

Thistles

They're Not All Bad !!



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The Term NOXIOUS WEED Is A Legal Term Indicating...

- A plant species that is not indigenous to New Mexico and that has been targeted pursuant to New Mexico's Noxious Weed Management Act of 1998 for management or control because of its negative impact on the economy or the environment.

New Mexico's Noxious Weed List

- Class A Weeds: Not currently in NM or limited distribution.
- Class B Weeds: Limited to a particular area in NM.
- Class C Weeds: Widespread throughout NM.



State Noxious Weed List

- Updated Sept 2016
- Contains 48 Species



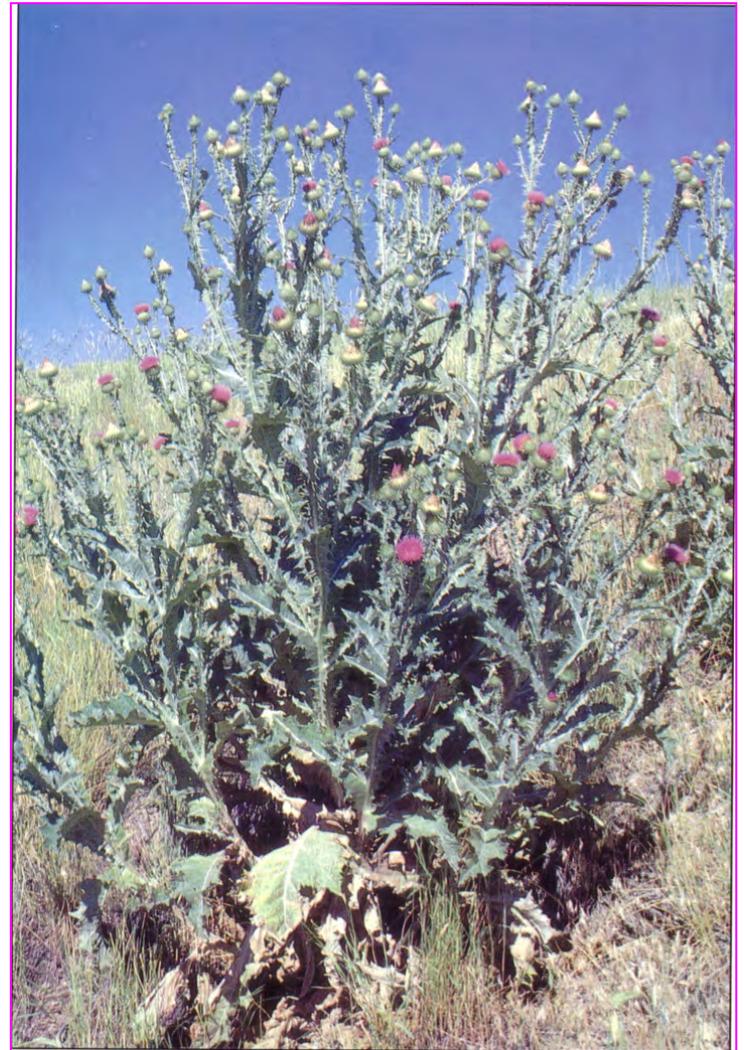


Classification of Weeds Based on Their Life Cycle

- **Biennial Weeds** – complete their life cycle in two years.
- These plants come up from seed, produce a rosette the first year, go through the winter (overwinter) as a rosette. During the second growing season, the plant produces a stem, flowers, seed, then dies.
- The **KEY** to control: **DO NOT ALLOW THE PLANT TO SET SEED!**

Scotch Thistle

- Biannual
- Up to 12 ft tall
- Large spiny leaves
- Flower heads are numerous
- Covered with dense hair



Scotch Thistle

- Stems have broad spiny wings
- Blue green color



Scotch Thistle 7/86
CDF/IPC- J.P. Clark



Scotch Thistle 7/77
CDF/IPC- J.P. Clark



Musk Thistle



- A biennial.
 - Reproduces only from seed.
- Produces up to 20,000 seeds per plant.
 - Seeds viable in the soil 8 to 10 years.
- Will not tolerate tillage.
- Apply chemical to rosettes in the spring or fall.
- Key to management success: Prevent seed formation!



Bull Thistle

- Biennial.
- Highly competitive.
- Can sever roots below ground to kill plants.
- Chemical control works best at rosette stage.
- Prevent seed set!









Classification of Weeds Based on Their Life Cycle

- **Perennial Weeds** – come back year after year from the same vegetative reproductive root systems or stolons (runners).
 1. Simple perennial – non-branching root system.
Example: dandelion
 2. Creeping perennial – branching root system.
Example: field bindweed
- **Management must strive to kill the root system while not allowing the plant to produce seed.**

Canada Thistle

- Creeping perennial with an extensive root system.
- Spreads by seed or by the root system.
- Best managed by combination of mechanical and chemical treatment.



- Produces flower heads in clusters
- Individual heads (0.5 in. in diameter, 0.5-1.5 in. long) are oval to bell-shaped.



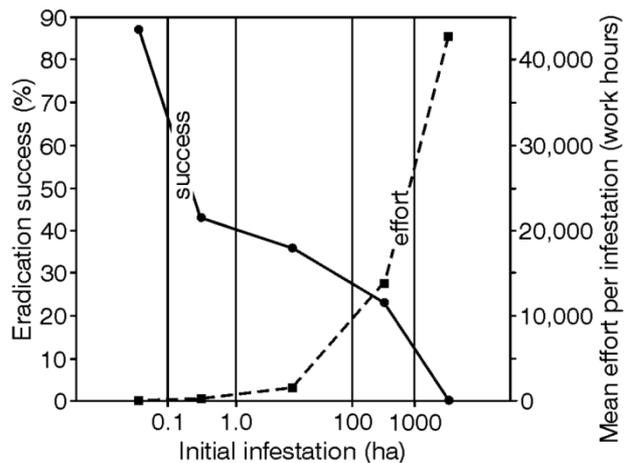




Vegetative System Dynamics

What is Your Objective?

- Obviously You Want to Kill the Weed



Short Term vs Long term Objectives



Short Term vs Long term Objectives



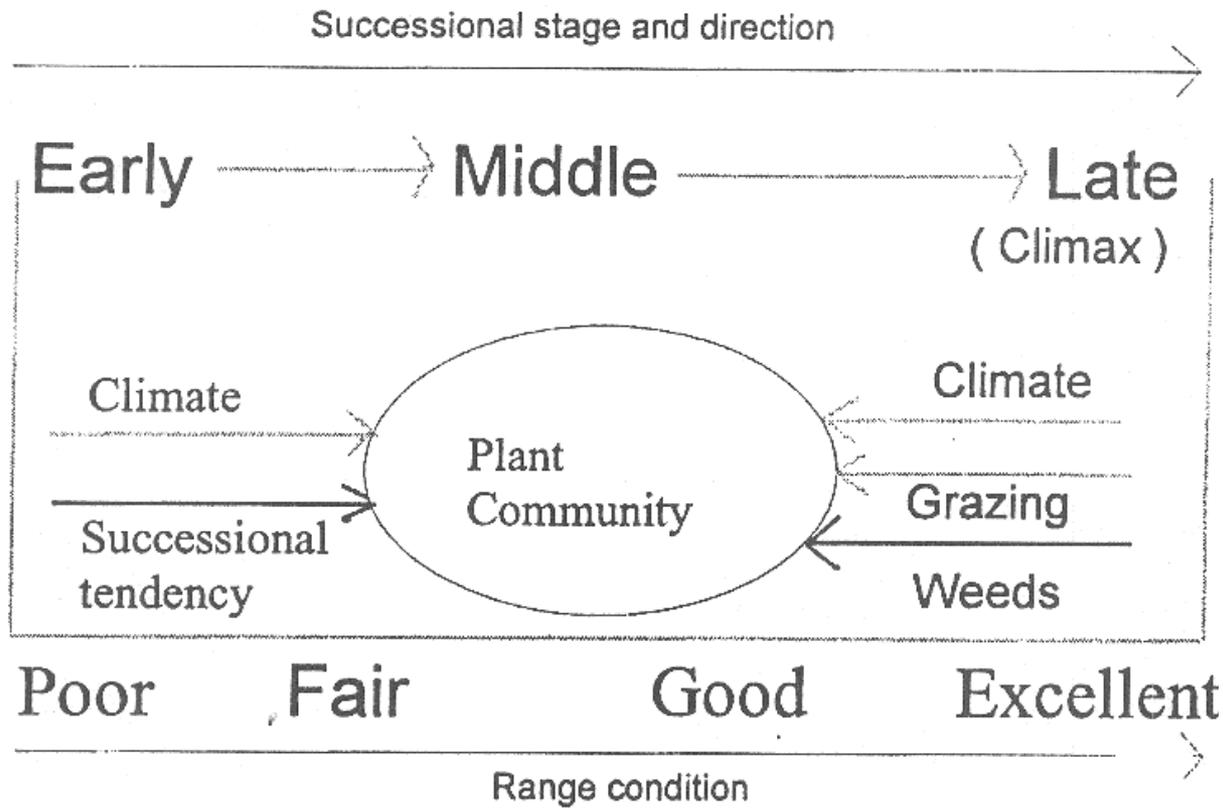
Plants out compete other plants for available sites. **The system is dynamic, not static.**



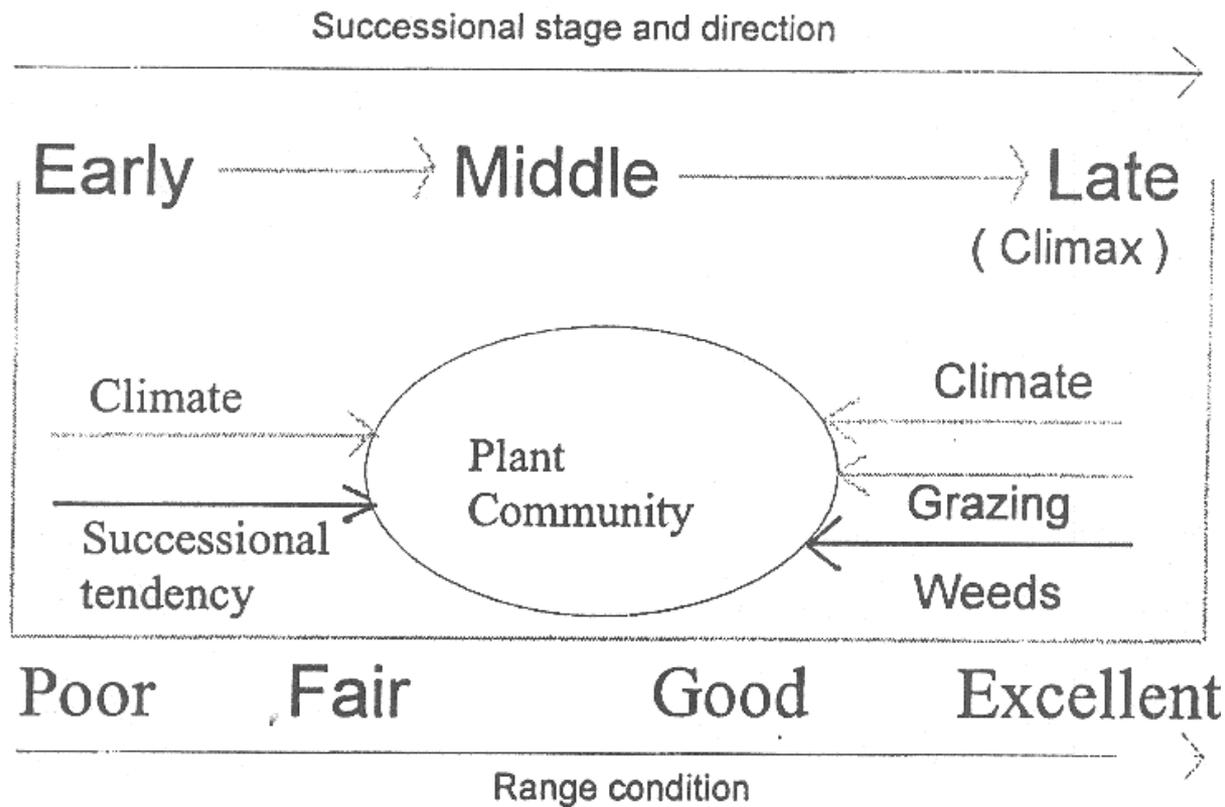
Long Term Objectives Require an Understanding of Vegetation Dynamics



Succession



Noxious weeds are so aggressive they throw this successional system into disorder. The only component in this model that can shift the plant community in a desirable direction is successional tendency





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