



SWIFT CURRENT CREEK
Watershed Stewards

Swift Current Creek Invasive Plant Species Control Program

Invasive Plants Destroy The Environment!

- ☑ Crowd out native plants
- ☑ Reduce biodiversity
- ☑ Poor wildlife habitat
- ☑ Reduce productivity
- ☑ Increase soil erosion
- ☑ Inadequate at filtering pollution out of water

Caraganas growing along the Swift Current Creek



What Can You Do?

- ☑ Learn to recognize invasive plants
- ☑ Avoid buying “wildflower” seed mixes
- ☑ Remove invasive ornamental plants from your garden
- ☑ Clean clothing, pets, vehicles before leaving a site with invasive plants to prevent spreading seeds and plants
- ☑ Learn how to manage invasive plants
- ☑ If you see an invasive plant, report it!
- ☑ Control invasive plants on your land!

Yellow starthistle



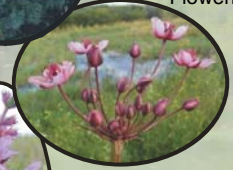
Absinthe



Baby's breath



Flowering rush



Nodding thistle



Purple loosestrife



Common buckthorn



Downy brome



Spotted knapweed



Himalayan balsam



Goutweed



Scentsless chamomile



Reed canarygrass



Ox-eye daisy



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FLIP OVER for more information PLUS a game!

- ✓ Abundant forage
- ✓ Improved opportunities for long-term sustainable operations
- ✓ A buffer and filter to improve and maintain water quality
- ✓ A 'sponge' to hold water, to improve forage production and provide a drinking supply
- ✓ Shelter and habitat for livestock and wildlife (www.cowsandfish.org)

Many invasive plants are escapees from gardens. Can you match these invasive plants to their names?

	Yellow toadflax	
	Crested wheatgrass	
	Russian olive	
	Salt cedar	
	Common burdock	
	Common tansy	
	Sea buckthorn	
	Smooth brome	

Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)



- Introduced from Eurasia in contaminated seed
- Invasive alien species...not native to North America, and therefore has no natural predators or diseases!
- Can thrive anywhere from meadows to woodlands to prairie
- Can regenerate from small root fragments and can send roots down 26 ft into the soil!
- Rhizomes can extend laterally 15 ft per year from parent plants!
- Can take up nutrients and water that native plants can't access because of its deep roots
- Has milky sap when broken
- Each flowering stem can produce 140 seeds, which can shoot from the seed capsules up to 16 ft from the plant!
- Management:
 - ✓ Clean off clothes, shoes, vehicles and pets before leaving a leafy spurge patch to avoid spreading seeds and plant parts
 - ✓ Sheep and potentially cattle grazing
 - ✓ Leafy spurge beetles
 - ✓ Mowing to reduce seed production
 - ✓ Selective clipping prior to seed set
 - ✓ Frequent tillage in cropland
 - ✓ Chemical application: Tordon 22K in spring or fall (except near water sources), Tordon 22K + 2,4-D in spring, glyphosate in fall + 2,4-D in spring

Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)

- Each plant can produce up to 20,000 seeds!
- Invasive alien species...not native to North America, and therefore has no natural predators or diseases!
- Introduced from Eurasia in the 1600's as an ornamental plant.
- Sold in many garden centers as a perennial, and included in many "wildflower" seed mixes.
- Crowds out desirable native plants!
- Changes structure and function of riparian areas.



- Management:
 - ✓ Avoid "wildflower" seed mixes with it listed.
 - ✓ Clip off flowering heads or entire flowering plant near the ground before seed set .
 - ✓ Pull entire plant, bag for landfilling or burning.
 - ✓ Mow large infestations during peak bloom to deplete seedbank.
 - ✓ Report patches to the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards!

The key to success in the battle against any invasive plant is to monitor the effects of your management techniques, adjust as necessary, plan long-term management and NEVER give up the fight!

For more information on these and other invasive plant species, or to REPORT plant communities, please contact:



Phone: (306) 778-5007
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 Website: <http://www.sccws.com>

MATCHING ANSWERS	
Sea buckthorn	Common tansy
Russian olive	Common burdock
Smooth brome	Crested wheatgrass
Yellow toadflax	
Salt cedar	

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