

OXEYE DAISY: Options for control

Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), a member of the Asteraceae family, is a **class-B** noxious weed in Lincoln County, Washington. Originating from Europe. It is one of a number of plants called by the common name, daisy. It is also sometimes called moon daisy or dog daisy. It is difficult to distinguish from Shasta daisy, a common ornamental perennial. Shasta daisy is often more robust, most notably with larger flower heads. The oxeye daisy is a typical meadow flower, growing in a variety of plant communities such as dry fields, meadows, but also under scrubs, open-canopy forests and waste places. It thrives in a wide range of conditions and prefers heavy and damp soils.

Oxeye daisy is a perennial herb, 1 to 3 feet tall, with shallow, branched rhizomes and

adventitious roots. The stems, which arise from up-turned rhizomes or buds on the root crown, range from hairless to slightly hairy. The prostrate, basal stems can root, while the other stems are erect and simple to slightly branched. The toothed, spatula-shaped to round basal leaves occur on long stalks. The stem leaves are alternate and lack stalks; they are lance-shaped to ligulate, with coarse teeth and often have a few lobes at the base. Flowers are showy and daisy-like, with 20 to 30 white ray flowers and numerous, bright yellow disk flowers. Flower heads are usually solitary and grow on long, terminal stems; heads average 1 to 2.2 inches in diameter. Bracts are narrow with a dark brown margin. The entire plant has a disagreeable odor when crushed. It is very difficult to control or eradicate, since a new plant can regenerate from rhi-



Oxeye Daisy rosettes.



Stems on mature plants are 12-24 in. tall with erect, smooth to sparsely hairy stems.



Upper leaves are small lance-shaped, coarsely toothed and attached directly to the stem.

Key identifying traits

- **Leaves** progressively reduce in size upward on **stem**.
- **Flowers** are solitary at the ends of branches, have white ray flowers and yellow disk flowers and are about 2 in. in diameter.
- **Leaves** progressively reduce in size upward on **stem**, and are dark green on both sides.
- The white petals are slightly **notched** at their **tips**.
- All parts of the plant have a **strong unpleasant odor**.

Biology and ecology

- Creeping **perennial**, reproduces by seed and by fairly shallow **roots**.
- **Flowering** heads are solitary at the ends of branches.
- **Flowering** occurs from June through August.
- Produces 2,000 to 4,000 **seeds** per plant with a high of 26,000 seeds on one plant.
- **Seeds** remain viable in the soil for 2–3 years.
- Prefers heavy **moist soil**.



Under the flower head is a ring of sheathing bracts, that help support the blooms from insects trying to bite their way in from below.



A close-up of the bright yellow disk flower.



One plant can colonize an area 3 to 6 feet in diameter in one or two years.

CONTROL MEASURES:

For this and other publications, see our website at: www.co.lincoln.wa.us/weedboard

Prevention:

- Minimizing soil disturbances from vehicles, machinery and over grazing will reduce areas where the weed might become established. **Early detection** is vital to prevent invasion.

Biological:

- Biological control has not been investigated for this species.

Cultural:

- Good competitive vegetation helps prevent infestation, but doesn't stop it entirely.

Mechanical:

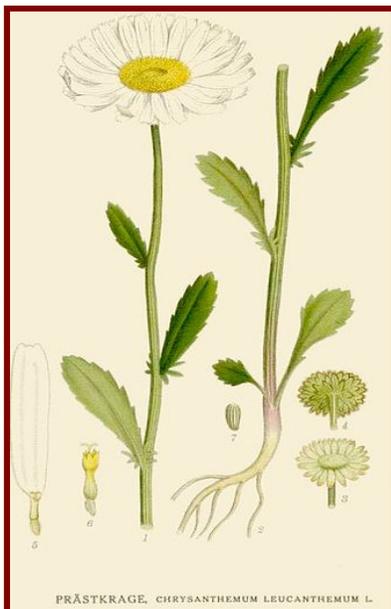
- Oxeye daisy has a shallow root system and is easily controlled by intensive cultivation.
- Mowing as soon as the first flowers open can eliminate seed production. However, mowing may stimulate shoot production.

Chemical:

- Weedmaster (dicamba + 2,4-d), and Redeem R&P (clopyralid +triclopyr) provide control. Tordon 22K and Oust can also be used.
- For best results, use a surfactant.
- **Read the label** instructions before applying.



Oxeye daisy can replace forage and it's bitter nature can impart a disagreeable flavor to milk of grazing animals.



Although sale/distribution of the plant is prohibited in Washington, it is still sometimes sold as an ornamental.



Photos and references courtesy of: WSNWCB written findings, Colorado State Parks, Rich Old; University of California; University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

Lincoln County Noxious
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