

Grecian Foxglove is in Your Community

Native to central and southern Europe, Grecian foxglove is an herbaceous perennial plant that was brought to North America as an ornamental and escaped cultivation. It contains compounds that are toxic to humans, livestock, and wildlife, making it a threat to the residents of Minnesota.

Impacts of Grecian Foxglove on Your Community

Both fresh and dried plant parts are toxic. Though Grecian foxglove displaces forage and native vegetation, the greatest concern is the potentially lethal threat of human and livestock poisoning. The basal rosettes may be mistaken for lettuce or other leafy greens, and have been found growing in a homeowner's vegetable garden.

Grecian foxglove forms a basal rosette in its first year and flowers in its second and subsequent years. The basal rosette has dark green, narrow shaped leaves with a pointed tip; leaves on the second year plant are narrow and up to 6" long. The plant produces creamy white, tubular flowers with purple venation on a stem two to five feet tall. Both the flowering stems and undersides of the leaves have woolly hairs.

Grecian Foxglove Eradication

In 2013, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture together with the University of Minnesota Extension and Conservation Corps Minnesota, received funding to begin a statewide project on public and private lands for outreach, survey and control of Grecian foxglove. The goal of this project is to protect public and private land by eradicating Grecian foxglove before it proliferates and becomes widespread throughout the state. This project is supported by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Grecian foxglove is a prohibited noxious weed on the eradicate list, which means that all of the above and below ground parts of the plant must be destroyed, as required by law. Additionally, no transportation, propagation, or sale of these plants is allowed. It is recognized that some of the larger infestations would be very difficult for individual landowners to control. Our project aims to help these landowners with initial control of extensive infestations to reduce infestations to manageable levels.

What to do if you suspect you found Grecian Foxglove

To report infestations of Grecian foxglove, please do the following:

- Note the exact location.
- If it is possible, take digital photos of the leaves, vines, and fruit that can be emailed for identification.

Contact the Minnesota Department of Agriculture by email at arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us, or voice mail 888-545-6684.

To learn more about the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Noxious and Invasive Weed Program and the Noxious Weed Law and Lists, please visit: www.mda.state.mn.us/weedcontrol



Grecian foxglove plant



Grecian foxglove plant



Grecian foxglove seed pods



Grecian foxglove flowers



Grecian foxglove rosette



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-627-3529. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.