

COMMON FENNEL

(*Foeniculum vulgare vulgare*)

Control required in San Juan County



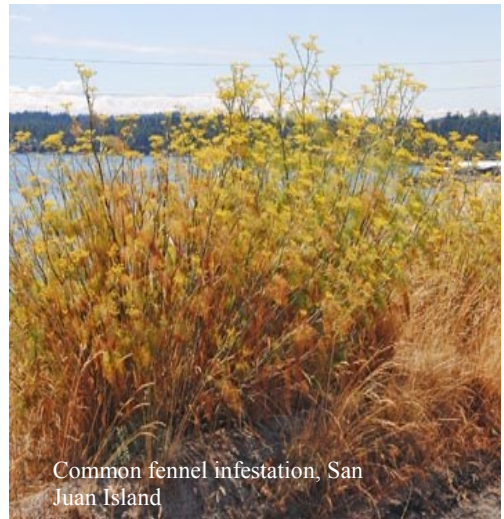
Common fennel flowers and foliage
Photo: SJCNWCB

Description:

- Tall (4-8') perennial
- Aromatic, with a strong anise-like odor
- Feathery foliage
- Tap root to 10' in length
- Resembles dill which is usually shorter (4-6') and has the strong taste and smell of a dill pickle and more finely dissected foliage

Why worry about common fennel?

- Highly prolific, producing 100,000s of seeds annually
- Seeds may remain dormant in soil up to seven years
- Easily reproduces from crown and root fragments
- Forms dense monocultures, shading out native vegetation
- Destructive of wildlife habitat and grazing land



Common fennel infestation, San Juan Island

Common Fennel alternative: Florence fennel (Finocchio) (*F. v. azoricum*)

- Much shorter, closely related summer annual in this climate
- The same or superior culinary qualities
- Bulbing leaf stalk bases are prized as vegetables



Common fennel stalk bases



Florence fennel stalk bases
Photos: SJCNWCB

Controlling common fennel:

- **Mechanical:** Remove and destroy all flower and seed heads. Dig out as much of the root as possible. Removing the top 3 to 6 inches of crown and root before flowering will usually limit resprouting.
- **Chemical:** Spot spray when leaves are fully developed but before flowering with triclopyr (0.5 to 1% solution) or with glyphosate (2 to 5% solution). A combination of glyphosate and triclopyr is particularly effective.

DiTomaso, J.M., G.B. Kyser et al. 2013.

Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States

By law, all herbicides must be used in strict accordance with label instructions.

For more information on fennel or other noxious weeds, contact
The San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Program.

(360) 376-3499

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