

Oxeye Daisy
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum

Currently in Montana noxious weed infest about 8.2 million acres. Many of the state listed noxious weeds were brought to America as ornamentals for gardens, medicinal purposes, by accident in discarded soil from a ship's ballast, or unintentionally in bags of seed brought from other parts of the world. Whatever the cause of introduction non-native plant species have found their way onto Montana's state listed noxious weed list.

Oxeye Daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*) is native to Europe and the temperate regions of Asia. The unopened flower buds of this plant are similar in taste to a Mediterranean food called capers, which are often marinated and eaten. This plant is very versatile and can thrive in various habitats such as meadows, pastures, woodlands, along irrigation ditches, roadsides as well as disturbed areas such as hay fields, lawns and gardens. This plant has a shallow root system with branched rhizomes capable of growing new plants. Oxeye daisy plants grow up to 3' in height; the dark green smooth stem is mostly unbranched. Basal and lower leaves of the plant are 2-5" long and are widest at the tip; these leaves occur on long narrow stalks and have rounded teeth. Leaves that occur toward the stem apex are smaller in size; these leaves are toothed and do not grow on a long stalk. Oxeye daisy flowers from June-August. Flowers are 1-2" in diameter, with each stem producing a flower. The flower head itself consists of about 20 white ray florets that encircle a depressed yellow disc shaped center. After pollination flower heads produce tiny, flat, black, ribbed seeds that can remain viable in the soil for up to 3 years. A single oxeye daisy plant can produce up to 500 seeds. Oxeye daisy is difficult to control because it reproduces through both seed and rhizomes.

Please take a few moments to learn about noxious weeds. If noxious weeds are not currently a problem in your area, they may be in the near future. For more information about Montana's state listed noxious weeds, regulated plants, or weed species listed on your county weed list, please contact your local county weed district (can list weed district name here... ex: Lewis & Clark County Weed District) at _(406)_(Phone number)_. Or you can contact the Montana Department of Agriculture at (406) 444-5600.