

# Oxeye Daisy

## *Leucanthemum vulgare*



**Common Name:** Oxeye Daisy

**Scientific Name:** *Leucanthemum vulgare*

**Family:** Asteraceae

### Description

Oxeye Daisy is a shallow-rooted perennial daisy. It has large white flowers with yellow centers. Although it is listed as an invasive weed in 8 states and 4 provinces, it is still sold as a garden plant, including here in Yukon, and is commonly included in “wild flower mixes”. It is particularly problematic in BC and SE Alaska.



Photo: Andrea Altherr

### Range in Yukon

Oxeye Daisy has been found along roadsides and in the communities of Dawson, Watson Lake, Whitehorse, Haines Junction, along the Alaska Highway at Johnson's Crossing, Morley and Rancheria rivers, and along the Haines road and Mount Lorne community.

### Similar Species

Shasta Daisy (*Leucanthemum maximum*) is a cousin to the Oxeye Daisy that grows 15-30 cm taller and has larger flowers. The invasiveness of Shasta Daisy is subject to more research. The two daisy species are suspected to hybridize. Scentless Chamomile (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*) is an invasive annual or biennial large daisy-like plant which can be separated by its thin dill-like leaves and fibrous roots. It has been reported from scattered locations throughout southern Yukon where it is known to persist.

### Ecological Impact

Oxeye Daisy can form dense colonies and replace up to 50% of grass species in a pasture. Grazing animals avoid it. Dense infestations increase the potential for soil erosion.

### Control

Perennial plants require depletion of nutrient reserves in the root system, prevention of seed production and prevention of dispersal. Put plants into clear garbage bags and then leave them in the sun to kill off the roots and roast the seeds.