

ST. JOHNSWORT

Hypericum perforatum



CONTROL

Hand Pulling

Hand pulling can be effective on small infestations if done consistently and persistently over the course of several years. Depletion of the seed bank is necessary for the complete eradication of the infestation.

Mowing

Mowing is not an effective method of control for St. Johnswort, though if done prior to flower it will reduce the amount of seeds produced that season.

Biological control

There have been five insects released as biocontrols for St. Johnswort in the U.S., and they have been very effective at reducing large infestations. Most of the insects prefer open, sunny, warm areas. Contact the Missoula County Weed District for assistance with choosing the appropriate species, monitoring and/or additional releases.

Grazing

Grazing is not a recommended method of control for St. Johnswort due to the potential for livestock poisoning.

Ideal Timing for Treatment Options

Spring	Summer	Fall
Hand-pulling		
Foliar spray		Foliar spray
	Biocontrol	

Herbicide

There are a number of herbicides that can be used to control infestations of St. Johnswort. The herbicide chart on the back lists approved controls for St. Johnswort. Always consult product labels and read them carefully to ensure correct species/land management usage and chemical application.



St. Johnswort Life Cycle

Life Cycle	Root	Leaves	Stems	Flower	Seed/Fruit	Toxic
Perennial	Taproot and lateral roots	Oval-shaped leaves up to 1 inch long are opposite, lack stalks and teeth, are darker green on surface, and have rolled edges and tiny transparent dots on the surface.	1 to 5 feet tall, reddish with black dots (glands), erect, with 2 opposite longitudinal ridges. Branching near the top.	Numerous 5-petaled yellow flowers form flat-topped clusters at the end of branches. Up to 1 inch in diameter. Black dots along the petal edges.	Rust-colored seed pods are ¼ inch long and contain numerous seeds in three-pointed capsules.	Horses, cattle, sheep

Herbicides for St. Johnswort, *Hypericum perforatum*

Active Ingredient	Rate	Efficacy	Comments
2,4-D	6-19 oz/acre	Most effective when applied pre flower stage	Avoid drift to sensitive crops, repeat applications as needed
metsulfuron	1 oz/ acre	Apply after weeds emerge	Use surfactant to increase effectiveness. Apply to non-crop sites
picloram	1-2 pints/ acre	Most effective when applied pre flower stage	Do not use near surface water, shallow ground water, landscaped areas and current/future vegetable gardens
aminopyralid	5-7 oz /acre	Most effective when applied pre flower stage	Can be applied to water's edge, do not apply to landscaped areas nor current/future vegetable gardens

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