



COMMON PURSLANE

(Portulaca oleracea)

NOTE: This is not a noxious weed but an annual weed in Kootenai County

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? Purslane is a fleshy, prostrate annual with smooth reddish or flesh-colored stems. The smooth, shiny, succulent leaves are somewhat teardrop-shaped, wider at the tip than at the base. The succulent leaves of this plant are valuable as a thickener when added to soups and stews. They can be eaten cooked or raw and make a good potherb, though it has never attained importance here as it has in India, Middle East and Europe.

WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW? Introduced from Europe, common purslane has become a troublesome weed in cultivated fields and gardens. It is especially persistent in soils that remain moist much of the time.

WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? Five-petaled yellow flowers are borne singly in leaf axils from July to September and open only in sunshine.



HOW DOES THIS PLANT SPREAD? Numerous, tiny, black seeds are produced in capsules resembling flower buds throughout the growing season, and the ability to root again after cultivation make this plant especially difficult to control. Seeds can remain dormant in the soil for years before germinating.



NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Pull or dig the new plants as they come up.
- Regular cultivation in the garden will help control this weed.
- Remove after pulling or cultivation to prevent them from re-rooting.

CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Contact the Kootenai County Noxious Weed Department or the Kootenai County Extension Department for herbicide recommendations.

Want more information or herbicide suggestions? 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.