

Tall buttercup  
(*Ranunculus acris*)

Currently in Montana, noxious weed infest about 8.2 million acres. Many of these 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.

Tall buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) is native to Europe and Eurasia. Common names include meadow buttercup, tall buttercup, and giant buttercup. Tall buttercup produces fibrous, course spreading roots. The stem of tall buttercup can grow up to 3 ½' in height. The leaves are softly hairy and dark green in color and are produced both at the base of the plant and alternately all along the hairy stem. Leaves are 1 to 4" wide and are deeply lobed. The lobes are coarsely toothed and point out like fingers of a hand. The flowers of tall buttercup are about 1" wide and are found in clusters atop the long stems. Flowers have 5 to 7 petals that are yellow and glossy. Tall buttercup blooms from late May to September. It reproduces by seeds, which are flat with an egg-shaped outline, dark brown in color, and are about 1/8" long. Seeds also have a slightly curved tip. Tall buttercup is toxic to grazing livestock because it contains oil called protoanemonin and if ingested it can cause blistering and irritation of the skin and the lining of the mouth and digestive tract. The oil is released as animals graze on the fresh leaves and stems of tall buttercup.

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.