

Sulfur Cinquefoil

Potentilla recta

The Asotin County Weed Board and surrounding counties are in the process of assessing the amount of non native sulfur cinquefoil that is in our area. This particular cinquefoil will form dense mats in previously farmed fields. It has also invaded certain meadow-type situations in coniferous forests. The University of Oregon, Oregon Fish and Wildlife and the Forest Service are doing a joint study at the 4000-foot level above Troy, Oregon, to determine the best timing for herbicide application and the herbicide concentrations that work best for cinquefoil control. Picloram, metsulfuron-methyl, glyphosate, triclopyr, and dicamba are being applied in varying application rates and in three different application periods over 60 different sample sites. In addition to herbicide tests, revegetation plots are being done simultaneously. The initial results of this study may be available as soon as next spring.

This cinquefoil is an attractive member of the Rose family. It can grow to 1 ½ feet tall with a well-developed rootstock. Botanists are trying to age this plant through growth rings at the root base. The leaves are palmately compound with 5 or 7-toothed leaflets on each leaf. This weed resembles many native harmless cinquefoils. You can distinguish it from these native species by making sure that: 1) it is hairy; 2) the leaves grow upright close to the stem and overlap each other; 3) the underside of the leaves appear green rather than silver; and 4) the petals are a light yellow sulfur color surrounding a darker yellow center.

If you can help locate areas of infestation, please call the Asotin Weed Office at (509) 243-2098 or email: nmurray@co.asotin.wa.us

