

Wednesday
October 1st,
2025

Weed Wednesday

Foothills County

Issue #12



Oxeye Daisy – Leucanthemum vulgare

Designation- Noxious

Oxeye Daisy is native to southern Europe and was first detected in Canada in 1862. It is a perennial that reproduces primarily through seed and a creeping root system. Oxeye daisies are adaptable and can grow in a wide variety of habitats including pasture and grasslands. It is an aggressive invader of disturbed areas with nutrient poor soils.

Oxeye daisy stems are smooth, typically unbranched and can grow up to 1 m tall. The lower leaves have a toothed margin and are lance shaped. These leaves are attached by a petiole. The leaf size decreases as you move up the stem. The upper leaves clasp the stem and are narrow with a wavy margin.



Leaves become
smaller as you move up
the stem.



Individual plants can produce up to 26,000 seeds and are viable in the soil for 2-3 years or more.

The flowers have white petals that surround a yellow central disk forming singly at the end of stems. Its flowers are very similar to scentless chamomiles, but the leaves are very different. Both plants are noxious weeds.

Before the plant produces seeds, hand-pulling or digging can be effective but will take multiple years of repeated efforts. Removing as much of the roots and rhizomes as possible is necessary for adequate control. Intensive cultivation easily kills oxeye daisies as it has a shallow root system.

Aminopyralid by itself or in tank mix with either Metsulfuron-methyl or 2,4-D are registered for use on oxeye daisy. Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant and don't hesitate to reach out to agricultural services for more information.

Oxeye daisy seeds may be in wildflower mixes. Check for species contained in the wildflower mixes to make sure you don't end up with an invasive species. Additionally, Shasta daisies were bred from oxeye daisies and can be invasive in the right conditions. Oxeye daisies can cross breed with Shasta daisies creating an invasive hybrid, that is extremely difficult to distinguish from either parent. There are no native white daisies in Alberta. Consider planting smooth fleabane, yarrow, alpine aster or pearly everlasting instead.

If you would like more information, please contact Kathleen at Kathleen.mchugh@foothillscountyab.ca or at 403-603-5409.

References- [N_FS-OxeyeDaisy.pdf](#)