

# OXEYE DAISY

## *Leucanthemum vulgare* Lam.

**Family:** Asteraceae (Sunflower).

**Other Scientific Names:** *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*.

**Other Common Names:** White daisy.

**Legal Status:** Regional Noxious: Cariboo, North Okanagan, Peace River, Thompson-Nicola.



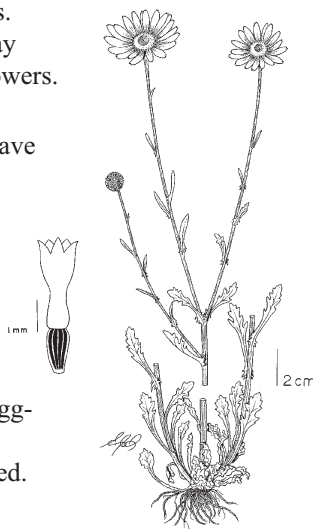
**Growth form:** Short-lived perennial forb.

**Flower:** Flowering heads are solitary at the ends of branches.

Flower heads have white ray flowers and yellow disk flowers.

**Seeds/Fruit:** Fruits are cylindrical and black and have about 10 ribs.

**Leaves:** Alternately arranged leaves become progressively smaller upward along the stem. Basal and lower stem leaves are 4–15 cm long, lance-shaped to narrowly egg-shaped. The upper leaves become stalkless and toothed.



**Stems:** Mature plants are 20–80 cm tall with erect, smooth to sparsely hairy stems.

**Roots:** The plants have shallow, branched rhizomes.

**Seedling:** No information available.

### Similar Species

**Exotics:** Oxeye daisy is sometimes confused with the ornamental Shasta daisy (*Chrysanthemum maximum*), a more robust plant with larger flowers. Scentless chamomile (*Matricaria maritima*) and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) also have white ligulate flowers with yellow tubules (Frankton and Mulligan 1970).

**Natives:** None known.



## Impacts

**Agricultural:** The plant is unpalatable to cattle. Dense infestations can reduce forage for livestock and wildlife. Oxeye daisy is of major concern as a contaminant in Peace River fine seed production.

**Ecological:** Oxeye daisy can become noxious and is capable of dominating pastures and rangeland (Rutledge and McLendon. Undated).

**Human:** No information available.

## Habitat and Ecology

**General requirements:** Often grows along roadsides and in fields and disturbed areas on moist to moderately dry sites. It is often present on disturbed forest sites such as landing and skid trails in BC.

**Distribution:** Occurs at low- to mid-elevations in grasslands and dry to moist forests. It is common throughout the province south of 56°N (Douglas et al. 1998). It is widely distributed throughout Canada and the US. This species is regarded as a major concern in the Okanagan, Thompson, Cariboo, Omineca, and

Peace River agricultural reporting regions and is present in the Kootenay, Mainland, and Vancouver Island regions.

**Historical:** Introduced from Eurasia.

**Life cycle:** Rosettes must experience a period of cold temperatures to initiate flowering (Rutledge and McLendon. Undated). Flowering occurs from June through August, depending on location. The plant grows vigorously in nutrient-poor soils (Olson and Wallander 1999).

**Mode of reproduction:** By seeds and vegetatively from roots.

**Seed production:** Some plants produce over 500 seeds.

**Seed bank:** Seeds can remain viable in the soil 2–3 years or longer (Rutledge and McLendon. Undated).

**Dispersal:** No information available.

**Hybridization:** No information available.

## Management

**Biocontrol:** None.

**Mechanical:** Hand-pulling or digging before seed production. However, for this method to be successful it is important to remove as much of the underground part as possible.

**Fire:** No information available.

**Herbicides:** Picloram, dicamba, 2,4-D, and glyphosate are effective herbicides. Consult the most recent edition of BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Crop Production Guides for specific recommendations.

**Before applying herbicides, read the label for full use and precautionary instructions.**

**Cultural/Preventive:** Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed

dispersal, eliminating seed production, and maintaining healthy native communities.

### Integrated Management Summary

Integrated treatments should include a combination of nitrogen fertilization and herbicide treatment. Sheep or goats have been effective in selectively grazing oxeye daisy without adversely affecting the desirable species, but this approach may not be practical in most places where the plant grows in BC.

## References

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