



# Control Options for Sulfur Cinquefoil

## General Information

Sulfur cinquefoil, a native to Eurasia, invades meadows, pastures, open forest, roadsides and other disturbed areas. It spreads easily by seed and can become abundant in a very short time, forming large stands with little other vegetation. It is unpalatable to livestock and wildlife, allowing it to outcompete grazed vegetation. Sulfur cinquefoil spreads by seed, although root fragments may resprout if transported by farm equipment to suitable sites. The small seeds can be moved by vehicles, animals and clothing.

## Manual/Mechanical Techniques

Plants can be hand dug, as long as care is taken to remove the entire root. Broken root portions left behind will resprout. Repeated cultivation may be effective in controlling this plant. Mowing is not recommended as an effective control measure.



## Chemical Recommendations

Sulfur cinquefoil can be controlled using specific herbicides. When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions for rates, spraying conditions, personal protective equipment and grazing intervals. If spraying is the chosen option, spray late in the evening to reduce the direct impact on pollinating insects. Do not spray when it is windy or raining, or when rain is forecast. Do not cut sprayed plants for at least 2 weeks after herbicide application. Herbicides should not be sprayed within 60 feet of water bodies and creeks, without further consultation with the Noxious Weed Board. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label.

**2,4-D** (marketed under many brand names) can be applied to actively growing plants in the rosette to bud stage at 1 to 2 qt. product/acre. Follow label directions for mixing the appropriate solution strength. It is selective and will not harm grasses. Repeat applications may be needed.

**Aminopyralid** (Milestone™, others) can be applied as a foliar spray in the spring before bud stage at very low rates. It is selective and will not harm most grasses. Treatment rate for sulfur cinquefoil is 4 to 7 oz. product per acre.

**Glyphosate** (KillZall™ and many other brands) can be applied to actively growing plants in the pre-bud stage with a 1.5% solution. Repeat applications may be needed. Glyphosate will kill grass and other vegetation so care should be taken if used around desired vegetation. The loss of surrounding plants also may allow germination of any sulfur cinquefoil seeds in the soil.

***NEVER apply RoundUp® or other herbicides to standing water unless they are distinctly labeled for aquatic use.*** Ingredients in non-aquatic products may be toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. Aquatic formulations of herbicides are generally only available to licensed pesticide applicators in Washington State. If the target plants are immediately adjacent to or are in standing water, a state permit may be required in order to treat those plants with an aquatically approved herbicide.

- **Always read and understand the label of the herbicides you choose to use.**
- **More is NOT better when using herbicides, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the target plant if the solution is too strong. This wastes money and effort and puts more product into the environment than is necessary. ALWAYS follow the recommended rates on the label.**
- **With all herbicides, when you apply them is as important as how you apply them.**

*The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product. Herbicide information is taken from "Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States" (University of California – Davis) and the King County Noxious Weed Program (Seattle, WA)*