



Weed of the Month

Oxeye Daisy

Chrysanthemum leucanthemum syn. *Leucanthemum vulgare*

Provincial Designation: Noxious

Oxeye daisy has become a serious invader of pastures and natural areas throughout North America.

It is a perennial herb that reproduces both by seed and shallow rhizomes. Single plants quickly become patches that continually increase in size. Plants flower June-August and its seed germinates throughout the growing season.

Oxeye Daisy and the very similarly flowered Scentless Chamomile can be considered conspicuous, as there are no native white flowered daisies in Alberta.

Individual plants can produce over 500 flat, black seeds that are viable in the soil for 2-3 years or more. Seeds have no dormancy requirement and are viable upon dispersal.

The availability of closely related plants through the nursery and seed trade contradicts the perception of Oxeye as an invasive plant. Shasta daisy is a cultivar (originated from) of Oxeye and was originally sterile, but can revert back to being fertile.

Oxeye plants can be found sold through nurseries and as seed in wildflower mixes. The two plants can cross breed, resulting in an invasive hybrid that is difficult to distinguish from either parent. This fact makes public awareness critical to prevention and control. Do not purchase nursery plants or seed labeled as Oxeye daisy.

Consumers should carefully read the contents of so-called 'wildflower' seed mixes and avoid those containing invasive ornamentals. Healthy, fertilized grass pastures are resistant to invasion.



For control options and more invasive species information please contact Yellowhead County Agriculture Services in Wildwood at 1-800-814-3935.