

# ST. JOHNSWORT

(*Hypericum perforatum*)

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?** A perennial that can grow 1 to 3 feet high with many branches. The flowers have five bright yellow petals and deep purple dots along the jagged edges. The rust colored stems of St. Johnswort can be seen in winter sticking above the snow.



**WHERE DOES IT GROW?** Brought in from Europe, this aggressive weed prefers poor soil and full sun and can be found mostly in meadows, dry pastures, rangelands, roadsides, and empty fields. Animals that eat St. Johnswort, and then are exposed to direct sunshine, develop severe sunburns that are seen as skin irritations in bald or white areas. Young cattle and sheep are most often affected.



**WHEN DOES IT BLOOM?** St. Johnswort blooms from May to late September.

**HOW DOES IT SPREAD?** The seeds can live in the ground from 6 to 10 years and are spread by wind, animals and humans. This plant can also make new plants from its wide-spreading root system.

**HOW DO I CONTROL IT?**

## NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Cut and bag flower heads, if possible, to prevent plants from going to seed.
- Pulling can be considered on new or small plants. To identify a young plant, hold the leaves up to the light and they will appear to have pin holes in them. Due to the toxicity of the plant, wear gloves and avoid touching your eyes.
- The use of fertilizer and good watering habits has been shown to control the spread of St. Johnswort.
- The leaf eating beetle (*Chrysolina hyperici*) has been very successful in controlling large infestations of St. Johnswort in Kootenai County.



## CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- The best time to apply 2,4-D plus a spreader-sticker is right after germination on new seedlings, before any blossoms open.

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](http://www.kcweeds.com)

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