KOCHIA (*Bassia scoparia)*

Family: Chenopodiaceae (Goosefoot) Life Cycle: Annual

Class: B - Control Required AKA: Burning bush, Mexican fireweed

Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board · www.SpokaneCounty.org/WeedBoard
509-477-5777 · 222 N Havana St, Spokane WA 99202 · @spokanenoxiousweeds

KOCHIA

- May become a tumbleweed when plant dies
- Gray-green foliage covered in soft hairs
- Inconspicuous petal-less flowers
- Has been used for erosion control and bioremediation of contaminated sites
- Native to Eurasia

CONTROL METHODS

Mechanical: Hand pulling and digging effective on small infestations.

Repeated mowing can reduce seed production.

Shallow tilling controls emerged plants but may expose buried seed, creating a flush of new germination. Repeat tilling if new plants emerge.

Cultural: Promote competitive desirable vegetation. Perennial grass communities may inhibit kochia establishment. Minimize bare ground exposure where seeds may quickly gain a foothold. Reseed disturbed areas.

Biological: There are currently no biological agents approved for release in Washington State.

Chemical*: Use a surfactant; hairy leaves make it difficult for spray to stick. See table below for recommendations.

DESCRIPTION

Growth Traits: Bushy, upright, branching annual plant growing up to five feet tall and several feet in diameter. Deeply taprooted. Inconspicuous flowers. Plant may break away when dead and become a tumbleweed. Seedlings are frost tolerant.

Leaves and Stems: Leaves are narrow to lance shaped, with smooth edges. Leaves are alternately arranged with soft hairs on edges and undersides. Stems are upright, branched, with hairs on upper stems. Stems may be tinged red, especially later in fall.

Flowers: Blooms July - September. Flowers green and inconspicuous, lacking petals. Flowers found on spikes at upper leaf axils and on end of branches.

Roots and Reproduction: Deep taproot and some lateral fibrous roots. Reproduces only by seed; a plant may produce over 14,000 seeds. Seed dispersal range is increased when dead kochia plants break away from roots and become tumbleweeds. Seeds wedge-shaped and brown. Seeds have short life in soil, with very few remaining viable after two years.

Habitat: Highly adaptable, but best adapted to arid to semi-arid regions. Commonly found on roadsides, waste areas, railroads, pastures, rangelands, fallowed cropland and more.

Toxicity: Toxic to livestock in large quantities. Contains nitrates, potassium oxalate and other toxins that cause digestive tract problems.

***ALWAYS read herbicide labels and follow instructions for use and PPE.** The use of a surfactant (aka sticker) increases the efficacy of herbicide application, saving you time and money. If treating over multiple seasons, rotate using herbicides with different modes of action to reduce likelihood of herbicide resistance developing. Below are recommended herbicides based on stage of growth and time of year. All recommendations are supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Noxious Weed Board is implied. Trade names are used to simplify recommendations.

NOTE: There is no 'magic bullet' in noxious weed control, and control efforts must be repeated every season to stop their spread. Using a combination of methods (e.g. cultural and chemical) will lead to better control over time.

April - May Rosette, Seedling Stage	**June - July** Bolting, Bud, Bloom Stage	**August - October** Seeding, Fall Regrowth Stage
Method + Telar	Telar	PasturePro
WeedMaster	Trimec	Vista + 2,4-D
Trimec	Vista	WeedMaster
Vista	Roundup (spot spray)	Roundup (spot spray)
PasturePro		