

“B” Rated Weeds

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

Sulfur cinquefoil
Potentilla recta

Other common names: Rough-fruited
cinquefoil, upright cinquefoil

USDA symbol: PORE5
ODA rating: B



Introduction: Sulphur cinquefoil is an aggressive invader of meadows, grasslands and forest openings throughout the west. It excludes native plants and desirable grasses forming dense monocultures. It often invades after other weeds have been successfully removed.

Distribution in Oregon: Northeastern Oregon counties contain the largest populations of sulphur cinquefoil in mountain meadows and grasslands. Smaller populations are becoming more prevalent in the Cascade Mountains.

Description: It is a perennial buttercup species growing 1 to 2 feet tall. Bloom time occurs from May to June. Leaves are compound with 5 to 7 leaflets on each leaf. Stem leaves have a very upright growth habit; one of its significant characteristics Flowers are light yellow with 5 petals.

Impacts: This plant is a problem in areas such as roadsides, pastures and in old fields in northeastern Oregon. It is occasionally found in cultivated fields. Sulfur cinquefoil can be found replacing yellow starthistle in areas where moisture is adequate and biocontrols have reduced starthistle seed production. Native plants can be excluded in dense patches and grazing forage is reduced.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agent is currently available, however, five insects have been examined as potential agents.

