



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 322 N. Commercial St Bellingham WA 98225
(360) 778-6234 www.whatcomcounty.us/914/Weeds

ORANGE JEWELWEED

Impatiens capensis

THREAT: Orange, common or spotted jewelweed (or touch-me-not) is native to eastern North America, introduced to this area as a garden ornamental. It will invade disturbed areas and ditches, and is capable of forming dense stands. The native western jewelweed (*Impatiens noli-tangere*) is a closely related plant, also occurring in this area. Both species prefer moist, semi-shaded areas.

DESCRIPTION: Both jewelweeds are annuals. Orange can grow up to 5 feet tall, while western is a little shorter, growing up around 3 feet tall. Orange jewelweed flowers from August to October, while western jewelweed flowers from July to September. For orange jewelweed, the round stems are green to pale reddish-green and break easily. The leaves are alternate, oblong to egg-shaped, up to 5 inches long, with broad teeth on the edges. The ornate, funnel-like flowers are orange, with brown dots or reddish streaks. Flowers are borne in clusters of 1 to 3, emerging from the axils of the upper leaves. While the showy orange flowers require cross-pollination, this plant also bears small, inconspicuous, self-fertilizing flowers. Western jewelweed is quite similar, being easiest to differentiate by flower color. The western jewelweed has a yellow flower, mottled with crimson or reddish-brown. Like orange jewelweed, the spurred flowers are about 1 inch long, but are usually born in pairs. For both species, the mature seedpod splits and forcibly ejects its seeds up to 8 feet.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Jewelweed can be controlled by hand pulling. Little research has been done on chemical control for this species. Contact the Weed Control Board for site-specific control recommendations.



Orange jewelweed



Western jewelweed