

# 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  
Invasive Noxious Weed  
Control Program  
503-986-4621  
or call

**1-866-INVADER**



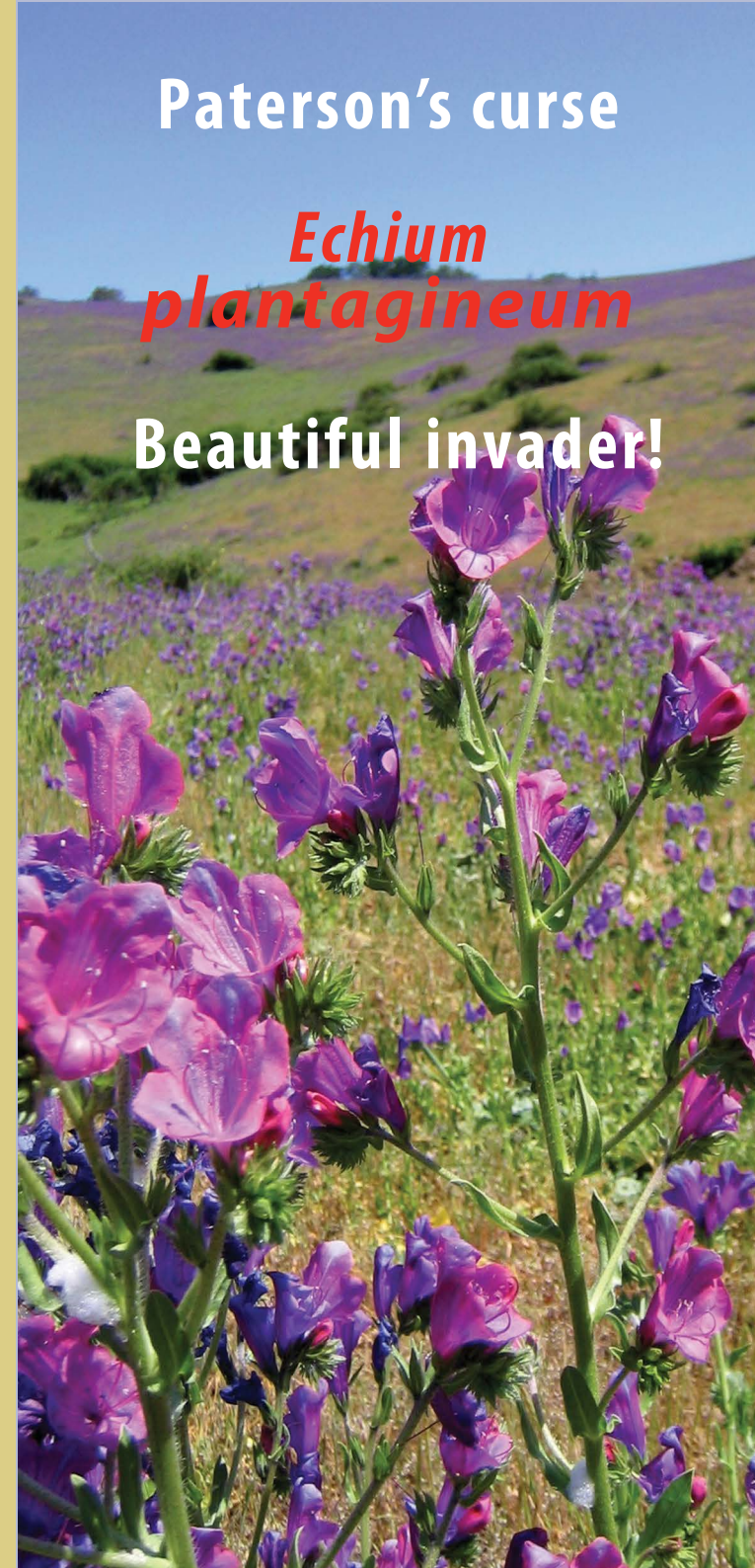
**Oregon**  
Department  
of Agriculture

Plant Protection & Conservation Programs  
Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program  
635 Capitol St. NE  
Salem OR 97301-2532

# Paterson's curse

## *Echium plantagineum*

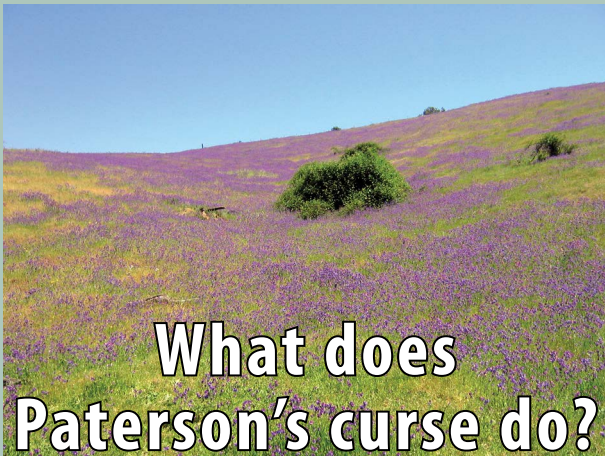
### Beautiful invader!





## 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.



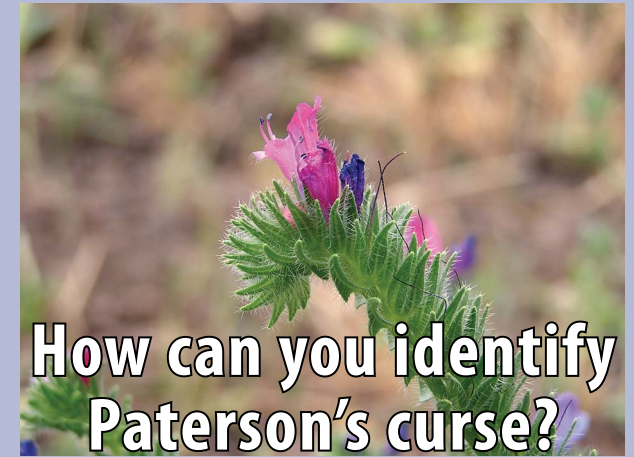
## What does Paterson's curse do?

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?

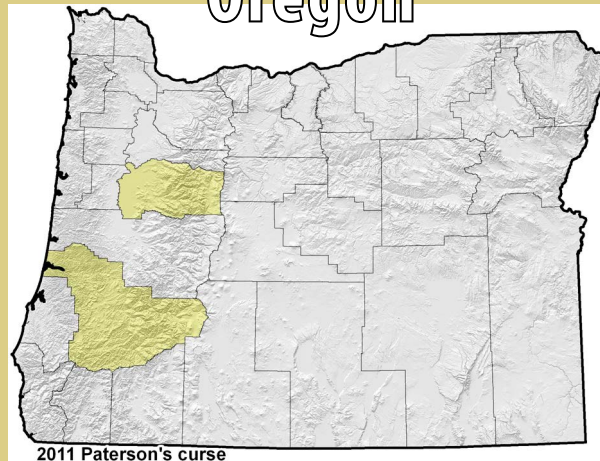
Reproduces and spreads by seed which attaches to fur and clothing. Used in wildflower seed mixes and may be spread by unaware gardeners. Tolerant of both wet and dry sites, it is especially adapted to drought conditions and is able to take advantage of limited moisture to produce rapid growth.



## How can you identify Paterson's curse?

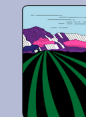
Paterson's curse is an erect 1-3 feet tall annual or biennial herb. Plants are often multi-branched with fuzzy appearance; an abundance of stout bristly hairs cover the leaves and stems. Flower heads are curled in the shape of a fiddleneck. Flowers have five petals, most often blue-purple in color turning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

## Distribution in Oregon



2011 Paterson's curse

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



**Oregon**  
Department  
of Agriculture

**Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program**  
[www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds)  
Photo credits: Tom Forney and  
Ken French, Oregon Department of Agriculture.  
Contact 1-866-invader for more information  
5/2024