

What to do if you find Paterson's curse...

- This is a priority noxious weed! Please report sites to the Oregon Department of Agriculture immediately!
- Do not use wild flower mixes that contain Paterson's curse.
- Prevent the spread by thoroughly cleaning boots, pets, livestock, or equipment of mud and debris that can carry seeds.

Don't let Paterson's curse get a foothold in Oregon!

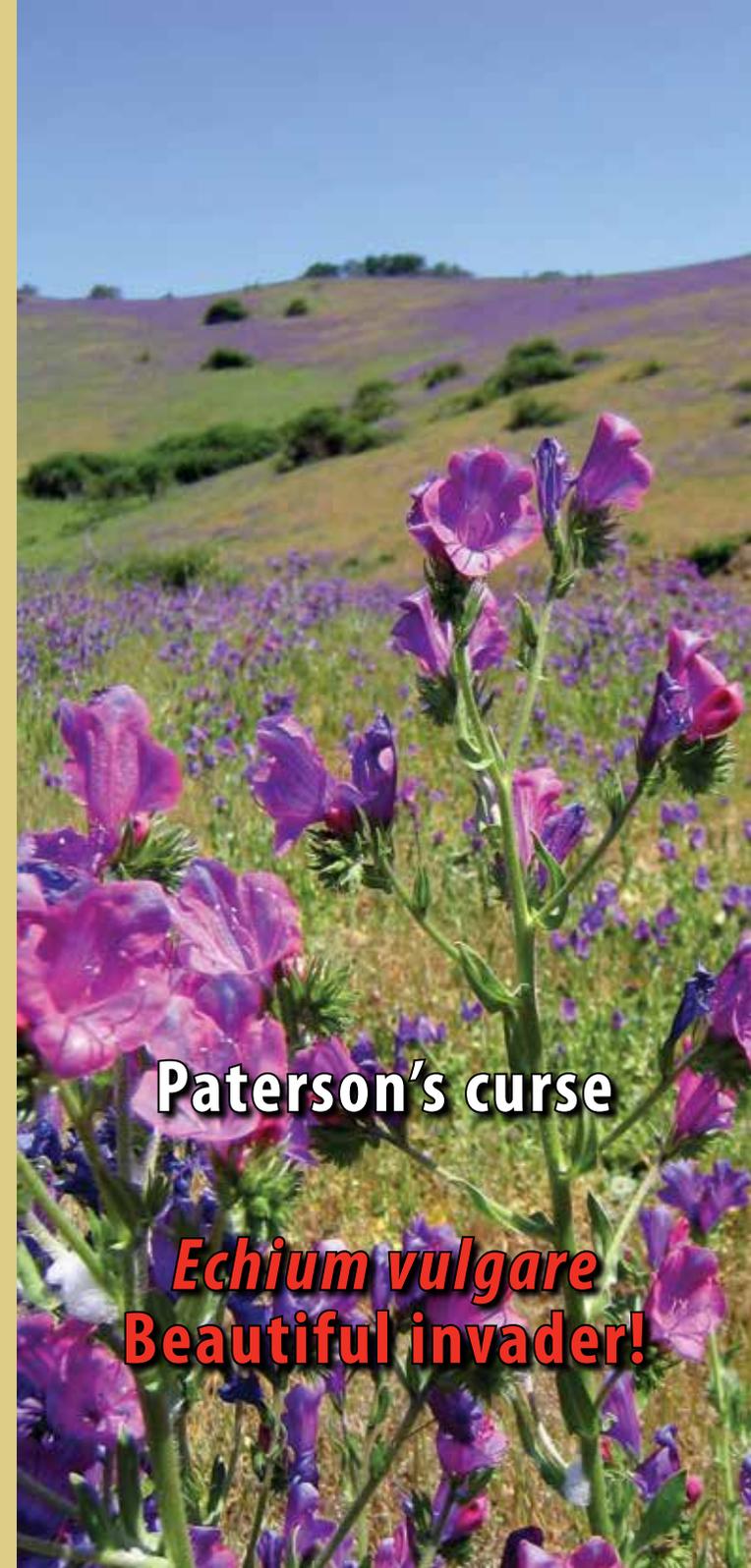
**Report suspect
sites to**

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Noxious Weed Control Program
503-986-4621
or call

1-866-INVADER

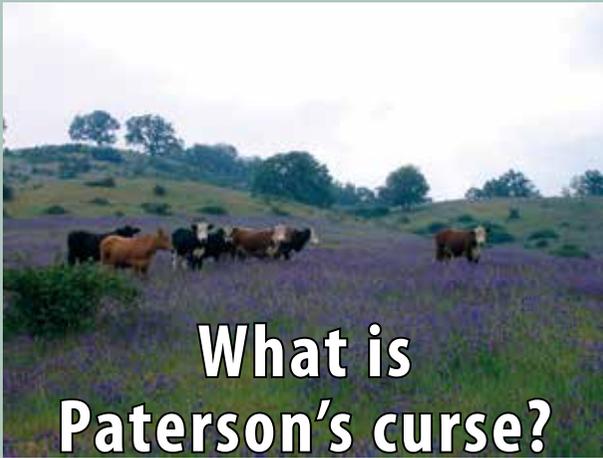


**Oregon Department
of Agriculture**
Plant Division
Noxious Weed Control Program
695 Capitol St. NE
Salem OR 97301-2532



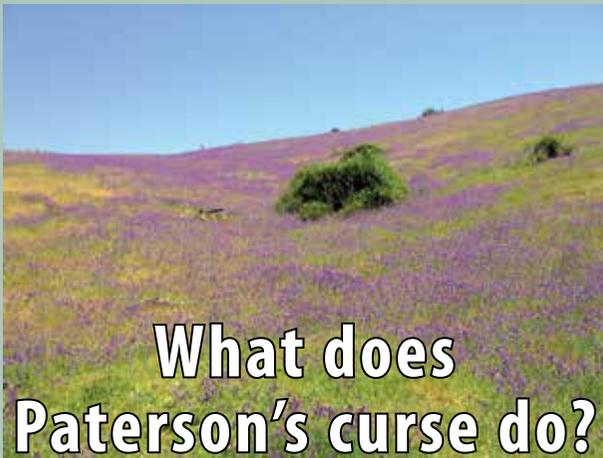
Paterson's curse

***Echium vulgare*
Beautiful invader!**



What is Paterson's curse?

Paterson's curse is documented in Linn and Douglas counties in Oregon. Both infestations are under intensive treatment. Native to Mediterranean Europe and Africa, it is now widespread in temperate zones throughout the world where it has been introduced as an ornamental. Paterson's curse has become one of Australia's worst weeds.



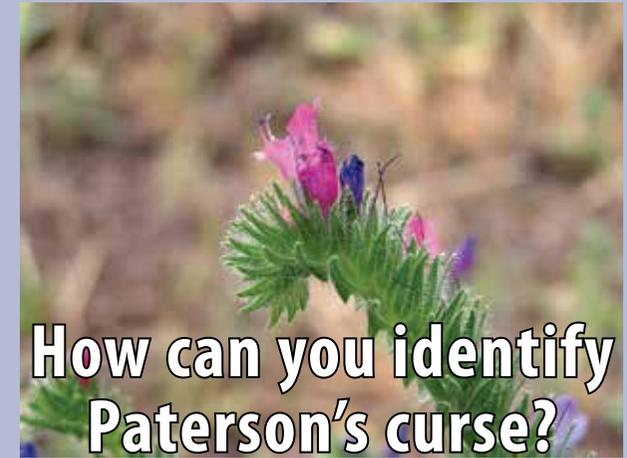
What does Paterson's curse do?

Paterson's curse is poisonous to livestock and a threat to natural areas. Prolific seed production enables rapid spread. Paterson's curse can form solid stands and displace pasture and desirable plants. It reduces yields and is a contaminant of hay and seed crops. Fine bristly hairs cause hay fever or asthma like symptoms.



How does Paterson's curse spread?

Reproduces and spreads by seed which attaches to fur and clothing. Used in wildflower seed mixes and may be spread by unaware gardeners. Tolerant of both wet and dry sites, it is especially adapted to drought conditions and is able to take advantage of limited moisture to produce rapid growth.



How can you identify Paterson's curse?

Paterson's curse is an erect 1-3 feet tall annual or biennial herb. Plants are often multi-branched with fuzzy appearance; an abundance of stout bristly hairs cover the leaves and stems. Flower heads are curled in the shape of a fiddleneck. Flowers have five petals, most often blue-purple in color turning to pink when mature.

Distribution in Oregon



- Widespread
- Historical site
- Limited
- Not known to occur

<http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT>
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Photographs: Tom Forney and Ken French, Oregon Department of Agriculture. Prepared by Noxious Weed control Program, ODA. Funded by Oregon Department of Agriculture. Contact 503-986-4621 for more information.

