ABSINTH WORMWOOD (*Artemisia absinthium)*

Family: Asteraceae (Aster)	Life Cycle: Perennial
Class: Weed of Concern - Control Recommended	AKA: Common wormwood, wormwood sage

Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board · www.SpokaneCounty.org/WeedBoard
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ABSINTH WORMWOOD

- Has been used in traditional medicine
- Escaped cultivation as an ornamental plant
- Strong sage smell when leaves brushed against or bruised
- Dies to the ground each winter
- Native to Eurasia

CONTROL METHODS

Mechanical: Hand pulling or digging on small infestations can be effective if all roots are removed. Monitor through growing season for new germination. Mowing can reduce seed production if done before flowering begins, and is repeated throughout the growing season. Repeated tilling can prevent wormwood establishment in croplands.

Cultural: Proper stocking rates and rotational grazing can maintain grasslands and pastures, and prevent invasion by wormwood. Reseed disturbed areas to establish desirable vegetation and prevent the spread of absinth wormwood.

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

Chemical*: Most effective when plant is actively growing and under twelve inches tall. Use a surfactant. See recommendation in table below.

DESCRIPTION

Growth Traits: Herbaceous perennial with strong sage odor. Can grow over three feet tall and sprawl to a few feet in diameter. Bushy upright branching stems die back and become woody in the winter. Flowers small. Re-sprouts from root crown each spring. Plant covered in fine hair making it appear gray-green.

Leaves and Stems: Leaves are divided into deeply lobed leaflets. Leaves grow smaller going up the stem. Stems branch and become woody as they age. Leaves and stems covered in silky gray hairs.

Flowers: Blooms July - September. Flowers are fairly inconspicuous, small, yellow and have no petal-like structures. Many flower heads are produced at upper leaf nodes.

Roots and Reproduction: Fibrous root system. Plant reproduces via prolific seed production and by short roots. Seedlings may emerge from late spring to early fall. Seeds remain viable for three to four years in the soil seed bank.

Habitat: Will grow in dry or moist soil. Readily invades pasture, no-till cropland, fencerows, vacant lots and waste areas. Overgrazed pasture is particularly susceptible to invasion, due to selective grazing of other vegetation.

Toxicity: Toxic to humans. While it has been used in traditional medicine, ingesting any part of the plant is not advised. Livestock tend to avoid the pungent plant.

***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
WeedMaster	WeedMaster	Banvel
Milestone	Milestone	
Transline		
Prescott		