

Feather River Ranger District (Oroville):  
(530) 532-7417

### **For weed control information on private land contact:**

Butte County Agriculture Department  
(530) 538-7381

Plumas/Sierra County Agriculture Department  
(530) 283-6365

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