

BOULDER COUNTY INVASIVE PLANTS 2021 YEARLY REPORT

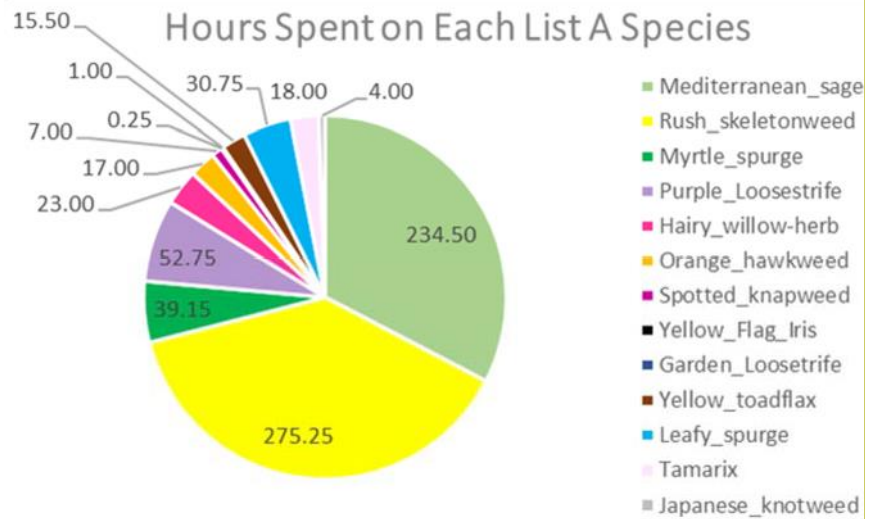
Boulder County weed management will minimize the occurrence of weeds and associated negative impacts on native plant communities, agricultural lands, and public corridors within Boulder County. Utilizing an integrated weed management approach, we strive to prevent the introduction of new invasive plant species, eradicate isolated or limited populations, and contain and manage weed species that are well established within the county



LIST A WORK

In the 2021 season, 718 worker hours were spent controlling List A species. This number is a decrease from the 1,128 hours spent in 2020. The decrease is a result of a reduced number of seasonal employees and a decrease observed in some List A species populations.

Despite the decrease, a major effort to prevent the spread of Rush Skeletonweed into the Cal-Wood burn scar was undertaken. These populations were visited once a week for the entire growing season. Additionally, the continued effort to visit every known Mediterranean Sage site was completed, thanks to help from various collaborations. The large area infested with this species makes treatment time consuming every year, and future volunteer projects will be utilized for assistance. Furthermore, most of the known populations of List A species were visited, and three watch list species were detected and treated this year. Those species include Yellow Flag Iris, Garden Loosestrife and Tree of Heaven.



LIST A NEWS

- New Yellow Toadflax locations were found and treated, including Rogers, Walden Ponds, and Heil Valley Ranch.
- A dramatic decrease in Orange Hawkweed numbers was found, but further scouting is needed.
- A large population of Tamarix at Walden ponds was removed.
- Newly located watch list species were treated immediately and will be monitored closely in coming years.
- There was an increase in Hairy Willow-herb awareness, control, and scouting.
- The first known appearance of Garden Loosestrife in Boulder County was reported and treated.

List A and Watch list Species

Plants Removed

Mediterranean Sage	15,716
Rush Skeletonweed	52,364
Myrtle Spurge	5,499
Purple Loosestrife	1,151
Hairy Willow-herb	92*
Orange Hawkweed	433
Spotted Knapweed	0*
Yellow Flag Iris	3
Garden Loosestrife	150
Yellow Toadflax	0*
Leafy Spurge	40*
Tamarix	306
Japanese Knotweed	54
Totals	75,808

*These species are not counted due to their growing habits

TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE



Parks and Open Space Work

Betasso Preserve: Rejuvra surrounding main trailhead, and control around homestead structures

Caribou: Oxeye daisy and Canada Thistle control in main meadow and Sherwood Gulch

Carolyn Holmberg Preserve: Touch up and extension of Teasel control in Buffalo Gulch and Rock Creek drainage and trail maintenance

Hall Ranch: Kochia control in parking lot area

Heil Valley Ranch: Rejuvra along road for Cheatgrass and Knapweed control and bare ground trail system

Pella Crossing: Canada thistle control along banks and Russian Olive removal project

Walden Ponds: Continued work on Curly Dock, Knapweed, Teasel, and Canada Thistle project from last season

Walker Ranch: Continued Knapweed and Cheatgrass control around caretaker's house and trail systems

Totals

- 12,047.54 acres were treated or scouted
- 702.79 acres were mechanically treated
- 187.96 acres of herbicide applied
- 104 open space properties were visited

TRAIL WORK

33.3 miles of trail were treated in 2021

Work was done on these trails:

Betasso Link, Coalton Trail, Cradleboard Trail, East Boulder Trail, Grindstone Quarry Trail, Heatherwood Trail, Josie Heath Trail, LoBo Trail, Mary Miller Trail, Mayhoffer Singletree Trail, Meadowlark Trail, Meyers Homestead Trail, North Rim Trail, Open Sky Loop, Overbrook Trail, Overland Trail, Walden Ponds Trail, Walker Ranch Loop

Invasive Trees Removed

Tree of Heaven	13
Russian olive	442
Tamarix	306



REJUVRA

Helping Restore Native Ecosystems

Acres Treated by Application Type

Application Type	2021	Total All Years
Aerial	1,060	2,827
Tractor Booms	362	



Before

After



DATA COLLECTED

- Species richness and density
- Rare plant population counts
- Presence /absence of native flora
- Browse quality and abundance
- Deer abundance and usage
- Pollinator usage
- Biomass
- Bird usage