

U. Oxeye Daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)

Key Characteristics:

Oxeye daisy, a member of the Sunflower family, is native to Eurasia and was introduced to the West as an ornamental. Having escaped cultivation, this pretty little plant now crowds out important native vegetation in sensitive riparian ecosystems and has become an aggressive and difficult noxious weed. Ox-eye Daisy grows as an erect, rhizomatous perennial. **Showy blossoms** are a composite of white ray (outer) and yellow disk (inner) flowers, blossoming from June to August. **Lower leaves** are spoon-shaped and appear somewhat waxy; **upper leaves** are narrow and clasp the stem.



Locations:

Originally planted intentionally in Pitkin County in wildflower mixes, this escaped ornamental has spread throughout Pitkin County. Especially common in and around the Redstone area, it is beginning to dominate the Crystal River drainage area. It is also very common in the City of Aspen and Town of Snowmass Village, and can be found throughout Old Snowmass and Woody Creek as well. Alternatives to planting oxeye daisy include native daisies, black-eyed susan, shasta daisy, and blanket flower.

Biological control:

No known biological controls at this time.

Cultural control:

The key to oxeye daisy management is to create strong awareness among homeowners, nurseries, landscapers, and landscape architects that this is a noxious weed and therefore should not be specified in plantings, sold in nurseries, or planted in home gardens or large-scale landscape projects.

Mechanical control:

Repeated tillage or digging will eventually eliminate rhizomes.

Chemical control:

Contact Pitkin County Land Management Department for more specific information about herbicide products, application rates, and equipment calibration.



U. Oxeye Daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*) (continued)

Look-Alikes:

Oxeye Daisy is often confused with the non-native ornamental Shasta daisy (*Leucanthemum x superbum*). This confusion is often complicated by the fact that wildflower seed mixes labeled as containing Shasta daisy are often contaminated with Oxeye. Shasta is generally more robust than Oxeye and has larger flowers and foliage, as illustrated by the side-by-side comparison below. Both are prolific seed producers, but in contrast to Shasta daisy (which grows from a root ball) Oxeye has a creeping root system that further allows it to escape cultivation and become quickly and substantially established neighboring wildlands.

