Despite all the weeds currently infesting Douglas County, there are literally hundreds of new weeds lurking on its borders. The weeds on this poster are of particular concern because they are known to spread rapidly, cause damage to desirable habitats and be difficult to control. The best approach for these weeds is early detection and rapid response. This involves diligent monitoring for new invasions and prompt action to eliminate them. The maps are shaded to provide current abundance information for each species:

- Not Known
- Rare
- Common
Common St. Johnswort (Hypericum perforatum): Perennial. I.D.: Up to 4 feet tall; stems have downward-turned prickles; leaves grow in a basal rosette for the first year; rosette leaves look wrinkled and have prominent veins and spines on the midrib; stem leaves lance-shaped and have fused bases; flowers purple with spine-like bractlets; bracts at the base of flower heads are larger than the flower head. Other: Often found along irrigation ditches, moist habitats and disturbed sites.

Dalmatian toadflax (Linaria dalmatica): Perennial. I.D.: Up to 4 feet tall; stem and leaves smooth and waxy; leaves alternate, dense, lance- to heart-shaped, have smooth margins and are blue-green; leaves clasp the stem; flowers yellow, sometimes with an orange-bearded throat and a long spur; look like snapdragons. Other: Often infests rangelands, waste areas and roadways; may be toxic to livestock if ingested in large quantities.

Eurasian watermilfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum): Perennial. I.D.: Aquatic weed up to 12 feet long; submersed; branched near water surface; growing points often reddish; breaks into fragments easily; leaves green to brown, pinnately divided with more than 14 pairs of narrow, opposite leaflets; flowers pink and small, each with a small, bract-like leaf; stem often bends to become parallel with the water surface after flowering. Other: Most common in still or slow-moving water but can sometimes be found in fast-moving rivers, streams and irrigation ditches.

Giant reed (Arundo donax): Perennial. I.D.: Grass, up to 25 feet tall; stem semi-wiry, inflexible, hollow except at nodes; resembles bamboo; leaves alternate, blade is flat, margins are rough; leaf base is lobed, clasps the stem and is fringed with long hairs; light brown to purple flower plume-like with numerous fine branches. Other: Grows best in moist soils; historically planted to reduce erosion and sometimes planted today as an ornamental.

Houndstongue (Cynoglossum officinale): Biennial (sometimes annual or perennial). I.D.: Up to 4 feet tall; stem covered with long hairs; leaves alternate, lance-shaped, with a rough texture and covered with long hairs; lower leaves have petioles; leaves decrease in size from bottom to top of plant; flowers purplish-red with five petals and occur in clusters; seeds turn brown when mature and are covered with short prickles that can attach to clothing or animal fur. Other: Grows best in moist areas; often found in pastures, roadways, fence lines, waste areas and along waterways; toxic to livestock, especially horses; has a distinctive odor that may cause animals to avoid it.

Meadow knapweed (Centaurea debeaouxi): Perennial. I.D.: Up to 3.5 feet tall; lower leaves larger than upper leaves; flowers pink to purplish-red; bracts are fringed and light brown to dark brown. Other: Often found on roadways, in waste areas, fields and pastures.

Weed Impacts
All weeds impact their environment by replacing desired vegetation and reducing forage availability and habitat quality. Impacts for specific weeds are stated when they are more severe. (e.g., they are toxic to animals).

Weed Management
Weed management decisions are dependent on habitat and surrounding vegetation, and are not listed in this publication. For those recommendations, please reference the Nevada Noxious Weed Field Guide (http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2010/sp1001.pdf) or the Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook (http://uspést.org/pnw/weeds).

Contact
If you have seen these weeds, contact your local University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, BLM, USFS or conservation district office: http://www.unce.unr.edu/contact/personnel.

References:

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