

WANTED IN ALASKA:
Invasive Weeds Awareness Week
Identification Booklet

UAF Cooperative Extension Service

www.cnipm.org

WANTED

MEMBERS OF THE "SEEDY ROOTS GANG"

These fellas are considered armed with scores of seeds or creeping rhizomes, sturdy roots, and the ability to thrive where they invade.

Dangerous to native plants, these villains are not to be trusted in garden beds, around your home or on public lands.

Be on the lookout for any of the
SEEDY ROOTS GANG!

REWARD: Healthy Ecosystems on Your Public Lands

WANTED

PERENNIAL SOWTHISTLE

Alias: Sonchus arvensis



Photos by Toos Omtzigt, CES

Distinguishing Features: Yellow flowers similar to dandelions are clustered together at the top of a stalk. May be as high as 5 feet. Leaves are grey-green and have prickly edges. Perennial sowthistle reproduces from seeds as well as creeping roots. Broken stems ooze a white, milky sap.

Caution: Armed and dangerous! This plant is tough to pull due to tough, spiny leaves. The roots should not be broken up. Individual root pieces may produce new plants.

Last Seen: In the Interior and Southcentral regions.

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WANTED

HEMPNETTLE

Alias: Galeopsis tetrahit



Photo by Marta Mueller, CES

Distinguishing Features: Single square stems around 1 - 1.5 foot tall. The flowers are white, pink or purple and are grouped in clusters in the upper leaves. These annual plants require prevention of seed production and prevention of dispersal.

Caution: A prolific and early seeder, Hempnettle flowers must be completely removed when pulled. Watch for small black, round seeds.

Last Seen: In the Interior and Southcentral regions.

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WANTED

WHITE SWEETCLOVER

Alias: Melilotus albus



Photo by William S. Justice, PLANTS National Database

Distinguishing Features: Small white flowers are arranged in spikes along the tips of branches. Leaves have three parts and somewhat resemble alfalfa. Plants are annual and grow from 2-6 feet.

Caution: White sweetclover is a prolific seeder. Make sure to pull the entire flower spike.

Last Seen: In the Interior and Southcentral regions.

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WANTED

TUFTED VETCH, BIRD VETCH

Alias: Vicia cracca



Photo by Marta Mueller, CES

Distinguishing Features: Tufted vetch has multiple vine-like stems up to 1.5 foot tall. Stems are branching with small tendrils and leaves. Flowers are blue-purple in color and are arranged in a one-sided spike.

Caution: Similar to native pea species with pink flowers that are not considered invasive. Make sure you pull the right one! Our villain has vine-like tendrils and the purple flowers.

Last Seen: In the Interior and Southcentral regions.

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WANTED

CANADA THISTLE
Alias: Cirsium arvense



Photo by Corlene Rose, CES

Distinguishing Features: This perennial thistle reproduces by seed and deep, creeping roots. Stems are from 1 to 4 feet tall and branching. The leaves have spine-tipped lobes. Flower heads are purple, and individual flowers are all rayed.

Caution: Armed and dangerous! This plant is not easily pulled due to its tough, spiny leaves. The roots should not be broken up. Individual root pieces may produce new plants.

Last Seen: In Kodiak, Anchorage and interior Alaska. Considered eradicated from the Delta region.

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WANTED

BUTTER N' EGGS

Alias: Linaria vulgaris



Photo by Marta Mueller, CES

Distinguishing Features: Grows 1 to 2 feet tall, and reproduces by seed and creeping rootstock. Leaves are pale green, narrow, and pointed at both ends. Flowers are 1 inch long, bright yellow with orange centers.

Caution: Due to its attractive flowers, many gardeners have this plant in their flowerbeds. Its extensive root systems and seeds make it a difficult plant to control. Pull as much of the root system as you can with the plant.

Last Seen: In the Interior and Southcentral regions.

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WANTED

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Alias: Polygonum cuspidatum



Photo by Bradley J Kriekhaus, USFS

Distinguishing Features: A perennial plant, stems grow 4 to 9 feet tall and feel woody, but die back during winter months. Greenish white or cream flowers are produced in long clusters at the ends of stems and in leaf axils.

Caution: Sold as ornamentals in gardening catalogues. Avoid purchasing, growing or sharing (giving away).

Last Seen: In the Sitka area, reported in Kodiak.

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WANTED

GARLIC MUSTARD
Alias: Allaria petiolata



Photo by Dr. John Meade, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Distinguishing Features: Biennial herb with stalked, triangular to heart-shaped, coarsely toothed leaves. The plant grows 2 to 3.5 feet tall. Clusters of white flowers grow at the top of the plant, with four petals that form a cross. The plant gives off a garlic odor when crushed.

Last Seen: In the Juneau area.

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WANTED

ORANGE HAWKWEED

Alias: Hieracium aurantiacum



Photo by Tom Jahns, CES

Distinguishing Features: This perennial plant grows up to 12 inches tall on a single stem with small black hairs. The leaves are in a basal rosette, with few leaves on the stem. Flower heads range from yellow-orange in the middle to darker orange on the outer edges.

Last Seen: In the Kenai-Soldotna area, also seen in Kodiak and the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

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WANTED

UNKNOWN INVADERS



Distinguishing Features: Suspicious looking plants that you've never seen before. They often quickly reproduce and spread widely.

Caution: Please read page 16 in “Pulling Together: A Volunteer’s Guide to Community Weed Pulling Events” for tips on preventing the spread of noxious and invasive plants.

Last Seen: Anywhere! Don't hesitate to share what you find! Contact the Cooperative Extension Service for identification.

REWARD: Healthy Ecosystems on Your Public Lands

The UAF Cooperative Extension Service is an active participant of the Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management.

Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) Technicians in these offices can provide bags, species identification materials, and infestation location information.

Anchorage Extension Office (907)786-6300

2221 E Northern Lights Boulevard Suite 118

Delta Junction District Office (907)895-4215

Jarvis Building

Fairbanks—Tanana District Office (907)474-2450

1000 University Avenue Room 138

Juneau District Office (907)465-8749

3032 Vintage Boulevard Suite 104

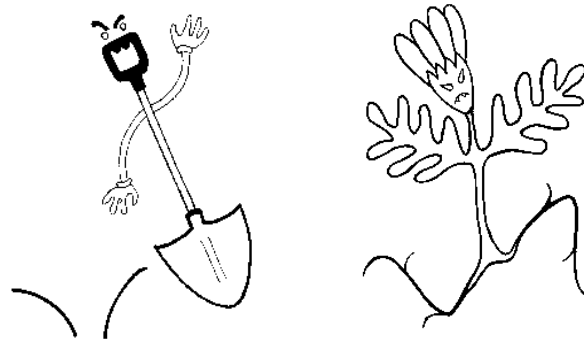
Palmer-Copper River/Mat-Su District Office (907)745-3360

809 S Chugach Street Suite 2

Soldotna—Kenai Peninsula District (907)262-5824

34961 K—Beach Road Suite A

THANKS FOR PULLIN' TOGETHER AGAINST THE SEEDY ROOTS GANG!



Compiled by Shannon E. Uzzell, IPM Technician



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