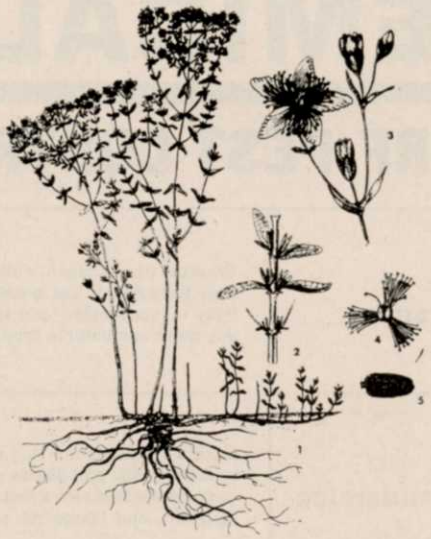
Know Your Species

ST. JOHNSWORT

(Hypericum perforatum)



St. Johnswort (1) is also known as Klamath weed and goatweed. This pest, native to Europe and first reported in Pennsylvania in 1793, is a perennial which reproduces both by seed and by sprouting of shallow, short runners.

It is a poisonous weed to livestock and a threat to productive rangelands. St. Johnswort is found along roadsides, and in fields where the soil is dry, sandy, or gravelly. Found from Newfoundland west to British Columbia, St. Johnswort spreads southward as climate permits. It is a very serious pest in the Pacific Northwest and California, and it is on the noxious weed list of many states.

Stems (2) are erect and may reach a height of 5 feet, and are slender and smooth (not hairy) with two ridges on either side. They are woody near the base, becoming more herbaceous with height.

Leaves, with characteristically translucent dots which give the appearance of perforations when held up to light, are opposite each other on the stem, and narrowly oblong. They sit directly on the stem, have no petiole, and are smooth edged.

Yellow, 5-petaled flowers (3) about 1 inch across bloom in late summer. They are borne at the ends of terminal branches which all reach the same height. This type of flat-topped flower cluster is called a cyme (pronounced sime). Each flower petal has a row of small black dots along its margin. Numerous seeds are produced by each flower (4). Each seed (5) is 1 mm. long with tapered ends and covered with dots. Seeds feel resinous to touch and are glossy dark brown.

Branched roots extend several feet deep. New plants are borne from joints of shallow rootstocks which grow out from the crown.

St. Johnswort has been successfully controlled by leaf eating beetles, *Chrysolina* spp., released in some parts of the West. The leaf beetle, found in Europe and imported to Australia, was later brought from Australia to western U. S. in the 1930s and '40s. Other parasites, including a gall fly, and a root borer, have contributed to a lesser extent to biological control of St. Johnswort.

Chemically, St. Johnswort can be controlled with borax compounds, alone or in combination with other, more powerful soil-applied herbicides. Borax destroys the extensive perennial root system. Ammonium sulfamate has also been used successfully in Washington state to control this weed.

Prepared in cooperation with Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland.
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Turf Disease Control Improved By New Velsicol Fungicide

A new formulation for turf disease control has been announced by Velsicol Chemical Corp.

Called Velsicol 2-1, the mercuric fungicide is said to overcome several basic handling problems such as getting the fungicide into suspension, maintaining a stable suspension, and avoiding heavy residues of mercury compounds in application equipment.

Excessive foaming is also alleviated by Velsicol 2-1, the producers say.

Brown patch, snow mold, and dollar spot have responded well to the new product, it is reported. Mercury content is at 73.2%.

For more details on the new turf product, write Velsicol Chemical Corp., 341 East Ohio St., Chicago, Ill.

U.S. Borax Acquires Reade's Weed Control Plants, Equipment

U.S. Borax & Chemical Corp. announced recently that it has taken over all herbicide formulating plants and applicating equipment of the Reade Mfg. Co. of Jersey City, N.J.

The action was described as a marketing expansion move into the field of contract application of vegetation control chemicals for railroads.

J. F. Corkill, U.S. Borax Marketing Vice President, said his firm has supplied track spray formulations to some of the country's transcontinental railroads for a number of years from its own plants, and will now be able to render for the first time a complete nationwide service.

Silvex Controls Chickweed

"Chickweed killers containing silvex have given excellent control in North Dakota," Harry Graves, horticulturist at North Dakota State University Extension Service, reports.

"Where chickweed has been present in lawns for a few to several years, several sprayings will be required to kill the thousands of seedlings," Graves concludes.