COMMON ST. JOHNSWORT (*Hypericum perforatum*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family: Hypericaceae</th>
<th>Life Cycle: Perennial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class: Weed of Concern - Control Recommended</td>
<td>AKA: Klamath weed, common goatweed, tipton weed</td>
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Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board · www.SpokaneCounty.org/WeedBoard  
509-477-5777 · 222 N Havana St, Spokane WA 99202 · @spokanenoxiousweeds
COMMON ST. JOHNSWORT

- Used for centuries in traditional medicine
- Leaves have see-through dots that are visible when held up to light
- May be confused with common tansy or tansy ragwort due to color and bloom time
- Native to Europe, Asia, North Africa

CONTROL METHODS

**Mechanical:** Hand-pulling only effective on young, small infestations. Ensure all roots removed and monitor for regrowth. Repeated mowing may reduce seed production, but can encourage vegetative spreading. Repeated tilling can be effective in croplands.

**Cultural:** Support or establish desirable competitive vegetation in disturbed areas to reduce chance of invasion. Do not allow overgrazing. Clean all clothing, equipment and animals before leaving an infested site to prevent unintentional spreading to new sites. Burning has not been shown to be effective.

**Biological:** A moth (*Aplocera plagiata*) and a root boring beetle (*Agrilus hyperici*) are established in eastern Washington. The larvae feed on leaves and roots of plants.

**Chemical*:** Most effective on young plants before blooming. Recommendations below.

*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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April - May</th>
<th>June - July</th>
<th>August - October</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosette, Seedling Stage</td>
<td>Bolting, Bud, Bloom Stage</td>
<td>Seeding, Fall Regrowth Stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,4-D</td>
<td>Escort</td>
<td>Tordon + 2,4-D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WeedMaster</td>
<td>Tordon + 2,4-D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milestone</td>
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DESCRIPTION

**Growth Traits:** Tap-rooted rhizomatous perennial with one to many stems per rootstock. Typically one to three feet tall, but may reach five feet tall in ideal conditions. Branching stems end in clusters of many yellow flowers.

**Leaves and Stems:** Leaves oppositely arranged on stems, lance-shaped, and have pointed tips. Spotted with translucent or purplish black spots. Spots visible when held up to light. Stems are smooth, woody, reddish, and branch near the top. In winter and early spring dense infestations can be seen clearly as masses of woody red stems.

**Flowers:** Blooms June - July. Flowers star-like with five bright yellow petals. Many flowers bloom in clusters at the ends of branches. Flowers have tiny black dots on edges of petals.

**Roots and Reproduction:** Tap-rooted with spreading rhizomes. Spreads by seed and vegetatively by creeping rhizomes. May produce over 15,000 seeds per plant, which may remain viable for over 30 years in the soil seed bank.

**Habitat:** Prefers sandy well-draining soils. Spreads rapidly in disturbed sites such as roadsides, grasslands, over-grazed rangeland, forest clearings, waste areas and trails.

**Toxicity:** Toxic to humans and livestock. Poisonous at all stages and can cause photosensitization in livestock. Though used in traditional medicine, reactions to the plant vary by person and can interact dangerously with other medications.