

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,
but may have limited distribution in some counties

St. Johnswort
Hypericum perforatum

Other common names: Klamath weed, goat
weed, common St. Johnswort

USDA symbol: HYPE
ODA rating: B



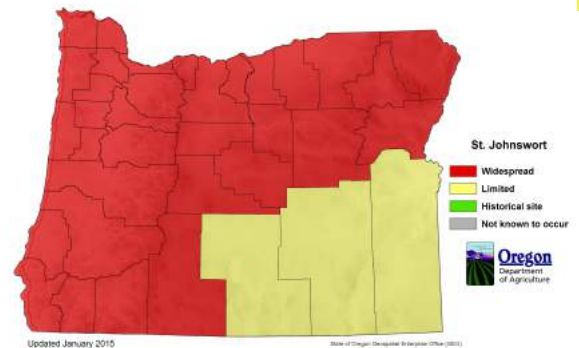
Introduction: A European native, this weed is abundant in the Pacific Northwest on well-drained soils. Showy yellow flowers remind people of another pasture plant; tansy ragwort. Used historically in herbal medicine it is still widely sold in the herbal medicine trade.

Distribution: Saint Johnswort is a widely distributed plant throughout the state except in the SE region counties. It is very common on forest roads, in pastures and non-crop environments of western Oregon.

Description: This tansy ragwort look-a-like herb grows 1 to 2 ft. tall. Stems erect, numerous branched, somewhat 2 ridged, rust-colored and woody at their base. Leaves are opposite, oblong, not over 1 in long and covered in transparent dots. Flowers are 3/4 inch in diameter, bright yellow, and numerous in flat-topped cymes with five petals with occasional small black dots around the edges. It blooms June through July. It is perennial, dying back each winter to a sparse low-growing plant.

Impacts: This weed is found throughout most of the western U.S. It invades pasture and rangeland and is poisonous to livestock. Livestock seldom eat the plant unless pasture is scarce. It can invade rangelands to open timber. Infestations spread rapidly on disturbed, well-drained sites such as roadways, trails, overgrazed range, and logged areas.

Biological controls: Several biocontrol agents have been released for its control. A moth, looper and two beetles are well established in Oregon. Currently the biological agents are not effective above the 2500-foot level.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program
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Photos by Eric Coombs, ODA