Hello from the Humboldt Watershed CWMA! The HWCWMA was developed to address the invasive weed problem and subsequent decline in water quality within the entire 16,843 square mile watershed, which covers most of Northern Nevada. The primary function of HWCWMA has been to provide land managers, owners and weed control groups assistance in the areas of funding, agency and weed group coordination and cooperation.

This month we would like to introduce you to one of Nevada’s state listed noxious weeds, Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*). Russian knapweed is a native of Eurasia, introduced in North America about 1898 as a contaminant of Turkistan alfalfa.

Russian knapweed is a perennial that that it has a rhizomatous, or extensive, root system. Russian knapweed can grow up to three feet in height and forms dense colonies due to this root system. Roots are also distinguishable by their black color, bark-like texture, and by buds that develop into shoots. Leaves at all stages are a gray green in color due to the fine whitish hairs that over the leaves. Leaves are alternate. Lower stem leaves are lance-shaped and deeply lobed. The upper leaves are oblong, toothed, and become progressively smaller. Seedlings are oval, hairy and grey-green in color, but Russian knapweed is more likely to reproduce by root than by seed. This plant is bushy and from June to September, produces a pink to purple flower that, when mature, becomes more cream colored. Bracts below the flowers have rounded papery tips. Seeds are ivory white and have hairy tips which fall off the seed as it matures. A single plant may produce up to 1,200 seeds annually.

Several [allelopathic](http://www.usu.edu/weeds/get_involved/glossary.html#a) compounds have been found in Russian knapweed that can inhibit other plants. Russian knapweed is generally avoided by grazing animals due to its bitter taste, and too much ingestion of Russian knapweed by horses causes a fatal neurological disorder.

**Prevention of Spread of Russian Knapweed**

New infestations at Russian Knapweed may be reduced by planting weed free seed, feeding materials free of Russian Knapweed seed and cleaning equipment before leaving infested fields. Close attention should be placed on any feed or seed materials imported from the northern and northwestern states. Quick identification and destruction of Russian Knapweed plants is essential to prevent its spread. Control of Russian Knapweed shall mean preventing production of viable seed and destroying the plant's ability to reproduce by vegetative means.

**Herbicides Approved for Controlling Russian Knapweed**

The following herbicides may be used by landowners. Other products labeled and registered for use on this noxious weed in Nevada may be used in accordance with label directions. Be sure to follow all label directions and precautions.

* 2,4-D Low Volatile Ester. Apply at the early bud stage. Follow label directions and precautions.
* Dicamba (Banvel, Clarity, Vanquish). Application shall be at the early bud stage in the spring and fall on pastures, rangeland and noncropland. Follow label directions and precautions.
* Picloram (Tordon 22k). Restricted use pesticide. Follow label directions and precautions.
* Imazapic (Plateau). Apply during senescence in the fall. Follow label directions and precautions.
* Imazapic + Glyphosate (Journey). Apply during senescence in the fall. Follow label directions and precautions.

Please notify the HWCWMA if you see Russian knapweed growing along the Humboldt River. Our [staff](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/program-information/who-we-are.aspx) can provide the property owner or appropriate public agency with site-specific advice on how best to remove it. We have an opportunity to stop it from spreading if we act quickly. We [map](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/maps.aspx) all known locations of regulated noxious weeds such as Russian knapweed in order to help us and others locate new infestations in time to control them.

The Humboldt Watershed CWMA has also developed a website to serve as a clearinghouse for information on weeds in the Humboldt Watershed. Our website (http://www.humboldtweedfree.org) contains fact sheets for state listed noxious weeds in Nevada, Board of Director’s information, funding partner’s links, and many more features including a detailed project proposal packet that you can print, fill out and mail back to us at your convenience. We are looking to expand our project area outside of the Humboldt River and always welcome new funding opportunities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Andi Porreca, HWCWMA Coordinator at (775) 762-2636 or email her at aporreca@humboldtweedfree.org. Or you may speak with Rhonda Heguy, HWCWMA President at (775) 738-3085, email: hwcwma@gmail.com.