

Blueweed



How You Can Identify and Eradicate Blueweed on Your Property

Presented by:
Shoshone County Weed Control

What is Blueweed?

Blueweed is a biennial growing up to 60 inches high. Its stems are covered in stiff hairs. At the base of the hair a red or black spot may be noticeable. In its first year, blueweed grows to a dinner plate sized rosette.



Then it's leaves die back through the winter and the root system develops preparing for the second season. In that second season, blueweed quickly grows a new much fuller rosette and then bolts with a stem ready to flower. In some cases a single plant can produce 15 flowering bolts. A single plant can produce 500 – 2000 seeds.

Where Does it Grow?

Blueweed prefers coarse, sturdy, sandy or gravelly soil. In our area it can be found invading riverbeds, roadsides right of ways, pastures, rangelands, and idle areas. Blueweed seeds travel both in the air and waterways, making it spread large distances in one season.

How to Control Blueweed...

Herbicides: Spray before bloom with 2,4-D metsulfuron, chlorsulfuron, or glyphosate. (**Note:** glyphosate will kill all vegetation it comes in contact with, use with caution). A fall application of these products to new rosettes (before a killing frost) also gives good control. A surfactant is recommended to increase the efficiency of any of these herbicides.

Non-chemical: Blueweed cannot withstand regular cultivation. Prevent seed production by cutting and destroying flowers and the roots will die out after the second season. Plants may be pulled or roots dug out, but take special care to sever the roots below the crown. Mowing is not a good option because taproots are still viable and regrowth typically occurs.

Biological: There are currently no known biological control methods being used. Animals will normally not graze the plant but long-term ingestion (whether fresh or in hay) can cause liver damage and/or failure in horse, cattle and sheep.

Recommended Herbicides for use in Pasture Applications

Only!!

**Notice: Use of brand names is not an endorsement of the products. This list is for educational and resource purposes only.

<u>Herbicide</u>	<u>Application Rate</u>
Metsulfuron (Escort, Cimarron)	1 – 2oz/acre
Chlorsulfuron (Telar)	1 oz/acre
Glyphosate (rodeo, glyphosate 41)	2oz/1 gal water
2,4-D (Weedar 64, Hardball)	1 qt/acre

Be sure to

READ THE HERBICIDE LABEL



for application rates, timing, grazing restrictions, etc. before spraying. Always wear protective clothing when

using a herbicide and calibrate your herbicide application equipment.

It's the Law!

As stated in Title 22, Chapter 24 of Idaho code it is the landowners duty and responsibility to manage all noxious weeds on their property. Blueweed is a Shoshone County classified noxious weed under Shoshone County Ordinance No. 2001-08. Landowners need to be aware of the presence of blueweed on their property and take action to eradicate them.



Identifying Blueweed:



←First year small rosette – notice hairy and spotted leaves...

Second Year → larger rosette before bolting and flowering – notice multiple bolts starting



←Flower head of a mature Blueweed ready to set seed

Mature stand → of multiple plants



For More Information On Noxious Weeds:

- Idaho Program: <http://www.agri.idaho.gov>
- Federal Programs: Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds <http://ficmnew.fws.gov>
- Local Programs: Contact you State Department of Agriculture, County Noxious Weed Department, or Local Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA).

Herbicides should only be applied at the rates and for the site conditions/land usages specified on the label.



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