



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 901 W. Smith Road Bellingham WA 98226
(360) 354-3990 www.co.whatcom.wa.us/publicworks/weeds

ELECAMPANE

Inula helenium

THREAT: Elecampane is a native of Eurasia, introduced to North America as a garden ornamental or a medicinal plant. It has escaped cultivated and become naturalized in eastern North America. It has also been found growing wild in Oregon and at one site in Stevens County, Washington. Elecampane invades roadsides, pastures and clearings, preferring moist areas. It grows best in full sun, but will tolerate light shade. At one time, elecampane was reputed to attract fairies to gardens. Elecampane is on the Washington State Noxious Weed Board's monitor list.

DESCRIPTION: Elecampane is a perennial herb in the aster family, which can grow up to 8 feet tall. In its first year, the plant produces a basal rosette of large leaves, 10-20 inches long and 4-8 inches wide. In following years, the plant produces tall, densely haired stems, with flowers at the top. The upper leaves are smaller and alternate, egg or heart shaped, and clasp the stem. The yellow daisy-like flowers have narrow rays and can be up to 3 inches across. Flowers bloom from mid-summer to early fall. Leaves are coarsely toothed, and the undersides are grayish and covered with soft hairs. Elecampane has a large, long, branching yellow root, which, when dried, has been used in herbal medicines.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Control methods for Elecampane have not been well researched. Individual plants and small patches can be dug, taking care to remove as much root as possible. Contact the weed control board for chemical recommendations.



Drawing: USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada*. Vol. 3: 457.