

**Plant:** Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)

**Identification:** Yellow starthistle is a winter annual that can grow to 4 feet tall. It has yellow flowers, with needle-like bracts that can cause injury to animals and humans. It is also poisonous to livestock. It has a taproot that can reach depths of 6 feet. It reproduces by seed, which is encased in a hard shell that has plumes. Seeds can drop straight to the ground as well as travel with wind. There is only a couple of confirmed sightings in Twin Falls County.

**Defense:** Mechanical control can be very effective by cutting the root well below the surface with a shovel, and removing the plant. The needle-like bracts on the seed heads WILL penetrate even leather gloves. Early spring or fall treatments with herbicides are effective with chemicals such as Milestone, Opensight, and Tordon 22k (A Restricted Use product). There are no effective biological control insects at this time.

**Always read and understand the label of the pesticide you are using. The label is the law.**

**Please contact this office if you see this plant.**

