



# Common St. Johnswort

*Hypericum perforatum*

- Perennial
- Grows 1-3 feet tall
- Reproduces by seeds and short runners
- Stems are rust color and woody at the base
- Prefers sandy or gravelly soils
- Toxic to livestock

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## Suggested Control Methods for St. Johnswort

### Mechanical & Cultural Methods

**Hand Pulling/Digging:** Best for small, new infestations; remove the entire root system and dispose of properly (sealed bags).

**Tilling:** Effective in croplands but must be repeated.

**Mowing:** Prevents seed production but does not kill plants; requires repeated cuts throughout the season.

**Cultural Control:** Maintain healthy desirable plants to outcompete St. Johnswort.

### Chemical Control

**Herbicide Timing:** Apply to actively growing plants before flowering for best results.

**2,4-D:** Broadleaf herbicide, good for lawns/pastures; use ester formulations for better results.

**Metsulfuron (Escort, Cimarron):** Effective on actively growing weeds, use with a surfactant.

**Picloram (Tordon):** Used in rangelands and pastures.

**Glyphosate:** Non-selective, suitable for croplands or areas for revegetation.

**Triclopyr:** Another selective option, especially in aquatic settings with proper labeling.

**Caution:** Follow all label instructions; avoid drift to sensitive crops; beware of increased palatability to livestock after spraying.

### Biological Control

**Insects:** *Chrysolina* spp. (flea beetles) and *Agrius hyperici* (root borer) are established in many areas, feeding on leaves and roots, respectively. Best for large infestations where other methods are not feasible; they reduce populations over time, not eradicate them.

### Important Considerations

**Livestock:** St. Johnswort is toxic (causes photosensitivity); avoid grazing treated areas too soon after spraying.

**Integrated Approach:** Combining methods (e.g., biocontrol with targeted herbicides) is often most effective.