

Common St. Johnswort

Colorado Department of
Agriculture

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Key ID Points

Identification and Management



Identification and Impacts

Common St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*) is a perennial forb native to Europe and frequently found in the Pacific Northwest. Common St. Johnswort grows to a height of 1 to 3 feet tall, with multiple branched stems. The stems are erect, ridged, rust colored, and woody at the base. The elliptical to oblong shaped leaves are no longer than 1 inch, covered with clear dots, and are opposite of each other on the stems. The flowers are bright yellow and about 3/4 of an inch in diameter. They appear in showy terminal clusters, have five petals and numerous visible stamens. Rust-brown seed pods are formed after flowering. Seed pods are about 1/4 inch in length and contain numerous amounts of seeds. One plant can produce up to 100,000 seeds per year. The root system consist of a large taproot and fibrous roots near the surface. The plant reproduces by seeds or short runners.

Habitats for Common St. Johnswort include disturbed sites, railroad right-of-ways, roadsides, rangeland, meadows, dry pastures, and open woodlands. It

prefers sandy, dry soils, and full sun. If not monitored, it will infest healthy plant communities. The weed is toxic to white-haired animals. Animals will exhibit a skin irritation which is associated to sunlight. Animals will not die if the plant is ingested, but will show signs of weight loss.

The key to effective control of Common St. Johnswort is preventing the establishment of plant communities. Using an integrated weed management approach will assist in the control of Common St. Johnswort. Using a combination of mechanical, chemical and biological treatment options proves to be a effective in controlling this plant. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

Common St. Johnswort is designated as a "List C" species on the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local jurisdictions managing this species. For more information, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.



Photos © From bottom left; Colorado State University Extension - Adams County; (Next 2) Steven Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org; Kelly Uhing, Colorado Department of Agriculture; Carlos DiSalvo, USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org

Hypericum perforatum



CULTURAL

Preventing the establishment of Common St. Johnswort, by planting desirable grasses and forbs will assist in control efforts. For specific seed recommendations contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Services for seed mixes.



BIOLOGICAL

There are many different forms of biological control available to assist in control of Common St. Johnswort. Currently there is not any available for use in Colorado. For more information, contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916 for more information.



MECHANICAL

Hand pull or dig when soil is moist, multiple times to remove all of the plants. Bag specimens carefully so as not to scatter seeds and remove from the sight. If left at the sight plants can regenerate vegetatively. The key to effective control is to prevent seed production and/or spread.

Integrated Weed Management:

Preventing the establishment of Common St. Johnswort, is the key method to control plant populations. Using a combination of cultural, biological, chemical, and mechanical treatments will help in control this plants population.

HERBICIDES

NOTE: The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gal/acre. Please read label for exact rates. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!

HERBICIDE	RATE	APPLICATION TIMING
Aminopyralid (Milestone)	5-7 oz/acre or 1 teaspoon/gal water	Spring to actively growing to early growth stage. Add non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32oz/gal water or 1qt/100 gal water.
Metsufuron (Cimarron)	1.0 oz/acre	Apply in spring to young activeley growing stages. Add non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1qt/100 gal water.
Picloram (Tordon 22K *this is a Restricted Use Pesticide*)	2-4 pts/acre	Apply to actively growing plants to pre-bud stages. DO NOT apply near trees/shrubs/ high water tables
2,4-D Amine	2-4 pts/acre	Apply in spring to early growth to flower bud stage.

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