

Common Weeds				
	Description	Recommended Control Method	Invades undisturbed land	State List *
<p>Annual weeds complete their life cycle in one year. They make copious seeds that germinate in fall and overwinter as seedlings, giving them a competitive edge over perennials that are still dormant. Typically, annual weeds are easy to control by hoeing or hand pulling, but their ability to colonize large areas can make this form of control impractical.</p>				
Cheatgrass <i>Bromus tectorum</i>	4-24" tall grass. Aggressive, grows earlier than native perennials. <i>Awns</i> , fibers on the seeds, lodge in clothing and pets' feet and mouths. Fire hazard in late summer. Colonizes undisturbed habitat.	Hoeing or hand pulling seedlings works well on small patches. Bacterial inoculant to inhibit germination is being tested. Light concentrations of Roundup are effective at seedling stage. It may take many years to deplete the seed bank.	yes	
Yellow starthistle <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Flowers on single stalks, armed with long sharp, straw-	New invader in the valley, uncommon but worth watching for. It covers millions of acres in the West. Eradication is critical. Hand pulling works on small patches; pull before seeds develop.		B
Kochia <i>Kochia scoparia</i>	1-5' tall with many branched stems, inconspicuous flowers. Many 1-2' deep green leaves. Common along roadsides and cultivated areas.	Hoe seedlings or hand pull as plants develop.		B
Russian thistle Salsola kali	2-3' tall. Red-striped stems with spiny bracts near each flower. Large mounded plant at maturity that breaks off and tumbles in wind. Common along roadsides.	Hoeing or hand pulling seedlings works well on small patches. Can develop resistance to herbicides. In large areas, seedlings are susceptible to cultivation, herbicide, or torching, depending on the site.		
Yellow sweetclover <i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Up to 6' tall member of the pea family with small yellow flowers. Leaves divided into three distinct segments. Prefers slightly moist sites. Attracts bees; fixes nitrogen in soil.	Often temporal in habit. Mowing effective at preventing seed production. Deep roots make it difficult to hand pull.		
Tumble mustard <i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	2-3' member of the mustard family with small yellow flowers. Found in fields, along driveways and rangeland. Forms tumbleweed at maturity; dry tumbleweeds collect at fence lines.	Hoeing or hand pulling works well on small patches; repeated mowing helps control large areas.		
<p>Biennial weeds complete their life cycle in two years. The first year they establish a deep root and a small basal rosette; the second year they grow up, flower, produce seeds, then die. The best control is hand pulling during the second year before they produce seeds; deep roots are easier to pull in moist soil.</p>				
Diffuse knapweed or Barnaby thistle Centaurea diffusa	2-3' tall with white and pink flowers on branching stalks. Gets prickly as it dries up.	Hand pull second-year plants. Seed bank can take years to deplete. Effective biocontrols are available; local populations dropped sharply after introduction of knapweed seedhead weevil.	yes	B

Mullein <i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Grows to over 6'. Prolific seeder with woolly grey-green leaves. Tall yellow candle inflorescence. Birds love seedheads in fall.	Hoe seedlings or hand pull plants as they bolt. Difficult to pull when mature.		
Salsify <i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	2--3' tall; narrow leaves with milky juice. Large yellow flowers close late in the day. Seed heads resemble giant dandelions.	Easily hand pulled; bag plants with buds and blooms – seedheads can mature on the ground after being pulled.		
Perennial weeds store reserves in extensive roots; new plants come up every year from these roots. Because roots regenerate after disturbances, perennials are more difficult to eradicate than annuals or biennials.				
Baby's breath <i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Wide-branching perennial that grows to 4'. Narrow, waxy leaves. Breaks off and rolls like a tumbleweed. Introduced by dried flower industry.	Difficult to hand pull. Two or three mowings per season can eliminate seed production. Consider spot-spraying herbicide.		C
Bulbous bluegrass <i>Poa bulbosa</i>	Short tufted grass that forms mats. Reproduces asexually from bulblets that look like seeds. Introduced as early forage plant for livestock; spreading rapidly throughout the shrub-steppe.	Hand pulling works in some soil types, though small fragments left behind will reestablish. Early spot-spraying with light concentrations of Roundup appears to be effective.	yes	
Dalmatian toadflax <i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	2-3' stalks of yellow snapdragon flowers atop clasping waxy leaves. Spreads through roots. Introduced as ornamental. Deer spread seed to remote locations.	Takes years to control. Hand pulling can be effective in loose soils. Repeated cultivation required each season in large-scale agricultural settings. Biocontrols are available but effective only on large populations. Aggressively treat new populations.	yes	B
Russian knapweed <i>Centaurea repens</i>	2-3' tall, with white and pink flowers. Spreads through roots.	Extremely difficult to eradicate; takes years to control. Consider herbicides, cultivation, and competing vegetation. Aggressively treat new populations.		B
Whitetop <i>Cardaria draba</i>	1-2' tall, with numerous small white flowers atop waxy-green leaves with wavy margins. Heart-shaped capsule seeds. Spreads through roots. Colonizes a variety of habitats but prefers some moisture. Rapidly expanding in the Methow Valley.	Extremely difficult to eradicate; takes years to control. Consider herbicides, cultivation and competing vegetation. Aggressively treat new populations.	yes	C
	*Washington State Noxious Weed List			
	Class A - highest priority to prevent and eradicate, eradication on private property required by law			
	Class B – prevent where not widespread, contain where abundant			
	Class C – already widespread, county handles suppression and control			