

OX-EYE DAISY

Chrysanthemum leucanthemum

The ox-eye daisy is an invasive weed of Eurasian origin. Common in pastures, roadsides, and disturbed areas, this white and yellow daisy is classified as a noxious weed in Alberta. This daisy, and the similar-looking scentless chamomile (also a noxious weed), spread rapidly and invade native landscapes.



The ox-eye daisy is a perennial that spreads by seed and rhizomes. Elk and cattle find the ox-eye to be unpalatable, so they graze on adjacent vegetation instead. This preferential grazing gives the daisy a competitive advantage over native vegetation and pasture grasses.

Ox-eye are a particular problem in riparian areas as the river helps transport and disperse floating seeds from gardens and infestation sites. Each flower contains ~20,000 seeds. Huge quantities of herbicides are then used to stop the spread of these noxious weeds.

This summer the Biosphere Institute is engaging local communities in a herbicide-free ox-eye daisy removal program. The focus is on pulling plants along the banks of the Bow River. Residents are also encouraged to help stop the spread by removing ox-eye daisies from their own gardens and properties.



For more information about ox-eye daisy, or if you would like to come out and volunteer with our project, contact the Biosphere Institute.

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