



wildsight
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For Immediate Release **Ways to Take Action Against Invasive Plants**

Invasive plants pose a significant threat to our community's biodiversity. These weeds may seem innocuous, but they cause ecological and economic harm. You may have noticed some of these attractive weeds around town: Orange Hawkweed, Oxeye Daisy, and Western Goat's-beard. Soon these pretty flowers will turn into seeds and continue to spread throughout our community. Now is the time to act.

On an individual level, you can take action by learning more about the invasive plants present in our community. Wildsight Golden's Community Invasive Plants Program (CIPP) is supported by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS). The CSISS website is an excellent resource for landowners, trail users, and gardeners to learn about how they can prevent the spread of invasive plants in our region.

Locally, the CIPP coordinator, Evelyn Morett, will be at the Golden Farmer's Market on June 16, June 30, and July 21. Community members are invited to bring their invasive plants (or a photo of the weed) to Wildsight Golden's table at Farmers Market to learn more about invasive plant identification and non-toxic control methods.

Identification is the first step and weed management comes next. Wildsight Golden is encouraging community members to use mechanical and cultural methods to control invasive species.

Mechanical methods are non-chemical techniques used to limit growth and seed production. These manual methods include digging, hand-pulling, mowing, cutting, solarization, and tarping. Timing is critical when it comes to treating weeds mechanically. So too is plant identification, as certain mechanical methods can encourage vegetative growth (Common Tansy will respond to mowing in this way). Mechanical control is most effective when combined with cultural control.

One way to culturally manage invasive plants is to sow native plants to compete with the invasive species. With certain infestations, the removal of invasive plants results in areas of exposed ground. These disturbed areas are prime areas for invasive plants to grow, so it's important to revegetate the site with native ground cover.

On a community level, you can take action by joining Wildsight's 14th Community Weed Pull event. Like the years before, the 14th Community Weed Pull will take place along the Kicking



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Horse River. The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 26, from 9:00 am -12:00 pm. This family-friendly event is an excellent opportunity to learn more about invasive plants. Participants will learn about how to identify, control, and properly dispose of invasive plants.

Wildsight Golden will provide volunteers with tools, bags, and a complimentary lunch! To adhere to Covid-19 protocol, we ask that volunteers bring their water bottle, gardening gloves and maintain a 2-meter distance from others.

If you are interested in participating, please register by emailing wildsightweedprogram@gmail.com by Wednesday, June 23 or register at the Wildsight Golden table at Farmers' Market on Wednesday, June 16.