



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 901 W. Smith Road Bellingham WA 98226
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OXEYE DAISY

Leucanthemum vulgare
(formerly *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)

THREAT: Oxeye daisy is a native to Europe that has been introduced to many countries, including most of the United States. It has been spread both as a contaminant of seed and as an ornamental. Although it is illegal to buy, sell or transport this plant in Washington State, it is still occasionally found in ornamental seed packets. Oxeye daisy is a weed in agricultural crops, pastures, right-of-way areas and other disturbed sites. Since this plant spreads both by seed and creeping rhizomes, it can quickly invade sites. Oxeye daisy is tolerant of a wide range of environmental conditions and seeds can remain viable for long periods. While some animals will eat oxeye daisy, most will avoid it, in preference to grass, which enables this plant to invade pastures quickly. The seed of oxeye daisy can be dispersed by wind, through animal droppings and through contaminated seed.

DESCRIPTION: Oxeye daisy is an herbaceous, rhizomatous perennial. It grows up to 3 feet tall and forms clumps. Oxeye daisy has thin stems rising from a basal rosette of leaves. The basal leaves are spatula-shaped with a stalk, while the stem leaves are lobed with no stalk. The flowerheads, consisting of 20-30 white rays surrounding a bright yellow disk, are 1-2" in diameter. The plant generally flowers during its second year and flowering usually occurs from June to August. A single plant may produce up to 26,000 seeds, although production of 1300 to 4000 seeds is more normal. Seedlings primarily germinate in autumn, but can germinate any time throughout the growing season. Oxeye daisy has a shallow and fibrous root system. Rhizomatous stems growing along the ground will root and produce new plants.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Oxeye daisy can be controlled through mechanical and chemical means. Although repeated mowing may be used to prevent seed production, this may also stimulate shoot production. Repeated cultivation will kill the shallow root system. Because seeds germinate quickly on bare soil, it is beneficial to minimize bare spots and promote a cover crop. In pastures, nitrogen fertilizer can be used to stimulate grass growth. Contact the weed control board for site-specific chemical recommendations.

