

# Mediterranean Sage



**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Salvia aethiopsis*

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?** Mediterranean Sage has a basal rosette of large 4-12 inch leaves with an irregular toothed margin. A single, square shaped, branched flowering stem bolts up 2-3 feet tall and is tipped with whorls of 4-6 white or yellowish flowers. The flowers have 5 irregular petals forming a "hooked beak" shape. The entire plant is covered in hairs, it has a stout taproot, and the leaves smell like sage when crushed.

## **WHERE DOES IT GROW?**

Mediterranean Sage invades dry, disturbed soils. Once established it spreads to other undisturbed areas.



**WHY IS IT A NOXIOUS WEED?** It is unpalatable to grazing animals and it out-competes native forage, destroying the yield of dry pastures.

## **HOW DO I CONTROL IT?**

See the reverse side for information on mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical control of Mediterranean Sage. Also see our Chemical Treatment handout for more information on using herbicides.

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?** Call:

**Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control  
10905 N. Ramsey Road  
Hayden, ID 83835  
208-446-1290**

**kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us or [www.kcweeds.com](http://www.kcweeds.com)**

*Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.*

# How to Control Mediterranean Sage

Mediterranean Sage is a biennial that reproduces by seed only. Control is accomplished by preventing seed production.

**Mechanical** Digging/pulling can be effective on small infestations if the root is severed below the soil surface. Mowing will not kill existing plants but can prevent seed production if done during the early flowering stage.

**Cultural** The best long term weed control is to get your desirable native plants thriving. Killing weeds is only one step, you have to also replace them with something good. Seed and fertilize so your grass can take nutrients away from the weeds and not leave available open soil for new weeds to germinate.

**Biological** The root feeding weevil *Phrydiuchus tau* has shown promising results for Mediterranean Sage. Contact Nez Perce Biocontrol Center for more information (208)843-9374 or [nezpercebiocontrol.com](http://nezpercebiocontrol.com).

**Chemical** \* See our *Chemical Treatment handout* for more information on using herbicides.

- **Aminopyralid** is the active ingredient in herbicide product such as **Milestone**. It is broadleaf selective (safe on grasses) and can be effective on Mediterranean Sage
- **Clopyralid** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Transline**. It is broadleaf selective and also safe on most conifer trees. It can be effective on Mediterranean sage is applied during the rosette or early bolting stage.
- **Picloram** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Tordon 22K**. It is broadleaf selective and can be effective on Mediterranean Sage but it is federally restricted and requires a license to buy or apply.
- **Dicamba** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Banvel** and **Clarity**. It is broadleaf selective and can be effective on Mediterranean Sage if applied during the rosette stage.

*Chemical recommendations are based on University of Idaho Extension Bulletin 865 [Idaho's Noxious Weeds 2011 Control Guidelines Noncrop and Rangeland Sites](#), the book [Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States](#) published by UC Davis Weed Research & Information Center, and herbicide labels.*