

shipments (Ray 1987). Lawnweed is well established in CA. Lawnweed is commonly found throughout Texas, the southwest, GA, FL, AL, MI and SC with increasing infestations in southern coastal plains. It is found in wheat (Cardina). This species also occurs in New Zealand and Australia. The Weed ID Request from the University of Idaho stated “This is our first report for Pacific Northwest.” (Lewis County ID Request records, 1994).

History: Lawnweed was first identified in 1991 in Snohomish County at the Flowing Lake County Park. Lewis County first identified lawnweed in 1994, at Ike Kinswa State Park. In 1997, sod was replaced at the public swim area and the boat launch in an effort to remove the plant, the sharp seeds and the seed bank. The Lewis County site is monitored. Humans (clothes, shoes, tires of lawnmowers, cars, bikes) appear to be a major factor in the distribution of lawnweed.

Growth and Development: Herbaceous winter annual with fibrous roots. The seeds (achenes) are small with stiff hairs and persistent spines that attach themselves easily to a variety of dispersal mechanisms. Lawnweed is able to establish in areas with perennial grasses and regular mowing. This species can also withstand grazing.

Reproduction: Germination begins with the first heavy rains of autumn. The plants produce inconspicuous greenish-translucent flowers from February to July (in CA). The plant dries up in summer weather, avoiding hot dry conditions. The achenes remain and germinate the next fall. There may be a low carry over of achenes from year to year (reduced seed bank). The advantage of this species may be the fact that it is a winter annual. Germination begins early and seedlings develop rapidly, resulting in dense local cover and eliminating competition from neighboring vegetation. (Johnson 1980).

Response to Herbicide: Products containing 2,4-D at the seedling stage. Selective herbicide applications are recommended, avoiding competitive vegetation. (Duble).

Response to Cultural Methods: Establishing thicker lawns and appropriate timing of a fall applied herbicide should help prevent the establishment of lawnweed. (Joe Yenish, pers. conversation).

Response to Mechanical Methods: Lewis County removed infested ground cover and replaced with sod.

Biocontrol Potentials: None known.

References:

*Cardina, J. C. Lawn Burweed - *Soliva pterosperma*. Southern Weed Science Society Weed Identification. USDA-ARS, Tifton, GA. 13SOVPT.

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*Johnson, C. D. and P. H. Lovell. 1980. Germination, establishment and spread of *Soliva valdiviana* (Composite). New Zealand Journal of Botany. Vol. 18:487-93.

*Radford, A. E., H. F. Ahles and C. R. Bell. 1968. Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. p. 1139.

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* *References available from the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Office in Kent.*

Rationale for Listing:

Lawnweed establishes in high-use recreational areas - public swim and boat launching areas and sites that have a high level of disturbance in managed grass areas. This weed produces very sharp seeds (burs) that can puncture skin and attach themselves to tires. This winter annual successfully out-competes the perennial grasses of managed lawn areas in parks and recreation areas, worldwide. Lawnweed dies back in the summer leaving open, brown and bare areas, which contribute to its spread. The limited distribution, combined with the history and biology of this plant, meet the requirements for placement of *Soliva sessilis* as a Class A Noxious Weed on the Washington State Noxious Weed List.