



Geranium robertianum

WA – Class B Noxious Weed

OR – Class B Noxious Weed

Herb Robert

Stinky Bob, Stinky Robert

Family: Geraniaceae

Origins: Native to Asia, Europe, and Northern Africa, Herb Robert has a long history of medicinal use, including relief from toothaches and nosebleeds. Originally introduced to the United States as an ornamental, the earliest record in Washington dates back to 1911.

Range: Heavily distributed west of the Cascades in Washington, Oregon, and California.

Habitat: Commonly found in moist forest understories, gardens, along stream banks, and roadsides. Herb Robert can grow under a full canopy and requires little to no sun to survive.

Impact: Herb Robert quickly takes over in forest understories displacing native species and reducing biodiversity. Each flower produces a seedpod containing five seeds that burst open when ripe, ejecting the seeds up to 20 feet. Connected to the seed is a sticky thread that attaches the seed to the underside of leaves or passing animals or people. The seeds attached to leaves wash down after rainfall and are capable of germinating soon after dispersal with adequate moisture.

Description: Herb Robert is a shallow-rooted spring and winter annual reaching up to 12 inches in height. Leaves are deeply dissected and light green. The stems are upright to spreading, covered in small hairs, and turn red in high light conditions. During senescence in fall and winter, the foliage takes on a deep reddish color. Flowers are pink to magenta in color and consist of 5 petals. All plant parts exude a mousey or pungent odor when handled or crushed.

Common Look-Alikes: Bleeding Heart, Shiny Geranium.

** Herb Robert is not known to be toxic. Look-alike Bleeding Heart is toxic to humans and animals if eaten in large quantities.*



Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

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Non-Herbicide Control

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)	Hand-pulling or digging small infestations provides effective control if repeated throughout the year. The stems can be brittle, so grasp the stems firmly near the base of the plant. If the plants have flowers, dispose of plant parts in a sealed bag in the trash.
Cultural	Cover with a thick layer of mulch. For better results, cover with cardboard first, then a thick layer of mulch. Repeat applications of mulch may be necessary.
Biological	Biological agents are currently not available for Herb Robert in Washington State.

Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

Triclopyr +2,4-D (Crossbow, Crossroad)	Timing: Apply to actively growing plants before flowering. Remarks: Annual treatments needed to control seedlings; observe all grazing and harvesting restrictions; avoid drift to sensitive crops; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; do not apply near water.
Imazapyr (Imazapyr, Arsenal, Habitat)	Timing: Apply to actively growing plants before flowering. Remarks: Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; do not apply near water; may be harmful to some tree species; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
Glyphosate (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup)	Timing: Apply to actively growing plants before flowering. Remarks: Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; Glyphosate is nonselective and may injure or kill any vegetation it contacts; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.