



Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board

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Mediterranean sage *Salvia aethiopsis L.*

Description: This aromatic biennial member of the mint family can grow 2 to 3 feet in height. The first year of growth produces a distinctive, large showy rosette of grayish/bluish woolly leaves. During the second season, the plant produces multiple branches with stems ending in clusters of white flowers. The lower leaves have petioles and are coarsely toothed. Upper leaves are smaller and clasp the stem. As the plant matures, the pubescence will shed off and show the green leaf beneath. Thousands of seeds are dispersed as the dry plant breaks off from its base and tumbles with the wind.

Habitat: Mediterranean sage is unpalatable to grazing animals and degrades rangeland by reducing forb and grass production. It will invade shrub steppe rangelands as well as the adjoining understory of ponderosa pine forests. It favors disturbed sites initially, but can spread into other areas after establishment. Mediterranean sage rarely grows in crop lands but is generally found in pastures, roadsides, and rangelands.

Mechanical: Plants cut 2-3" below the crown prevent resprouting. Mowing is effective only if repeated many times throughout the season.

Biological: *Phrydiuchus tau*, a root feeding weevil, was introduced in 1969. The larvae feed on the root crown thus reducing or even preventing flower production. This weevil, in addition to planting competitive vegetation, has reduced populations of Mediterranean sage in Oregon and Idaho.

Fire: Unknown

Cultural control: Tillage is an effective tool in fields and pastures.

Fertilizer: Unknown

Chemical: These chemical recommendations are for noncropland areas and are summarized from "Biology and Management of Noxious Rangeland Weeds". These recommendations are not intended to be a complete resource guide. Label requirements need to be followed for restrictions, concentrations, timing, and

nontarget interactions. Chemical control can be effective, but must be maintained for several years to exhaust the seed bank.

***Picloram:** (Tordon)

Rate; 0.375 to 0.5 lb ai/A

Time; Spring spraying suppresses rosette growth longer than fall spraying.

Fall spraying allows competitive vegetation to recover.

Remarks: Because of the thick pubescence, a surfactant will need to be added to the herbicide mixture.

Caution; Most formulations are restricted-use herbicides. Do not contaminate water. Do not use in diversified crop areas. Potatoes, beans, tomatoes, grapes, and many other broadleaf crops are sensitive to this herbicide.

***Clopyralid:** (Transline)

Rate; 0.5 lb ae/A

Remarks; Best results when mixed with 2,4-D; 1.5 to 2 lb ae/A

Distribution: The only known infestation of this sage in Asotin County is along Meyer's Ridge Road on WDF&W lands. The Wildlife Department bagged all adult plants during the summer 2004, and sprayed the area during the fall '04 and spring '05.

ACNWCB Policy: The Board's policy is eradication of all infestations.

5/10/05

