

Invasive Species Fact Sheet-Common Burdock

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Species Common Name: Common Burdock

Species Scientific Name: *Arctium minus*

Native Range and Introduction: It is native to Europe, and was first introduced into North America in the 1700's for medicinal uses. Early spread was primarily for contaminated seed, while local spread is usually from domestic livestock and wildlife.

Description: Biennial plant that grows large basal rosette before producing a flowering head up to four feet tall the second year. Leaves are large, triangular, and have wavy margins. The underside of the leaves are hair covered. In late summers (July to September) it forms a bur like flower that are purple and are arranged in clusters. It is referred to as wild rhubarb, as it closely resembles it in appearance.

Ecological and Economical Threats: Ecologically, it uses its large leaves to shade out nearby plants helping it outcompete other species. This will lead to lose of native vegetation and biodiversity. Ecological it can reduce the price of wool when the seed heads become entangled in the wool. It also acts as a secondary host for pathogens, such as powdery mildew and root rot, these pathogens then can be passed on to economically import plant or crop species.

Regulated Status in Wyoming: Common Burdock is on the State Designated Noxious Species List and is also on the North American Invasive Species Management Association Weed Free Forage Noxious Species List that Wyoming uses for weed free forage standards.

Distribution in Wyoming: Found throughout Wyoming except Sublette County.

Control Options: Biennial control needs to be done before seed has set!

Mechanical: Can be control by hand pulling, chopping, or hoeing as long as the growth point, which is right at the ground level is removed. Mowing can be effective if repeated multiple times.

Chemical: Depending on your situation: Range-Milestone (Aminopyralid), Crops-Banvel (Dicamba) + 2,4-D, or lawn-Transline (Clopyralid) could all be great tools for this species

Integrated Weed Management: A good management plan may involve an early summer herbicide application and a fall mechanical application or vice versa depending on infestation size.

Other: Some differences in this species and rhubarb are the underside of rhubarbs leaf will be smooth without hairs and its stems with be solid, whereas Burdocks with be hair covered and hollow.

Online Resources:

URL: <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=5140>

URL: <http://www.naturalbiodiversity.org/biobullies/downloads/Common%20Burdock.pdf>

Image 1 URL: <http://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=2155019>

Image 2 URL: <http://www.invasive.org/browse/subthumb.cfm?sub=5140&Start=1&display=60&sort=2>



Image 1-Flowering Head



Image 2-Rosette

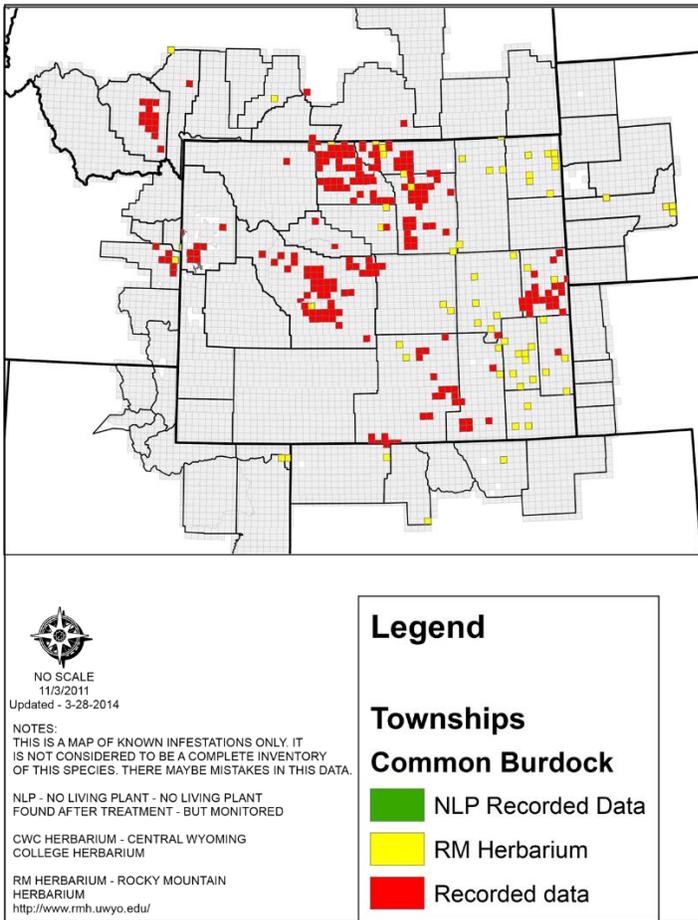


Figure 1-Common Burdock Presence in Wyoming and Surrounding States
URL: http://wyweed.org/images/Weed_Maps/Common_Burdock.pdf