



Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board

P.O. Box 881
Asotin, WA 99402
(509) 243-2098

Kochia *Kochia scoparia*

Description: This escaped ornamental may reach six feet in height. This weed is characterized by its many branches and red-tinged appearance. Its lance-shaped leaves are ½ to 2 inches in length and are fringed with soft hairs. The upper leaf surfaces are usually smooth with the under surface covered with soft hairs. The small green flowers are inconspicuous and form in axillary clusters. It may flower from July to October. Seeds are dispersed when the mature plant breaks off in the autumn and tumbles in the wind.

Habitat: Kochia is drought tolerant and has a wide tolerance of soil types. It is even adapted to salty soils. It is most often found in rangelands, along roadsides, ditchbanks, cultivated fields, and waste areas. In Asotin County it is most commonly found in wintering cattle feeding areas. Although it is grazed, it may contain toxic levels of nitrates.

Kochia has been sold as an ornamental because of its reddish fall colors. It is sometimes marketed under the name “burning bush”. Although *K scoparia* can be a problem in crop lands, *K prostrata* is being planted as a “green strip” plant and as a forage plant.

Mechanical: Digging or pulling young plants will control a small population.

Biological: There are no known agents at this time

Fire: Unknown

Cultural control: Early spring tillage gives good control of kochia. Mowing the plants just prior to flowering is an effective way to reduce seed production.

Fertilizer: Unknown

Chemical: These chemical recommendations are for noncropland areas and are summarized from the “Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook - 2004”. 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. Some biotypes of Kochia have been reported to be resistant to triazine, 2,4-D, and dicamba.

- **difluzopyr + dicamba** (Overdrive):
Rate; 0.175 to 0.35 lb ae/A
Time; Application time should be to actively growing weeds.
Remarks; A nonionic surfactant or methylated seed oil improves control.
Caution; Cannot plant any crop within 30 days of application. Can not apply more than 10 oz herbicide per season.
- **fluroxypyr** (Vista):
Rate; 0.125 to 0.25 lb ae/A
Time; Application time should be to actively growing weeds.
Remarks; Apply 5 gal/A (or more), but do not exceed 40 gal/A.
Grasses are tolerant of fluroxypy.
Caution; Do not apply when drift is possible. Do not apply more than 0.25 lb ae/A.

Distribution: Although kochia is scattered throughout the lower elevations of Asotin County, it is found in dense populations where cattle are concentrated in the winter time and along old roads and banks.

ACNWCB Policy: In Asotin County, kochia is controlled on a complaint basis when the complainant is an adjoining neighbor.

11/30/05

