



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 322 N. Commercial St Bellingham WA 98225
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SHINY GERANIUM

Geranium lucidum

THREAT: Shiny geranium, a native of Eurasia and North Africa, was first noted in Washington State in 2005 and has also been found in Oregon and California. This plant can increase in numbers quickly. Shiny geranium can invade undisturbed forest understory, outcompeting native plants and, in some cases, becoming the dominant cover plant. It also invades roadsides, gardens, and other habitats, tolerating both sun and shade. Shiny geranium spreads by seeding prolifically, with the seeds being ejected from the plant. Seeds can easily be transported on clothing, equipment and shoes.



DESCRIPTION: Shiny geranium is a low growing geranium, either spreading along the ground or growing upright to a height of 19 inches. It usually grows as annual, but can be a biennial under some conditions. The stems are often reddish, with no hairs. The bright green leaves are roundish, about 1 ½ inches across, and deeply lobed with a waxy coating that gives the leaves a shiny appearance. The pink to magenta flowers have five petals and grow in pairs at the end of the stems. The sepals at the base of the flower are prominently keeled. Each flower produces 5 seeds, which are borne in a conspicuous, long-beaked capsule (which gives the plant another common name of shining crane's bill), and the drying of the capsule causes the seeds to be ejected. Shiny geranium flowers from April to May.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Shiny geranium can be controlled using mechanical or chemical methods. Seedlings can be hand-pulled or killed with flame treatment but must be repeated in the long term. Applying a heavy layer of mulch may also help control shiny geranium. For site-specific chemical recommendations, contact the Weed Control Board.

