

TALL BUTTERCUP

Ranunculus acris



CONTROL

Hand Pulling

Hand pulling can be an effective method of control for small infestations of tall buttercup. Care must be taken to remove all the rootstock as plants can re-sprout from root fragments left on site. Pulled plants should be removed from the site in plastic bags and burned in order to prevent seed production on site.

Mowing

Mowing should only be used in instances where it will increase the vigor and competitiveness of desirable species that are present on the site. Mowing prior to seed set has shown some success in pastures invaded by buttercup. Timing and frequency of mowing must be balanced to promote the competitiveness of desired species.

Biological control

N/A

Grazing

Grazing has been shown to increase the density of tall buttercup infestations and is not a recommended method

Ideal Timing for Treatment Options

Spring	Summer	Fall
Foliar		
Foliar		
	Grazing	
	Foliar	

of control. Be sure to rotate livestock in areas of recent buttercup removal as the trampling of livestock may promote vegetative reproduction. (Do not do in spring).

Herbicide

There are many herbicides that have been used successfully on tall buttercup in Western Montana. The herbicide chart on the back lists approved controls for tall buttercup. Always consult product labels and read them carefully to ensure correct species/land management usage and chemical application.



Tall Buttercup Life Cycle

Life Cycle	Root	Leaves	Stems	Flower	Seed/Fruit	Toxic
Perennial	Hairy, fibrous, and occasionally with rhizomes	Hairy leaves deeply lobed (nearly to the base) into four to five segments with each segment lobed again. Leaves decrease in size toward stem top. Upper stem leaves more deeply lobed than bottom leaves.	Up to 3 feet tall, branched and hairy.	Glossy yellow flowers in clusters, ¾ to 1 inch in diameter with greenish center.	Disc-shaped, reddish-brown with short hook.	Horses, cattle, sheep, goats

Herbicides for Tall Buttercup, *Ranunculus acris*

Active Ingredient	Rate	Efficacy	Comments
Triclopyr + 2,4-D	1 oz/acre	Early summer	Adding 0.25% to 0.5% of a suitable surfactant to Garlon 3A improves results. No surfactant is needed with Garlon 4 or Remedy. Use the higher rates on larger plants and on solid stands of old plants.
Aminopyralid	5-7 fl oz/acre	Early summer or fall	Best to apply in leafy stage prior to flowering stem development. Do not allow drift to desirable vegetation. Many forbs (desirable broadleaf plants) can be seriously injured or killed.
Chlorsulfuron	1 oz/acre	Rosette to bud stages	Consult label for surfactant.
Dicamba	2 quarts/acre	Apply to growing plant before flowering	Do not apply to shallow groundwater areas. Avoid desirable broadleaf plants. See label for timing restrictions for animals that are lactating or made for slaughter.

Information on diagnostic identifying characteristics adapted from "Montana's Noxious Weeds" by Pokorny and Mangold, Montana State University Extension Bulletin EB0159.