



Fact Sheet 98-80

# WANTED— Dead, Not Alive!

This outlaw weed is hiding out! Find it. Eradicate it.

## Yellow Starthistle

Alias: *Centaurea solstitialis*

**Y**ellow starthistle is a Mediterranean weed that dominates rangelands, roadsides, and fields primarily in Oregon, Washington, California, and Idaho. It is found scattered throughout the rest of the U.S. In Nevada, it can dominate rangeland that receives less than 15 inches of annual precipitation. It completely changes the natural habitat it invades. The injurious nature of its vicious spines negatively impacts recreationists, livestock, and wildlife. It is poisonous to horses, causing a nervous disorder called "chewing disease" when they are forced to eat it. Yellow starthistle is listed as a noxious weed by Nevada Administrative Code.



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### Distinguishing features:

- ◆ Grows up to 3 feet tall as a multi-branched plant.
- ◆ First leaves form a rosette of deeply lobed leaves up to 8 inches long. These form close to the ground in the fall or spring after germination.
- ◆ Second year leaves grow low on the plant, are deeply lobed, and 2 to 4 inches long. Upper leaves are narrower, pointed and smaller, forming fringe-like extensions along the stems. Both stem and leaves of the mature plant have a wooly appearance.
- ◆ Flower heads are yellow and located singly at the tips of branched stems with outward pointing, inch long, stiff spines.

### Take action:

- ◆ Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
- ◆ Remove all weed seeds from clothing, pets, vehicle, and tire treads before moving out of an area.
- ◆ Monitor dry waste areas. Carefully remove any seeds, dig up the plant and dispose in a sealed garbage bag through the trash. Herbicides may be available to kill this plant.

### Your reward:

A cleaner, healthier environment and the satisfaction that you have helped make the difference!

### For more information about controlling this and other invasive weeds, contact:

Nevada Cooperative Extension  
775-784-1334;

Nevada Division of Agriculture  
Bureau of Plant Industry,  
775-688-1180; or

Your local Weed District manager or  
Conservation District: