

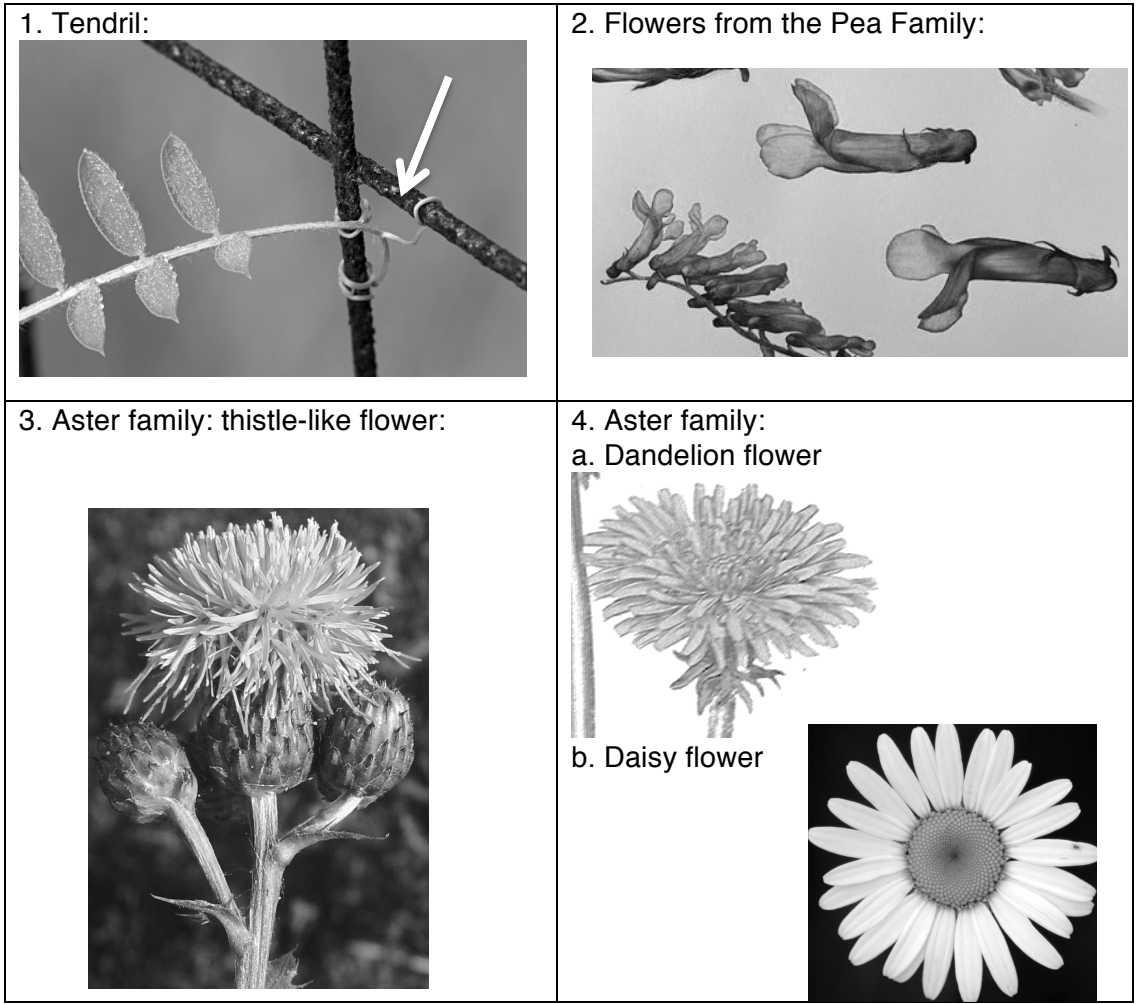
A Dichotomous Key to the 10 Nastiest Invasive Plants in the Yukon

Read each couplet (e.g. 1a and 1b) fully before making a decision. Figures 1- 4 at the end of the key will help you. Use the *glossary of botanical terms* provided for unknown terms.

- 1a. Plants with tendrils (see Figure 1) at the tips of its highly- dissected leaves. Clusters of small purple flowers cover the tops of stems. Each little flower looks like a tube with lips and wings (Pea family) (Figure 2).....***Bird Vetch***
- 1b. Plants that do not have the above characteristics.....go to 2.
- 2a. Leaves are entire, elongated and slender and have no hairs, teeth or spines. Under each group of unusual tiny green flowers are 2 lime green leafy bracts.....***Leafy Spurge***
- 2b. Plants that do not have the above characteristics.....3.
- 3a. Purple thistle-shaped flowers (Figure 3) which consist of groups of elongated purple petals bunched into a tight, cone-shaped cluster of hairy or spiny green bracts. Leaves with or without prickles.....4.
- 3b. Flowers yellow, orange or white; like dandelion or daisy flowers (Aster family)-
See (Figure 4).....Skip to 5.
- 4a. Leaves are highly dissected, hairy, but not spiny or prickly.....***Spotted Knapweed***
- 4b. Leaves are elongated, not dissected but with lobed edges and sharp spines that are painful when touched. Flowers smell sweet.....***Creeping Thistle***
- 5a. Clusters of flowers look like yellow buttons, with no big petals, each button up to 1 cm wide.
Leaves are feathery, fern-like and highly dissected.....***Common Tansy***
- 5b. Daisy or dandelion-like flowers, yellow, orange or white. Leaves of various shapes and sizes.....6.
- 6a. Daisy-like flowers with white petals and yellow centres.....7.
- 6b. Orange or yellow dandelion-like flowers of various sizes.....Skip to 8.
- 7a. Leaves thin, fine and feathery, like dill leaves; many flowers on each stem...
...***Scentless Chamomile***
- 7b. Leaves are broader, with rounded teeth on their edges.....***Oxeye Daisy***
- 8a. Dandelion-like flowers with fiery-sunset orange petals; a few flowers clustered at the top of a long stem; almost all leaves are basal leaves and have stiff long hairs on them...
.....***Orange Hawkweed***
- 8b. Dandelion-like flowers with yellow petals.....9.

- 9a. Flowers are large, between 2-5 cm wide; leaves grow all the way up the stem; leaves are lobed and have prickles on their margins/ edges; the base of each leaf wraps around the stem.....**Perennial Sow Thistle**
- 9b. Flowers are small, less than 1cm wide, with the leafy bracts underneath them covered in black hairs; almost all leaves are basal leaves.....**Tall Hawkweed**

Figures for the Key:



A short glossary of botanical terms (for the invasive species key)

- basal leaves: leaves lie flat on the ground at the base of the plant, not growing up the stem.
- bracts: leaf-like structures that grow immediately below flowers (often enclosing flower buds).
- dissected: in leaves,
- entire: in leaves, the outer edges of the blades are completely smooth with no jagged teeth
- tendril: a modified leaf that can wrap around any plant or structure to help the plant cling and gain strength for upward growth.