Hoary cress

**Life cycle:** Noxious statewide. Creeping perennial.

**Leaves:** Lower leaves spatulate, tapered, slender base. Upper leaves clasp around stem. Wavy, indented leaf margins.

**Stems:** 1 to 2 feet tall, branched toward top. Fine, whitish hairs.

**Flowers:** Small, white, four-petalled, borne in flat-topped clusters.

**Roots:** 10 to 15 feet deep. Fine, branching, penetrating.

**Weed Species:** state noxious weed

**Comments:** Persistent and difficult to control. Requires early spring treatment.
**Canada thistle**

**Life cycle:** Noxious statewide. Creeping perennial.

**Leaves:** Smooth, medium green, spine-tipped, crinkled margin. Smaller than biennial thistle.

**Stems:** 2 to 5 feet tall, grooved, branching at top.

**Flowers:** Numerous flowers on branched heads. About ¾ inch. Usually lavender, may be pink or white. Separate male and female flowers.

**Roots:** 10 to 15 feet deep.

**Weed Species:** State noxious weed

**Comments:** Capable of rapid spread. Seed matures 7 to 10 days after first flower color.
Leafy spurge

Life cycle: Noxious statewide. Creeping perennial.
Leaves: Alternate, long, narrow, drooping, dark green.
Stems: 2 to 3 feet tall. Plant contains milky sap.
Flowers: Small green flowers surrounded by yellow-green bracts. Seed explodes from a three-celled capsule.
Roots: Dark brown with pink buds. May reach 20 feet deep.
Weed Species: State noxious weed
Comments: Difficult to control.
**Salt cedar**

- **Life cycle:** Noxious statewide. Perennial shrub or tree.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, cedar-like on slender, branched green stems.
- **Stems:** Smooth, woody, dark brown to reddish-brown.
- **Flowers:** White to deep pink; 5 petaled; formed in finger-like clusters.
- **Roots:** Deep, extensive taproot.
- **Weed Species:** State noxious weed
- **Comments:** Plants may use 200 gallons of water each day. Very invasive.
**Perennial sowthistle**

Life cycle: Perennial
Leaves: Deep notched, sometimes almost whole with slightly prickly edges
Stems: Plant starts as a rosette, then bolts soon before flowering
Flowers: Bright yellow color, similar to dandelion. Seeds spread by wind in a similar manner as dandelion.
Roots: Horizontal creeping roots
Comments: Statewide noxious weed. Can be difficult to control once established due to extensive system of creeping roots. Seeds may spread from ditches and germinate in lawns, gardens, or landscapes.
RUSSIAN KNAPWEEED

Life cycle: Noxious statewide. Creeping perennial.
Leaves: Grayish, knaplike hairs, lower leaves deeply indented, upper leaves short.
Stems: 2 to 3 feet tall. Very hairy, tough, branched.
Flowers: Small clusters on branched tips, white to light rose.
Roots: Deep, dark brown-black, scaly.
Weed Species: State noxious weed
Comments: Scattered, small infestations. Persistent.
PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Life cycle: Noxious statewide. Creeping perennial.
Leaves: Opposite, linear, smooth margins, no petiole.
Stems: 4 to 8 feet tall. Stiff, woody with four to six sides. Older plants are heavily branched.
Flowers: Purple-magenta, five- to six-petalled. Arranged in long spikes.
Roots: Very heavy root, new branches from base.
Weed Species: state noxious weed
Comments: Seed develops in floating capsules.