Recognizing slenderflower thistle

Slenderflower thistle is a winter broadleaf annual or sometimes a biennial. Plants grow one to four feet tall and stems have spiny wings. Leaves are deeply cut into two to five pairs of lobes per leaf with the undersurface of leaves slightly woolly in appearance due to cobwebby hairs. Flowers are purple to pinkish in cylindrical heads in terminal clusters of five to 20. Flowers are up to two centimeters in length and bracts surrounding the flowerheads are hairy. Slenderflower thistle is most abundant in dry open areas such as rangelands and pastures forming dense stands and reproducing by seed. It germinates in the fall, overwinters as a rosette and produces flowering stalks in late spring.

YOU can help stop the spread of noxious weeds
• Report infestations
• Actively control noxious weeds on your property
• Contact Clark County’s Vegetation Management Program for more information on species ID and recommended control methods
• Spread the word about noxious weeds, and why controlling them is so important

Remember, weeds are everyone’s problem. Controlling noxious weeds on your property is your responsibility and the law.

Why is slenderflower thistle a problem?

Slenderflower thistle invades rangeland and pastures, reducing productivity by displacing desired grasses and interfering with available grazing areas. Reproduction by seed creates dense stands resulting in deterred grazing and harm to livestock.

Controlling noxious weeds on your property is your responsibility and the law.

Chapter 17.10 RCW, County Code Title 7

Online Resources
Clark County Noxious Weed Program
www.clark.wa.gov/weed

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Www.nwcb.wa.gov

Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System
Mobile App: www.eddmaps.org/west

Scan this QR code to download

For more information:
Vegetation Management Program
(360) 397-6140
e-mail: weed.management@clark.wa.gov

CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Managing weeds with Integrated Weed Management

The most effective way to manage weed infestations is to use a combination of control methods specific to the problem weed, where it is in its growth-cycle, and the location where it is growing. This approach is called integrated weed management, or IWM, which uses biological, mechanical, cultural, and chemical (herbicide) control methods that treat the problem weed yet protect human health, habitat, water, and other natural resources.

### IWM control recommendations for slenderflower thistle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IWM control type</th>
<th>Control method</th>
<th>Effectiveness of control method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical &amp; mechanical</td>
<td>digging</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hand-pulling</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mowing</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>tilling</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>bark mulch</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>black plastic</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>cover crop</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>native plant restoration</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>soil amendment</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological</td>
<td>managed grazing</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>weed-feeding insects</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical</td>
<td>aminopyralid</td>
<td>Milestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>glyphosate</td>
<td>Roundup, AquaNeat, Rodeo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>triclopyr amine</td>
<td>Garlon 3A, Lilly Miller Brush Killer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed chemical control. Clark County does not endorse any product or brand name. Always read and follow the herbicide label. For more information on specific herbicides, please contact Vegetation Management.

Why control noxious weeds in Clark County?

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that can be toxic, destructive, competitive and difficult to control once established.

**Economics** - Noxious weeds cost the United States on average 30.6 billion dollars each year in decreased land value, money and time spent in control efforts, lower crop yields, reduced forage quality and impacts on animal health.

**Environmental health** - Noxious weeds displace native species, destroy natural habitat, clog waterways and increase erosion and fire risk.

**Human & animal health** - Many noxious weeds are toxic to humans and livestock. Contact or ingestion of some species can lead to serious health problems or death.

**Recreation** - Noxious weeds hurt recreation opportunities such as bird watching and fishing through reduced accessibility and destruction of native landscapes.

Integrated Weed Management (IWM)

An Integrated Weed Management plan is an ongoing, continuing cycle of weed prevention, control, monitoring, evaluation and planning.

Prevention is better than control - The best control method of all is to prevent weeds in the first place. IWM starts with understanding the soil, water, natural resources and human impacts and uses on a site. For example, weeds often invade due to overgrazing, bare soil, or other factors that should be corrected for the control measures to be fully effective.

Long-term effectiveness – A good IWM plan is more effective than complete reliance on herbicide management. While not all control methods are useful for all weed species, taking an integrated approach to weed management can greatly increase the effectiveness of your efforts. As weed control is not a one-time fix, an IWM strategy should be practical, adaptable, cost-efficient, and effective.

THE WEED CONTROL TOOLBOX

- **Physical**
  - mowing
  - pulling
  - digging

- **Cultural**
  - soil amendments
  - cover crops
  - mulch
  - native plants

- **Biological**
  - weed-eating insects
  - managed grazing

- **Chemical**
  - herbicides