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HERB-ROBERT (*Gernaium robertianum*)

Family: Geraniaceae (Geranium)

Life Cycle: Annual or Biennial

Class: B Designate - Control Required

AKA: Robert geranium, stinky Bob

HERB-ROBERT

- Strong unpleasant odor when crushed
- Can outcompete native understory species
- Escaped ornamental plant
- Native to Europe, Asia, Northern Africa

CONTROL METHODS

Mechanical: Due to the shallow root system, herb-Robert is easily pulled or killed by hoeing. Pulled plants can regrow if not disposed of properly. Monitor site throughout season to catch newly germinated plants. Shallow tilling is also likely effective, but most sites where herb-Robert grows are not conducive to tillage.

Cultural: Prevent soil disturbance and establish or support desirable competitive vegetation to reduce potential for invasion. Clean equipment and boots before moving to new sites to prevent spreading seeds.

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

Chemical*: Most effective on young actively growing plants. See table below for recommendations.

DESCRIPTION

Growth Traits: Winter or spring annual to biennial with shallow weak root system. May grow to one foot tall, but typically smaller in our area. Usually found in spreading groups in understory environments.

Leaves and Stems: Leaves deeply dissected, giving them somewhat fern-like appearance. Foliage light green, turning red in the fall. Stems upright, spreading, and hairy. Sticky oils on foliage give plant pungent odor.

Flowers: Blooms May - July, multiple flushes of germination can lead to flowering into the fall. Flowers have five pink rounded petals with white veins. Flower stalks typically have two flowers.

Roots and Reproduction: Shallow, weak fibrous root system. Reproduces only by seed. Seeds develop in capsules. When capsules dry, they eject seeds up to twenty feet from the parent plant. Seeds may remain viable for six years or more in soil. Seeds are sticky, and can be dispersed farther by animals and people.

Habitat: Thrives in somewhat moist understory habitats, but widely adaptable and may be found growing in rocky outcrops. In understory habitats it outcompetes other herbaceous plants. Can be found in forests, along trails, farmland, landscaped areas, and along roadsides.

Toxicity: Not known to be toxic. Has been used in traditional medicine.

***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 Growth
Roundup (spot spray)	Roundup (spot spray)	Roundup (spot spray, fall growth)
2,4-D	2,4-D	2,4-D (fall growth)
Garlon	Garlon	Garlon