

THE EMENY: St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum* L.)

Strategy: This native to Europe is quite often found here in the Pacific Northwest. This perennial plant reproduces by seeds and short running roots. The stems are rust in color and woody in appearance. The leaves are oblong, less than one inch, and uniquely have perforations in them that when held up to the sun or light source can be seen. The flowers have yellow pedals and yellow stamens that are quite long and stick above the flower. The fruit that is produces are in small 3-celled capsules that house numerous seeds.

Defense: The plant can be a medicinal herb, but can cause sunburns, blisters, and lesions on white-skinned animals. It is foraged on early in the spring, but later on in the summer it is not eaten and robs the soil of the nutrients and water. In many cases this is the plant that is grown for medicinal reasons but most often escapes and becomes a massive problem in range, pastures, and gravelly sites. It is listed as 'Noxious' in many counties, including Bonneville.

THE DEFENSE: As this plant is a perennial digging it up is not the best but can work when the plants are few in numbers and small in stature. Make sure that you get most of the root out of the soil and minimize the disturbance to the soil during the job. The best control is from treating the weeds with Milestone, Opensight, Escort, or Telar herbicides. Spring or fall treatment is best, but if it catches you off guard then wait until the plant is budding. There is a very effective bio-control. The insect, Klamath beetle, was brought in to control it. I wouldn't encourage anyone to grow the plant commercially around here.

