



KOCHIA

(*Kochia scoparia*)

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? A bushy looking annual that can grow from 1 to 6 feet tall depending upon conditions. It reproduces by seed and each plant can produce 14,600 seeds. As the plant dies in the fall it turns red, hence the common name of “Mexican Fireweed”, and becomes a tumbleweed, dropping seeds as it is blown about.

WHERE DOES IT GROW? A native of Eurasia, Kochia can grow just about anywhere. It is a drought tolerant plant that was introduced as a garden ornamental. It is found in pastures, rangeland, roadsides, ditch banks, and cultivated

fields. The seeds germinate in early spring.

WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? Tiny green flowers begin blooming in late summer and produce seed from July into October.



HOW DO I CONTROL IT?



NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Prevent weeds from going to seed. Control them before the seeds can spread. Pulling seedlings is an effective method of control.
- Fertilizers and good watering habits will discourage kochia since it likes very dry conditions
- Turning the soil in the spring gives good control of the kochia seedlings. Mowing or weed-eating the plants before flowering is effective in reducing seed production.
- Kochia can be grazed by livestock but is toxic in large amounts.

CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Kochia can be controlled by several broadleaf herbicides when young, but has shown some chemical resistance as it ages. Check with the Kootenai County Noxious Weed Department for suggestions on chemical use.

Want more information? Contact:

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control
10905 N. Ramsey Road, Hayden, ID 83835
208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145
kcnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us or 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.