

Noxious Weed Activity Book



Noxious weeds can be pretty but they are also invasive and can harm people, animals and the environment.

Learn more about noxious weeds at
<https://agr.mt.gov/Noxious-Weeds>



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Artwork by Lori Leaf

NOXIOUS WEEDS ARE EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM!

Plants are an essential part of our lives. They make the oxygen we breathe and the food we eat. They also add color and beauty to our houses and yards. We couldn't get along without them! But some plants cause problems.

People have brought plants to Montana from other parts of the world. Sometimes people brought them here on purpose because they were pretty. Other plants arrived accidentally. Some of these newcomers arrived without any natural enemies, like insects, to help keep them under control. In some cases, these introduced plants have spread wildly and caused big problems. We call these plants noxious weeds.

Noxious weeds affect everyone in Montana. Because they compete with crops, noxious weeds decrease the amount of food that farmers can grow on their land. Some noxious weeds are poisonous to people and animals. Noxious weeds also crowd out many of our beneficial native plants, which harms animals that depend on native plants. Lakes and streams are also affected by noxious weeds. In some places, noxious weeds grow so thickly that people can no longer go swimming, fishing, or boating.

You can help stop noxious weeds! Learn what plants cause problems and be careful not to spread them around. Don't plant noxious weeds - help your parents choose pretty native plants for your yard. Check your clothing and family car for noxious weed "hitchhikers." Never dump your aquarium in a lake or stream. With these simple steps, you can help protect Montana from the harmful effects of noxious weeds!

Parts Of A Plant

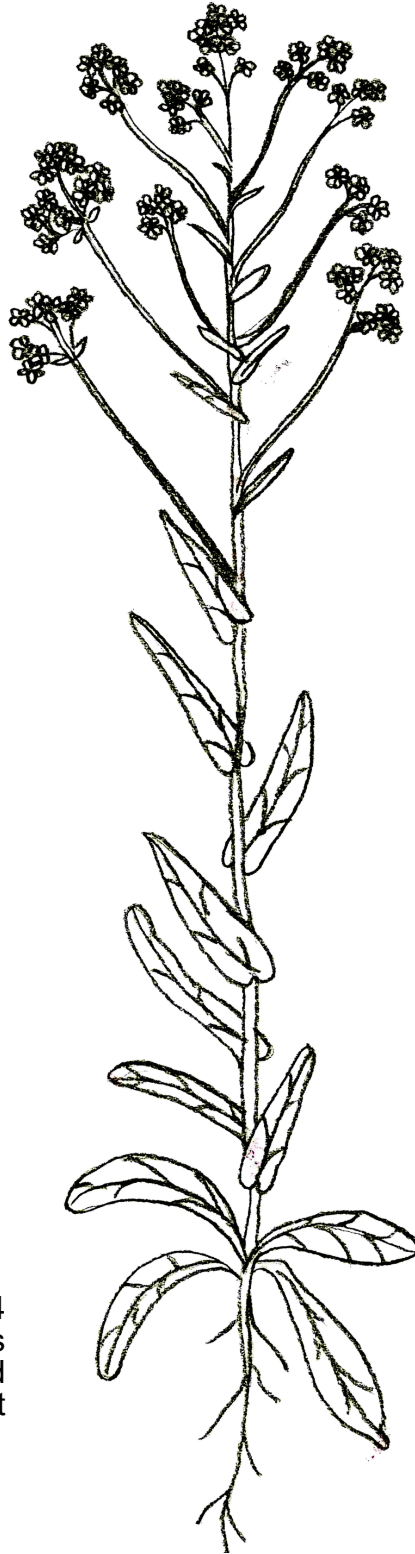
Match the parts of the plant to their names.

leaf

stem

roots

flower



Dyer's Woad

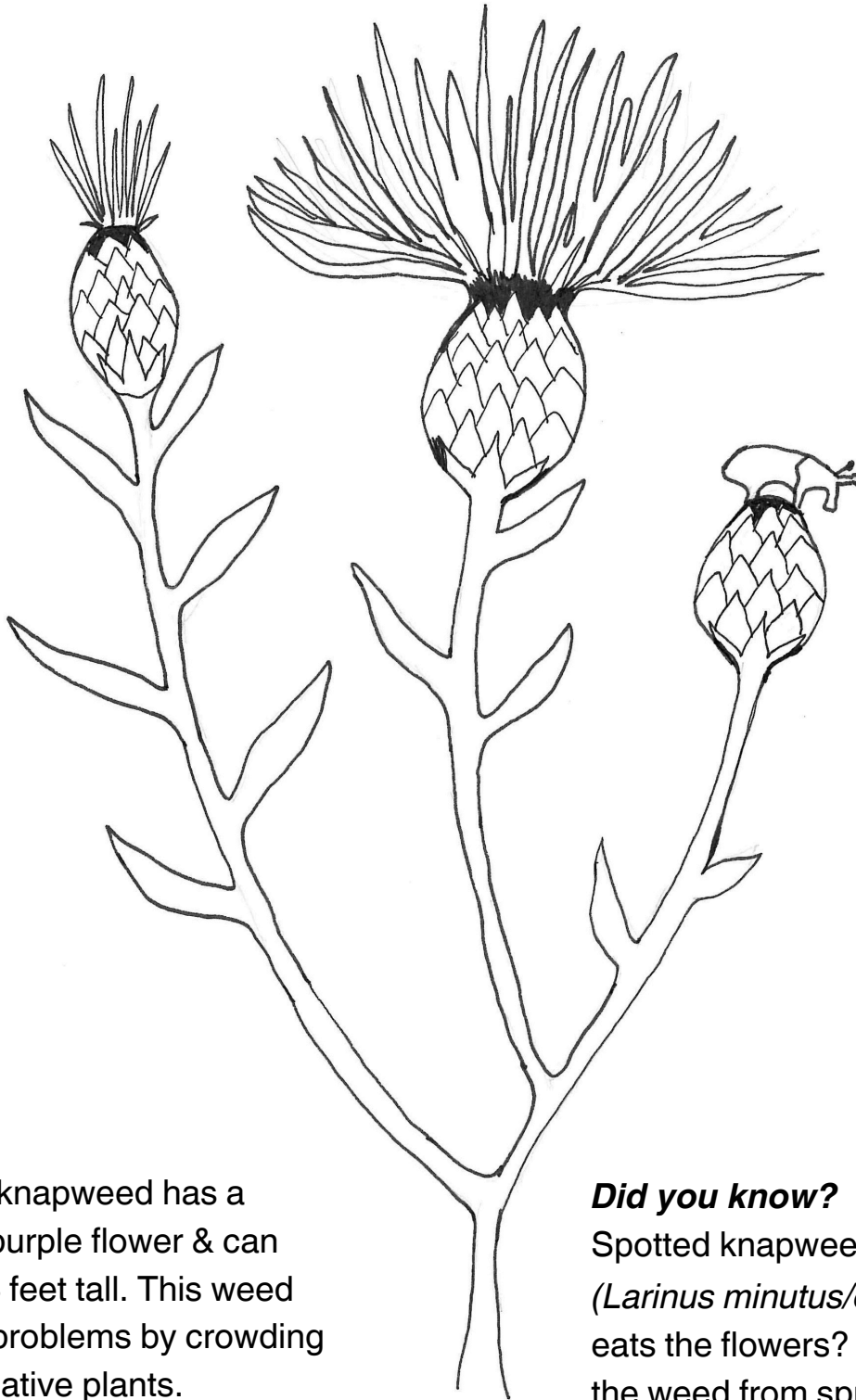
(*Isatis tinctoria*)

This plant has flowers with 4 petals and 4 sepals. Its leaves are blue-green and turn to purple or black as it grows.

Illustration by
Jennifer Cramer

Spotted Knapweed

Centaurea stoebe

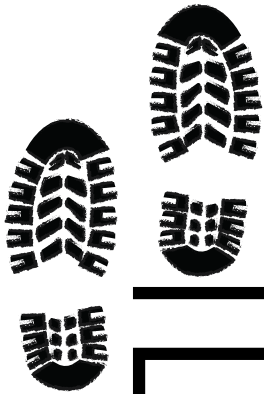


Spotted knapweed has a pinkish-purple flower & can grow 2-4 feet tall. This weed creates problems by crowding out our native plants.

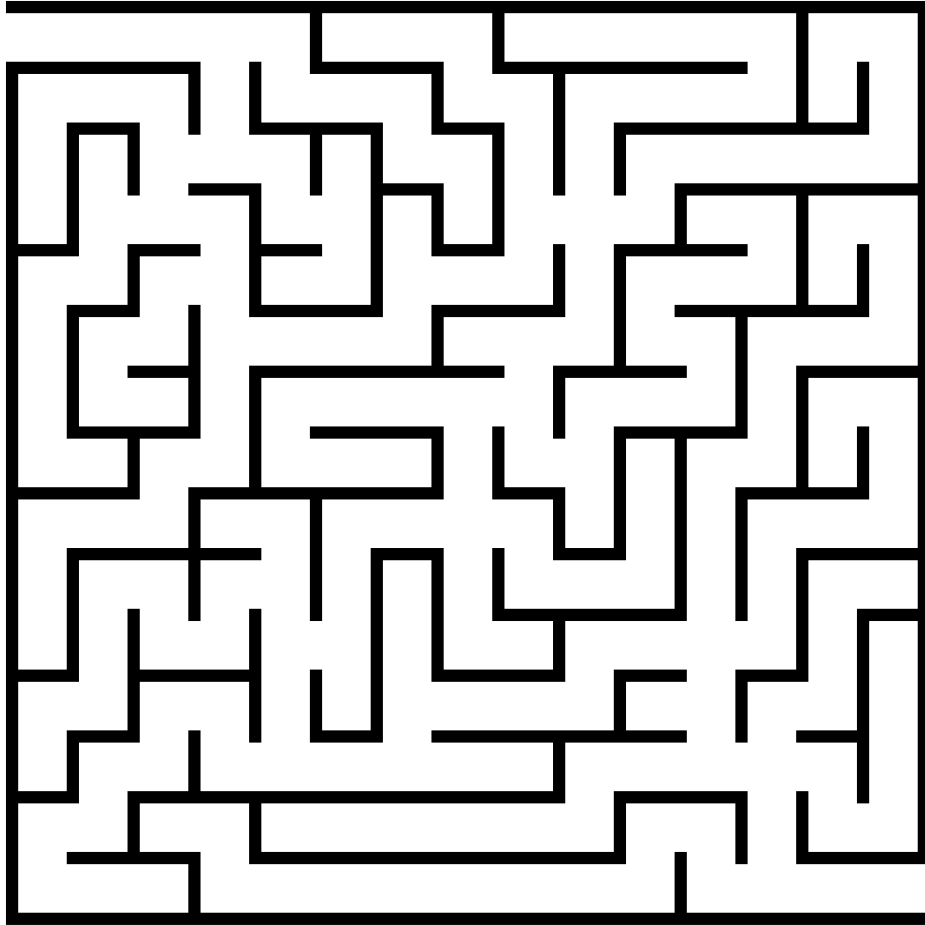
Did you know?

Spotted knapweed has a weevil (*Larinus minutus/obtusius*) that eats the flowers? This prevents the weed from spreading.

Hiking Maze



Hike through the maze to the
Spotted Knapweed!

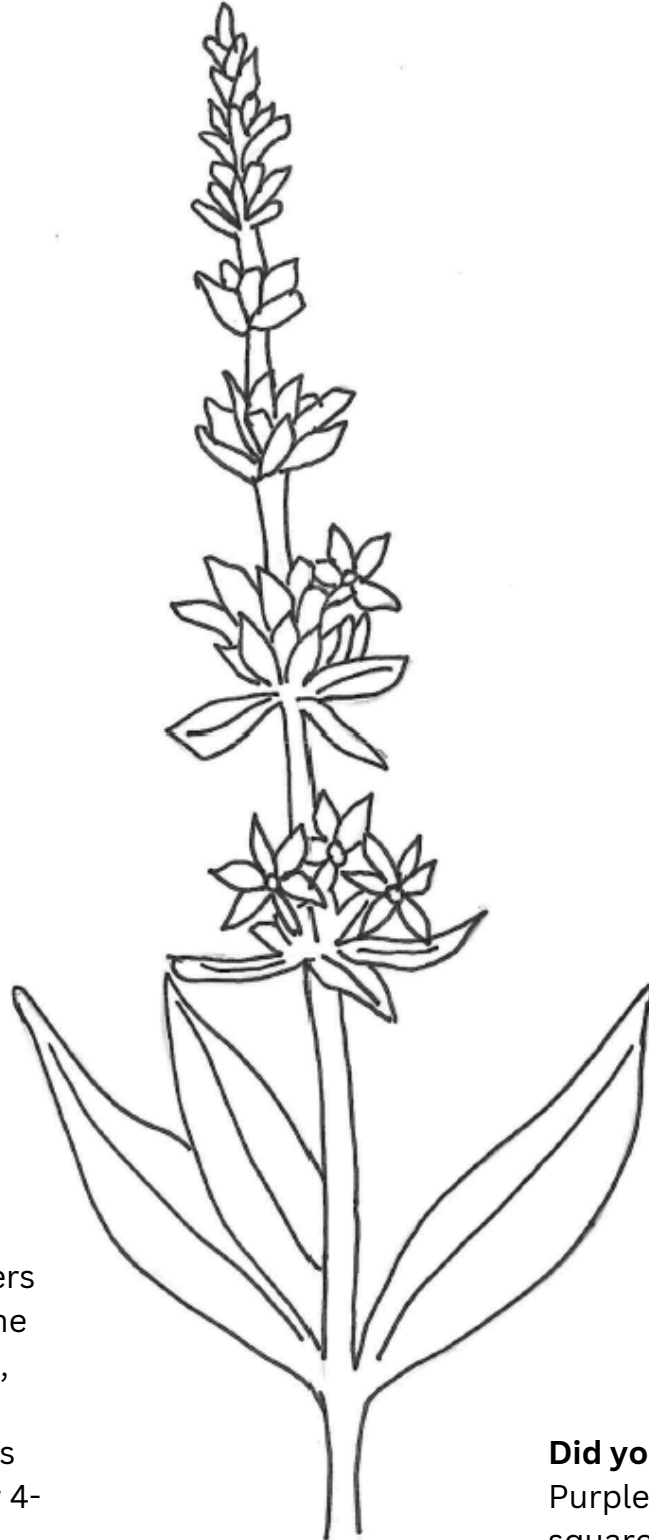


Small patches of invaders are the
easiest to control. When hiking take 5-
15 minutes to remove seeds from your
shoes so the noxious weeds don't
spread further.



Purple Loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria



Purple loosestrife has small purple-pink flowers with a yellow center. The leaves are long, narrow, and have pointed tips with smooth edges. This noxious weed can grow 4-6 feet tall.

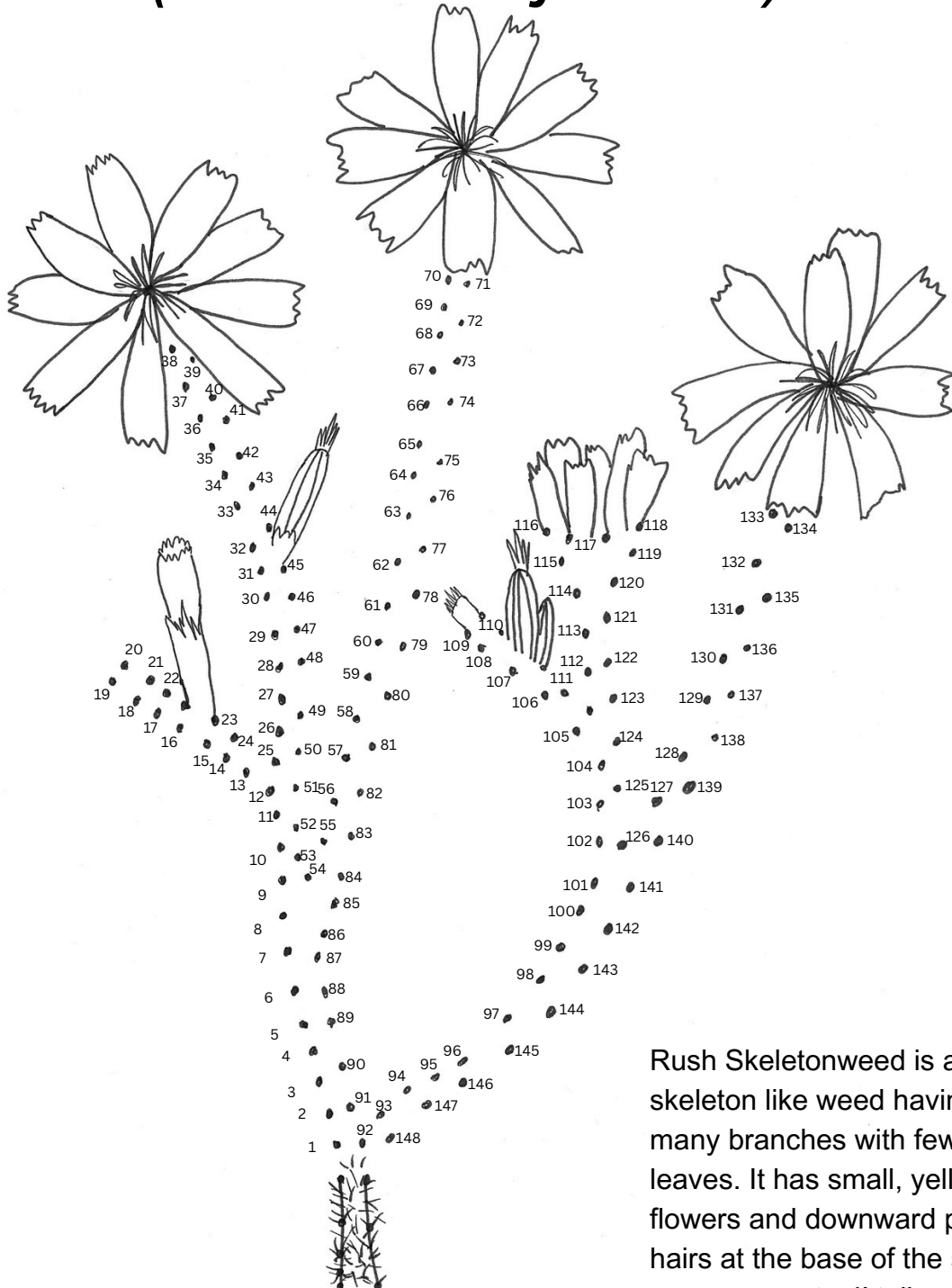
Did you know?

Purple loosestrife has a square, woody stem?

Connect the Dots

Rush Skeletonweed

(*Chondrilla juncea*)



Rush Skeletonweed is a skeleton like weed having many branches with few to no leaves. It has small, yellow flowers and downward pointing hairs at the base of the stem. It can grow up to 4' tall.

Noxious Weed Word Search

O	G	E	K	W	H	I	T	E	T	O	P	L	U	R
T	S	O	G	N	Z	S	S	L	H	O	O	D	X	A
A	O	S	Z	R	A	J	T	U	I	O	W	B	K	D
N	M	A	G	T	U	P	D	A	S	N	A	W	H	E
S	J	S	D	K	K	P	W	E	T	I	R	K	O	C
Y	X	W	J	F	R	Y	S	E	L	R	C	C	U	T
R	J	J	C	P	L	T	K	Y	E	A	D	K	N	L
A	S	N	E	R	R	A	I	D	F	D	Z	N	D	A
G	I	X	U	I	P	C	X	E	E	A	N	T	S	S
W	B	Q	F	A	T	A	N	E	T	N	E	V	T	K
O	W	E	E	R	J	I	W	W	Y	P	Z	L	O	S
R	H	N	O	T	N	D	H	E	G	Z	Z	D	N	E
T	E	G	Y	I	N	L	Q	U	W	G	F	F	G	E
G	N	O	Y	I	F	S	T	L	E	M	P	U	U	D
G	W	Y	B	Z	O	B	Y	B	H	F	R	V	E	V



Blueweed



Knapweed



Loosestrife



Thistle



Ventenata



Bindweed



Toadflax



Houndstongue



Leafy
Spurge



Tansy
Ragwort



Saltcedar

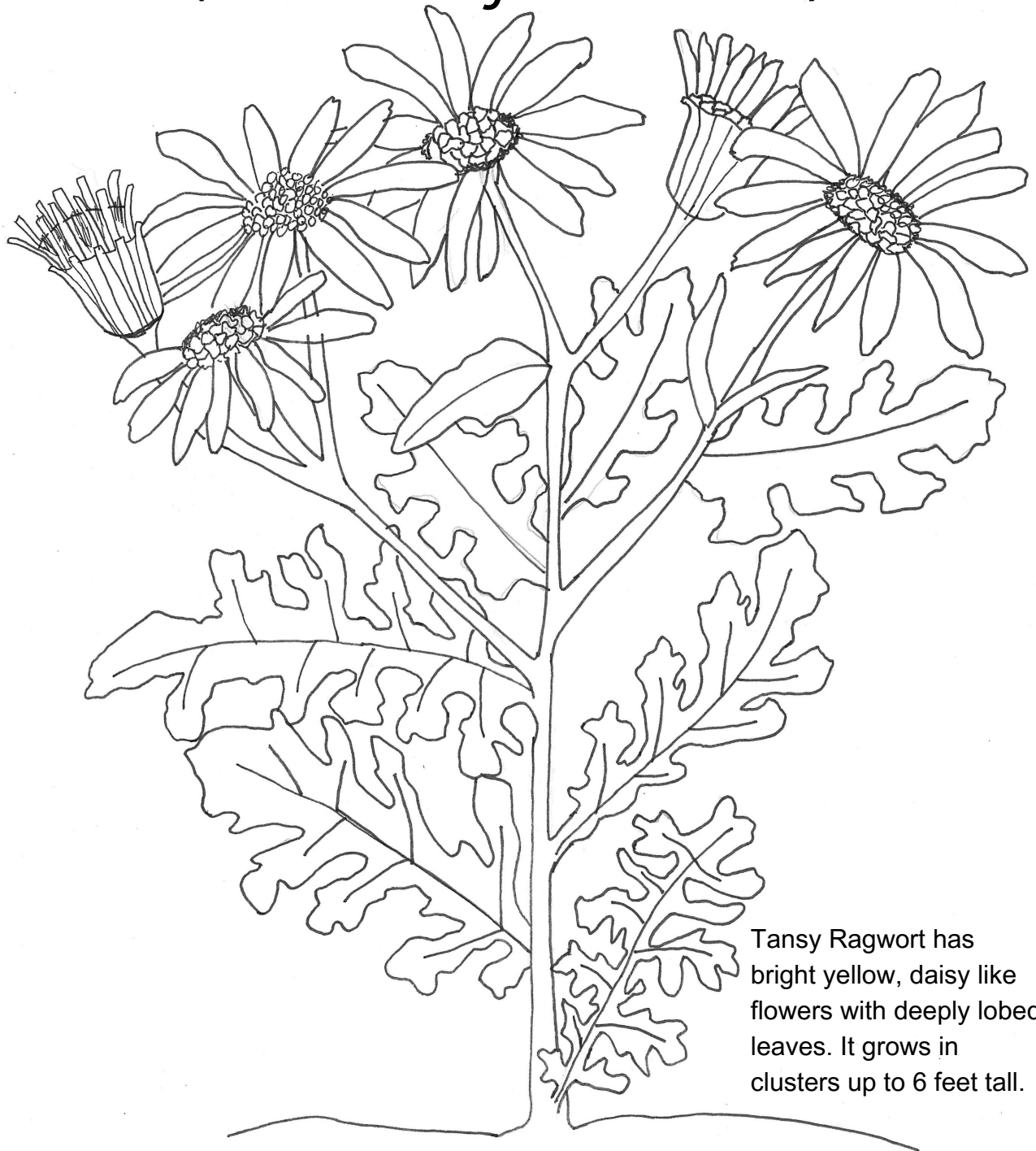


Whitetop

Coloring Page

Tansy Ragwort

(Senecio jacobaea)



Tansy Ragwort has bright yellow, daisy like flowers with deeply lobed leaves. It grows in clusters up to 6 feet tall.

10 Montana Noxious Weeds to Know



Ventenata (*Ventenata dubia*)

- Open, airy, pyramid-shaped panicle with flower and seed-bearing stems coming off of the main stem at almost 90 degree angles
- Dark red or black nodes, evident at all stages of growth
- Long, membranous ligule with tattered tip
- Bent and twisted awns



Rush Skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)

- Many branches with few or no leaves, “skeleton-like” appearance
- Downward pointing hairs at base of stem
- Plant parts exude a milky latex when broken
- Up to 4’ tall



Tansy Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)

- Bright yellow daisy-like flowers, each 1” in diameter or less, 20-60 per cluster
- Flowers generally have 13 petals
- Some plants are 4’ tall or more
- Leaves produce rank odor when crushed



Blueweed (*Echium vulgare*)

- Dark spots at base of hairs along stem
- Brightly colored blue funnel-shaped flowers
- Five bright pink or red stamens, four long and one short
- Stems and leaves covered in hairs
- Plants can be over 3’ tall



Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

- Seeds pods that are hairy along the edges and turn black when mature
- Bright yellow pea-type (papilionaceous) flowers consisting of a banner petal, two wing petals, and two fused keel petals
- Large true shrub, can be 10’ or taller when mature, and can grow up to 8’ tall in 2 years, with woody stems as plant ages

10 Montana Noxious Weeds to Know



Dyer's Woad (*Isatis tinctoria*)

- Bright yellow flowers
- Bluish-green leaves with cream colored midvein
- Pear shaped seed pods that turn deep purple to black upon maturity
- Can be more than 3' tall



Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

- Yellow flowers with 3 downward pointing sepals and 3 upward pointing petals
- Rhizomes contain black sap
- Plants are often 3-5 feet tall



Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*)

- Grass
- Long awns point outward and upward
- As the plant dries, the awns twist
- Seedheads do not fall apart



Saltcedar (*Tamarix spp.*)

- Small pink, or occasionally white flowers, in narrow drooping clusters
- Slender stems with scale like leaves that resemble cedar
- Thin reddish-brown bark
- Large shrub to small tree



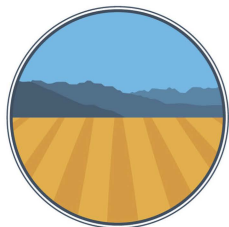
Common Reed/Phragmites (*Phragmites australis* spp. *australis*)

- Hollow stems that are tan, dull & rigid
- Blue-green alternate leaves along top half of stem
- Can be 6-15 feet tall creating large, tall, dense stands
- Seed plumes are dense, feathery and purplish, turning tan as they mature

Noxious Weed Word Search

Answer Key

O	G	E	K	W	H	I	T	E	T	O	P	L	U	R
T	S	O	G	N	Z	S	S	L	H	O	O	D	X	A
A	O	S	Z	R	A	J	T	U	I	O	W	B	K	D
N	M	A	G	T	U	P	D	A	S	N	A	W	H	E
S	J	S	D	K	K	P	W	E	T	I	R	K	O	C
Y	X	W	J	F	R	Y	S	E	L	R	C	C	U	T
R	J	J	C	P	L	T	K	Y	E	A	D	K	N	L
A	S	N	E	R	R	A	I	D	F	D	Z	N	D	A
G	I	X	U	I	P	C	X	E	E	A	N	T	S	S
W	B	Q	F	A	T	A	N	E	T	N	E	V	T	K
O	W	E	E	R	J	I	W	W	Y	P	Z	L	O	S
R	H	N	O	T	N	D	H	E	G	Z	Z	D	N	E
T	E	G	Y	I	N	L	Q	U	W	G	F	F	G	E
G	N	O	Y	I	F	S	T	L	E	M	P	U	U	D
G	W	Y	B	Z	O	B	Y	B	H	F	R	V	E	V



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