

Noxious Weeds

CRE spends thousands of dollars each year to try and eradicate the noxious weeds Mullein and Thistle from our common areas. Homeowners are responsible for controlling these weeds on their property and we need your help in this effort. Both weeds are biennial, meaning that the first year of life they are in a rosette, vegetative stage and in the second year they bolt up, flowering and producing tens of thousands of seeds and then typically die. ***Do not allow these weeds to flower and go to seed as they will become the gift that keeps on giving for years to come!***



Mullein Rosset



Mullein Flower Stalk



Thistle Rosset



Thistle Flower Stalk

Common Mullein:

Flowering usually occurs in June and July and the flower stalk can be 2 to 8 feet tall. Each plant produces up to 240,000 seeds that remain in the soil for decades.

Thistle:

Germination and new growth are constantly occurring from March thru October and each plant can produce tens of thousands of seeds. This makes thistles one of the most stubborn weeds, so it will likely take several growing seasons to completely get rid of them.

Eradication Methods:

Tree's Lawn Service at 720-532-6712 is an available option to have your weeds removed. They handle our community lawns and at times the invasive weeds in our common areas.

DIY Options:

Slicing the weeds out at ground level during any stage of growth will kill them. If they are already flowering and going to seed, place them in a plastic bag and dispose of them. If you just leave them on the ground, they will still go to seed and you will have a bigger mess on your hands.

Herbicide application during the spring rosette to bud/bolt stage is effective. Selective herbicide that only target these broad leaf weeds are a good option. Be careful with Roundup as it will also kill the native grasses leaving a bare spot. Robust native grasses minimize the future germination of existing seeds. Anywhere these weeds have been allowed to go to seed in the past will remain a problem area for years to come as the seeds will keep springing up all season long, year after year. Therefore, it will take numerous seasons of work to get such spots under control.

Effective Herbicides:

Read labels and use caution as several of these selective herbicides may damage or kill desired trees or shrubs. Recommended selective herbicides (available at Murdoc's):

1. **WeedMaster** – *excellent on Mullen & Thistle*
2. **De-Amine 4** - *excellent on Thistle, less effective on Mullen and is about ½ the price*

The longer herbicides contact the foliage and stems, the longer they have to work their magic on the unwanted plant. Surfactants (a wetting agent) should be added to the herbicide to help it cling to the plant longer; especially when treating Mullen as its waxy leaves tend to shed the fluid:

- a. **Activator 90** (available at Murdoc's) is a good choice.
- b. If nothing else is readily available add 1 tablespoon of household dish detergent to 1 gallon of herbicide to be used. Add the soap to the herbicide before adding the water and stir gently to keep the soap from sudsing.