



COMMON MULLEIN

BOTANICAL NAME: *Verbascum thapsus*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?: Common mullein, also known as woolly mullein, is a biennial. That means it forms a rosette during its first year of growth and in the second year, a flowering stem rises from the deep taproot. The flowering stem can grow 5 to 10 feet tall. The plant is light green in color and the leaves are heavily covered on both sides with hairs giving them a “fuzzy” feeling.

WHERE DOES IT GROW?: Mullein will grow in almost any open area including open meadows and forest openings as well as neglected pastures and road sides. It prefers dry, gravelly soil.

WHEN DOES IT BLOOM?: Sulfur-yellow flowers appear along the tall flower stalk starting in late spring and continuing into the fall.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?: Mullein reproduces entirely by seed. An individual plant produces 100,000 to 180,000 seeds. After dropping their seeds, the plant dies but remains standing throughout the winter.

HOW DO I CONTROL IT?: As with all weeds, a combination of several control methods is the best approach to weed control.



NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Do not allow common mullein to become established. Overseed and fertilize any disturbed or bare areas with grass or pasture seed as soon as possible.
- Digging or hoeing is an effective method of control, especially if the plant is pulled before seed set. Once the tap root is cut, it will not produce another plant.
- Mowing will eliminate the flower stalk but additional mowings will be necessary as more flower stalks will form. Cut and bag flower heads and dispose of in the garbage.
- Animals will usually not graze common mullein because all those little hairs irritate their mucous membranes.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Make sure common mullein is listed on the label of the chemical you wish to use. Because of the large quantity of hairs on the common mullein leaves, a surfactant (spreader/sticker) is needed. For specific details on chemical recommendations, contact the Noxious Weed Control office.

NOTE* Common Mullein is NOT a noxious weed in the State of Idaho or Kootenai County

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control

10905 N. Ramsey Road

Hayden, ID 83835

208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145

kcnoxioussweeds@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.