

Invasive Species Factsheet-Yellow Starthistle

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Species Common Name: Yellow Starthistle

Species Scientific Name: *Centaurea solstitialis*

Native Range and Introduction: This species is native to Eurasia and was first introduced in the late 1800's in California as a contaminant in seed. Movement within the United States has primarily been driven by human activities such as livestock, vehicles, and contaminated hay and seed.

Description: This species is a winter annual forb that can grow up to three feet tall. Its early growth is a basal rosette that has deeply lobed leaves. Stems leaves are much smaller, entire, and appear gray as they are covered in small hairs. The most distinguish characteristic is the flowering heads with its bright yellow flower, and large spines coming out of the base of the flower forming a star shape. This species doesn't seem to a major concern in the eastern United States, but is a major problem in pastures, rangeland, and wildlands in the west.

Ecological and Economic Impacts: Ecologically this plant can quickly dominate a landscape forming a monoculture of mature plants and seedling leading to a large loss in biodiversity. It can push out and prevent native vegetation from reestablishing by forming a monopoly on available soil moisture. Economically it is a big factor in loss of forage and grazing capabilities on rangelands and pastures causes millions of dollars on loses a year. This species can cause chewing disease in equine species leading to death. Yellow starthistle can also cause loss of recreational and land values once an area becomes infested.

Regulated Status in Wyoming: Yellow Starthistle is on five counties Declared Noxious Species List, they are Big Horn, Natrona, Teton, Uinta and Washakie. The species is also on the North American Invasive Species Management Association Weed Free Forage Noxious Species List which Wyoming uses for its weed free forage standards. Wyoming Weed and Pest Council's EDRR Committee also has this species on their bounty list giving any person a \$100 reward for a find any new infestation.

Distribution in Wyoming: Yellow Starthistle was found in Uinta and Washakie Counties in 2017.

Control Options:

Mechanical: Hand pulling, hoeing, or chopping can be effective for small patches, while mowing repetitively can also reduce stand density.

Chemical: In a rangeland situation, Tordon 22K (Picloram), Transline (Clopyralid), or Milestone (Aminopyralid) can be used. Herbicides are best teamed with other mechanism for best control.

Cultural: Burning and replanting areas have shown decent results.

Biological: There are currently six insects that have been introduced for control of this species. The most commercial available species is the Yellow Starthistle Hairy Weevil (*Eustenopus villosus*).

Integrated Weed Management: This could include a fall burning with a spring herbicide application. Then mowing in late summer before a fall replanting of the area.

Online Resources:

URL: <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/12043/aqb>

URL: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/yellowstar.shtml>

URL: <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=4390>

Image 1 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=1316001>

Image 2 URL: <https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=1459671>



Image 1-Flowering



Image 2-Rosette

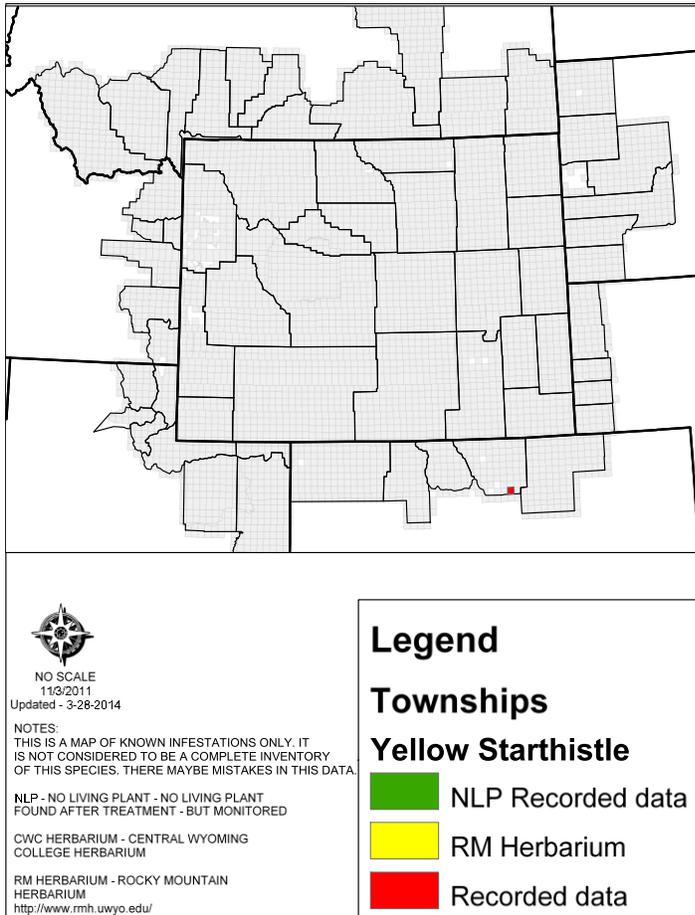


Figure 1-Yellow Starthistle distribution in Wyoming and surrounding states, this species is a major problem in Idaho and Utah, which is why Wyoming has it on it's EDRR Bounty Program

URL: http://wyweed.org/images/Weed_Maps/County_Declared_Weed_maps/Yellow_starthistle.pdf