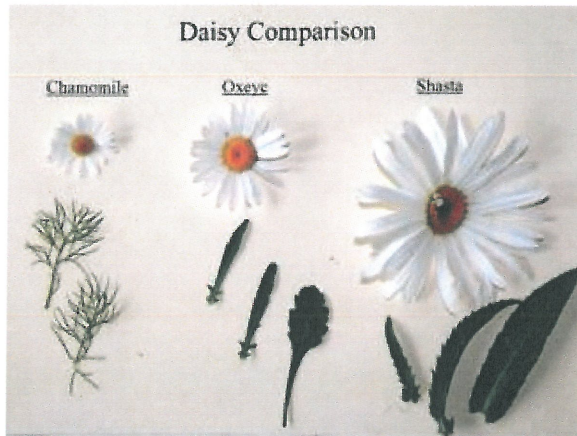


# A Summit County daisy epidemic



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While the forest devastation caused by the pine beetle is painfully obvious to the visitors and locals of Summit County, we have another attack under way that is manageable with the effort and consideration of everyone who cares about our beautiful county.

The amount of chamomile daisies blooming in the county is almost out of control. This is an invasive species that thrives on disturbed soil and takes away from our natural wildflowers and vegetation. A big bunch can have as many as one million seeds! These seeds can remain viable on the ground for up to 20 years. Chamomile is an annual, so it reproduces almost solely by seed. It is never too late to either pull or clip off the seed heads and bag them. Another alternative would be to clip/bag and pull and leave the plant sans head. The other up-front method is to either pull before they head up or mow them to keep them from developing a seed head.

The sad thing is that so many people do their part, but if we all don't do our part it is hard to be successful. There can be no boundaries. With the removal of dead trees for pine-beetle mitigation, further soils will be disturbed, providing further opportunity for the infestation and spread of this noxious weed. Now is the optimum time to remove as many plants as possible from your yards, businesses and roadside areas. We are all here because of the beauty of our surroundings - please help preserve and make a difference.

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Further questions can be addressed to Lisa Taylor, Summit County Weed Coordinator, (970) 668-4218; Jessi Miller, Forest Service Noxious Weed Technician at (970) 262-3499; Christiane Hinterman at the Dillon Ranger District Headquarters, or resident noxious weed volunteer John Taylor at (970) 262-5940.

Gail Shears is a volunteer with Friends of the Dillon Ranger District.