



# Perennial sowthistle

*Sonchus arvensis ssp. arvensis*

**Description:** Perennial sowthistle is a vigorous, deep-rooted perennial, spreading by seeds and creeping roots. The plant contains a bitter, milky juice. Stems branch only near the top of the plant. Leaves clasp the stem, are alternative and variable in size and shape. Flowers, stalks, and bracts are covered with gland-tipped hairs. The flowers open two to three hours after sunrise and close around noon. A plant may have 20 seed heads during the flowering season, which lasts from June to September, but usually only a few flower at the same time. The plant may produce nearly 10,000 seeds per year.



**Impacts:** Perennial sowthistle is commonly found in cultivated fields, waste areas, meadows, woods, lawns, road-sides, and ditches. Compared to other sowthistles found in Thurston County, this one seems to spread primarily through its root system, which creates clones of perennial sowthistle.

## Control Options:

### ► Manual Techniques

Evaluations of perennial sowthistle infestation sites over three seasons, indicated a 26.3 percent effective control rate using manual control.

### ► Chemical Techniques

Currently, products containing the active ingredient *glyphosate* are the only herbicides for the control of perennial sowthistle that are considered “low in hazard” by Thurston County’s pesticide review process.

**Only products with concentrated formulations of *glyphosate* will be effective. Pre-mixed products do not contain enough *glyphosate* to be effective, use products with at least 40% *glyphosate* .**

**Foliar applications of ROUNDUP PRO™ (a 41% *glyphosate* product):**

**Perennial sowthistle can be controlled by using no less than 2% *glyphosate***

|                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rates, at 4 lb. per gallon A.I.: | 2 Percent                    |
| To 1 gallon of water add         | 2.66 oz. <b>ROUNDUP PRO™</b> |

- Spot applications with *glyphosate* products are effective. Spot application means the herbicide is applied only to the plants and not on the surrounding plants or soil. Spray each plant thoroughly on the stems and leaves enough to be wet but not dripping.
- Remove domestic livestock before application and wait 14 days after spot application before grazing livestock or harvesting.
- Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted entry interval of 12 hours. Keep people and pets off treated areas until spray solution has dried.

Products containing the active ingredient **aminopyralid (Milestone™)** are considered “moderate in hazard” and are a second choice for chemical control.

### **Foliar applications of aminopyralid (Milestone™)**

- Follow all label precautions and safety measures. Always use personal protective equipment that includes long sleeve shirt and long pants, shoes plus socks.
- As a spot treatment only at a rate of 4 to 6 ounces (pastures section) fluid ounces per acre. Do not apply more than 7 fluid ounces per acre per year.
- Do not enter into treated areas during the restricted entry interval of 12 hours. Keep people and pets off treated areas until spray solution has dried.
- Do not use aminopyralid-treated plant residues, including hay or straw from treated areas or manure from animals that have grazed there within the previous 3 days. Manure from animals that have grazed from treated areas within the previous 3 days may be used on grass areas only as injury could occur to susceptible broadleaf plants.

### **Timing:**

- Control should take place when plants are actively growing and before seeds are produced.

**READ AND FOLLOW ALL LABEL DIRECTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.** Obey all label precautions and safety measures. Always use personal protective equipment that includes coveralls, waterproof gloves, shoes plus socks, and protective eyewear. Use of brand names does not connote endorsement and is for reference only; other formulations of the same herbicides may be available under other names. Information provided is current as of the date of the fact sheet. Pesticide product registration is renewed annually and product names and formulations may vary from year to year.



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