

Invasive Plant Species in Skagway and Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

Invasive species can have a dramatic impact on the environment, economy, and human health. Invasive plants can outcompete native plants because they have little to no natural predators to moderate their spread, often release poisons that inhibit growth of native plants, have vigorous reproduction strategies, and can disperse easily. Invasive plants can reduce biodiversity, degrade fish and wildlife habitats, alter water quality, disrupt natural erosion processes, distort soil chemistry, and can reduce recreational activities.

Reporting and early detection of these species can help minimize their spread and possibly eradicate species before they become new infestations. To help treat, control, and keep our garden city clean of invasive plants, please report and be aware of spreading any of the following invasive plants:

Name and Invasiveness Rank**	Picture	Characteristics
<p>Reed Canarygrass* <i>(Phalaris arundinacea)</i></p> <p>Invasiveness Rank: 83</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roots have rhizomes (creep at ground) ▪ Leaves are broad, > 1cm wide ▪ Leaves spread from stem at right angles ▪ Flower head is dense and hangs off the tips of grass <p>Habitat: margins of lakes, streams, and wetlands Impact: overcrowding; steals water resources</p>
<p>Ornamental Jewelweed* <i>(Impatiens glandulifera)</i></p> <p>Invasiveness Rank: 82</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stem is hollow and has a purple/red tinge ▪ Leaves have serrated margins ▪ Leaves are arranged opposite/whorled ▪ Leaves are oblong to egg-shaped ▪ Flower is white, red, pink, or purple <p>Habitat: ornamental beds Impact: river bank erosion; out-competition</p>
<p>White Sweetclover <i>(Melilotus albus)</i></p> <p>Invasiveness Rank: 81</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leaves are compound with 3 leaflets ▪ Leaves have a toothed margin that extends two-thirds down leaf ▪ Flower is white and fragrant (vanilla) <p>Habitat: streams, fields, vacant lots, airports Impact: overcrowd and hurt riparian habitats</p>
<p>Orange Hawkweed* <i>(Hieracium aurantiacum)</i></p> <p>Invasiveness Rank: 79</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roots have rhizomes ▪ Leaves contain a basal rosette ▪ Stem is leafless with occasional exceptions ▪ Stem and leaves contain thick, black hairs ▪ Flower head is orange <p>Habitat: disturbed sites, alpine areas Impact: forms dense monocultures</p>
<p>Canada Thistle* <i>(Cirsium arvense)</i></p> <p>Invasiveness Rank: 76</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roots have extensive creeping rhizomes ▪ Lobes of leaves are spiny/prickly ▪ Top of leaves are hairless ▪ Bottom of leaves are hairless or hairy ▪ Flower head is narrow and purple-pink <p>Habitat: overgrazed pastures, roadsides Impact: overcrowding, crop yield losses</p>

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<p>Bird Vetch* (<i>Vicia cracca</i>)</p> <p>Invasiveness Rank: 73</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stem is non-winged and climbing/trailing ▪ Leaves contain 8-10 leaflets ▪ Leaves contain branched tendrils ▪ Flower head is dense with one-sided, blue-violet clusters of 20-50 flowers <p>Habitat: roadsides, trails, hay fields Impact: steals sunlight, space, and moisture</p>
<p>Yellow Toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>)</p> <p>Invasiveness Rank: 69</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leaves are linear to narrowly lance-shaped ▪ Leaves are a bluish-green color ▪ Flower head has many small, snapdragon-like flowers ▪ Flower head is yellow with orange throat <p>Habitat: roadsides, railroads, ditches, fields Impact: overcrowding, poisonous to cattle</p>
<p>Oxeye Daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>)</p> <p>Invasiveness Rank: 61</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leaves are less than 10cm long ▪ Leaves are spoon-shaped ▪ Leaves are coarsely or irregularly toothed ▪ Flower heads have white ray florets ▪ Flower heads have yellow disc florets <p>Habitat: meadows, pastures, ornamental beds Impact: soil erosion, overcrowding</p>
<p>Common Tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>)</p> <p>Invasiveness Rank: 60</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stem is woody with a purple-red tint ▪ Leaves are twice-divided into narrow toothed segments ▪ Leaves exude a strong odor when crushed ▪ Flower heads have many button-like flowers <p>Habitat: roadsides, streams, waste places Impact: overcrowding, native displacement</p>
<p>Narrowleaf Hawksbeard (<i>Crepis tectorum</i>)</p> <p>Invasiveness Rank: 56</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stem leaves are narrow and have extensions at the base that appear to clasp the stem ▪ Sepals at the base of flower are hairy ▪ Flower heads are stalked (branched) ▪ Similar to dandelions from afar but taller <p>Habitat: roadsides, fencing, railroads Impact: overcrowding, forms monocultures</p>

*Uncommon species that have been found recently within the area, **please report immediately**. If found, take a clear photograph of the species, a description of where it was found, and the coordinates of where it was found, if possible.

Report findings to the Natural Resources Department at (907) 983-9240.

**Invasiveness rank prioritizes non-native plant species in Alaska on a scale of 0-100 based on four subcategories of invasiveness: ecological impacts, biological characteristics and dispersal ability, distribution, and feasibility of control.

Other ways to help prevent the spread of invasive species:

- Checking tires and boots of invasive plant seeds before going on roads or trails
- Purchasing weed-free forage for animals
- Gardening with native plants
- Minimizing soil disturbance whenever possible

