Potential Invasive Plants
of the Little Bighorn Prairie

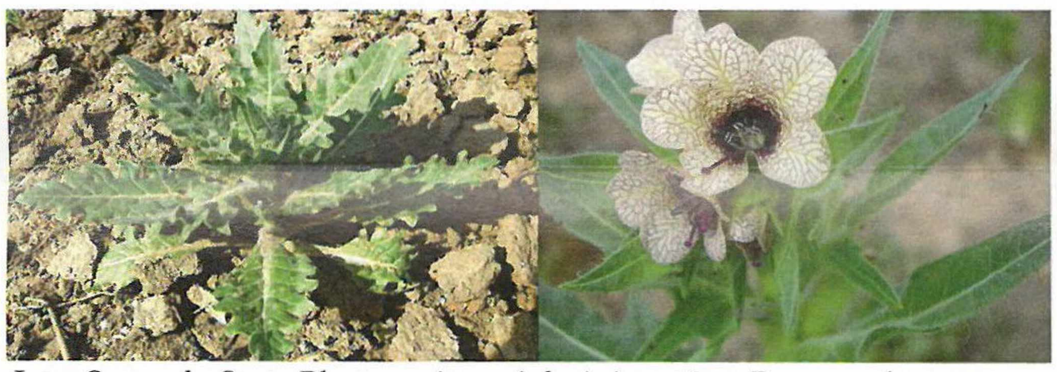
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Little Bighorn Battlefield
National Monument



Monument landscape photos by Bob Reece, Friends of the Little Bighorn Battlefield NM. Cactus flower photo by Katie Hester, NPS

We need your help to protect the battlefield! The upland grass prairie of Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument is relatively undisturbed since the Custer Battlefield was fenced in 1891 and the Reno-Benteen Battlefield in 1954. Despite efforts to protect and maintain a healthy prairie ecosystem, some non-native plant species have taken up residence in the park. In order to maintain native plant diversity, the monument has implemented an Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) strategy. The EDRR strategy means locating a potential non-native, invasive plant that is just beginning to invade a particular area and quickly treating the new infestation. This concept is fundamental to effective invasive plant management. Early identification and treatment makes successful control more likely, because it happens before the non-native plant becomes widespread. As a result, it helps to reduce treatment costs. In order to be most effective, EDRR relies upon a strong communication network and education of visitors and neighbors. If you observe a potential invader, please report it to monument staff. Thank you for your cooperation and participation in the EDRR strategy and in keeping the monument free of invasive plants.



Jane Smanek, State Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Mary Ellen (Mel) Harte, Bugwood.org

Black henbane
(*Hyoscyamus niger*)
Rosettes have deeply toothed leaves. Can grow up to 3 ft. The entire plant is covered with greasy hairs and the alternating leaves have a foul odor to them. Flowers are cream to green with a purple throat.



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

Dyer's woad
(*Isatis tinctoria*)
Rosette leaves have long stalk and are bluish green with white midrib. Yellow flowers on wiry multi-branching stem (1-4 ft. tall). Seed pods are flattened, tear-drop shaped, and hang from the end of the stems.



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org

Perennial pepperweed
(*Lepidium latifolium*)
Leaves are waxy, lanceolate, bright green to green-gray, entire to toothed with basal leaves larger than the upper leaves. White, flat, dense flowers cluster at the end of the stems.

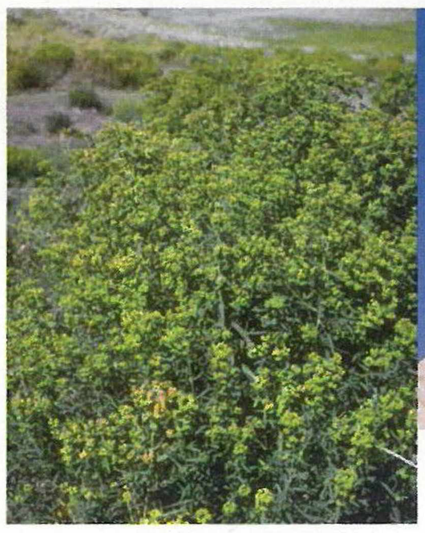


Utah State University Archive, Utah State University, Bugwood.org.
Insert: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org

Rush skeletonweed
(*Chondrilla juncea*)
Dandelion-like rosettes have sharply-lobed basal leaves. Small, yellow flowers form on the end of course, multi-branching stem. Reddish-brown, down-turned hairs are found near the base of the stem.

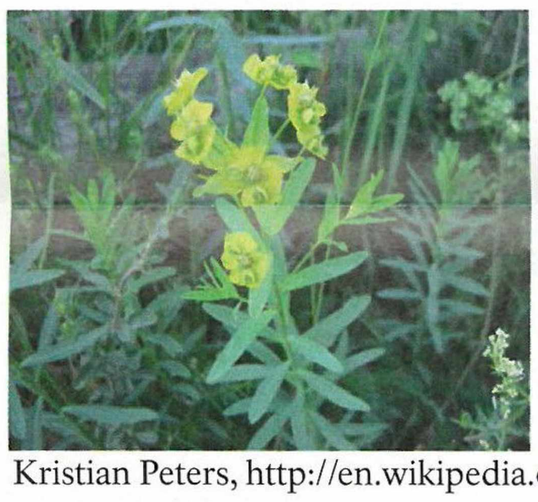




Norman E. Rees, USDA Agricultural Research Service-Retired, Bugwood.org

Richard Old, XID Services, Bugwood.org

Leafy spurge
(*Euphorbia esula*)
Leaves are alternate, small, narrow, and lanceolate. Flowers are yellow with basal pair of bright yellow-green petal-like bracts and form clusters at the end of the stems, which exude milky, latex juice when broken.



Kristian Peters, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leafy_Spurge



Michael Shepard, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.

Hawkweed complex
(*Hieracium* spp.)
Leaves are mostly basal. Flowers range from orange, red to yellow and have square-edged petals.



Richard Old, XID Services, Bugwood.org



UAF Cooperative Extension Archive, U of AK-Fairbanks, Bugwood.org



Richard Old, XID Services, Bugwood.org



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

Punctervine or Goathead
(*Tribulus terrestris*)
Low spreading stems. Leaves are opposite, hairy, and divided into oblong leaflets. Small, yellow flowers form singly into the axis of the leaves. Fruit is a circular spiny bur that can cause damage to bike tires and bare feet and be transported by vehicle tires and animal fur.



Montana Statewide Noxious Weeds Awareness and Education Program Archive, Montana State University, Bugwood.org



Ian Morrison, 1200 Weeds DVD

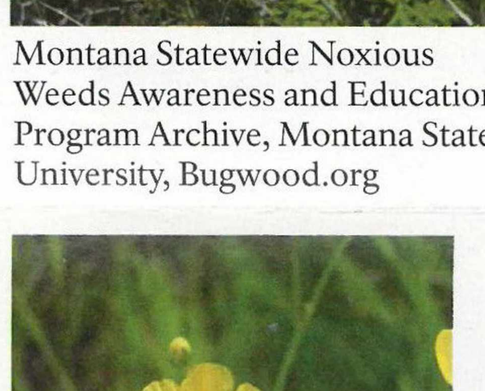


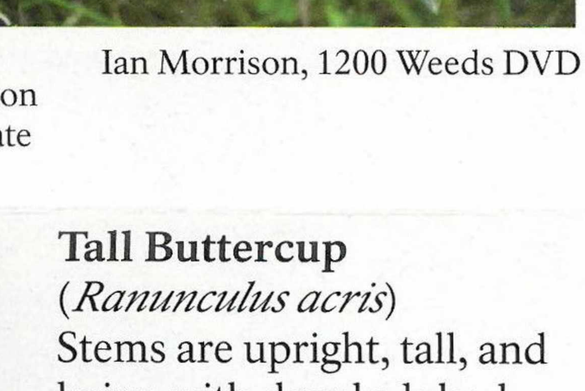
Robert Bielesch, http://www.callutheran.edu/cr/index.htm

Tall Buttercup
(*Ranunculus acris*)
Stems are upright, tall, and hairy, with deeply-lobed leaves below and branched above. Flowers have 5-7 glossy, yellow petals.

Richard Old, XID Services, Bugwood.org

Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



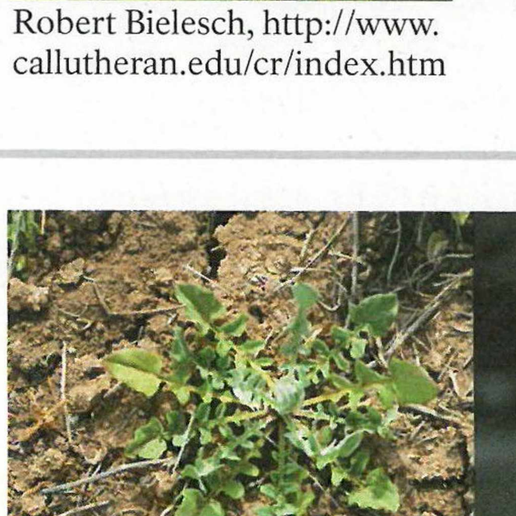


Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Michael Shephard, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Yellow toadflax
(*Linaria vulgaris*)
Leaves are bent along center rib and linear. Yellow/white, snapdragon-like flowers form in clusters at the end of the stem (1-2 ft. tall).



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

Yellow starthistle
(*Centaurea solstitialis*)
Rosette leaves are deeply lobed and have pointed tips. Yellow flowers have long spines around base.

Thank you to the Friends of the Little Bighorn Battlefield for supporting this educational brochure.