

Noxious Weed: MEDITERRANEAN SAGE (*Salvia aethopsis* L.)



Growth Habitat: Sometimes sold as Ethiopian Sage in local nurseries, Mediterranean Sage is an aggressive ornamental plant that has invaded over 500 acres of rangeland in northern Boulder County. Strong winds scatter seeds as the plant tumbles across the front range.

Flower: Produces a profusion of showy, white flowers during the second growing season. Flowering occurs from May to July. After flowering, the stem weakens, breaks off, and casts seeds as it tumbles. Plant can produce up to 100,000 seeds.

Other: First year, ground hugging basal leaves are bluish-green and have woolly surfaces. The seedling develops a rosette of large woolly leaves that are strongly aromatic. A taproot forms, providing a reservoir of energy for the next season's growth and seed development. Second year, a sturdy, branching stem develops, vertically bolting up to 3' in height. Leaves with irregular margins enlarge and have formed 7-10" rosettes.

Management: For small infestations, dig out individual plants, minimizing soil disturbance, severing the root, 2-3" below the crown with a spade after the plant has bolted prevents resprouting.

Mowing is not recommended, acts as a stimulant for regrowth.

For larger infestations, it is recommended that specific, selective herbicides be used for control. Call 303-776-4034 for specific formulas. For more information on noxious weeds go to: <http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/environmentalaffairs/ipm/index.htm> or <http://www.ag.state.co.us/dpi>.



For more details on invasive weeds visit:

<http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/boulder/AG/agweedsspecificweeds.shtml>

Cost-share funds: are available for landowners who wish to contract control work from experienced, licensed contractors. The Colorado Department of Agriculture awarded Boulder Valley and Longmont Conservation Districts a grant from the Noxious Weed Management fund. The CD Grant will pay 75% of the cost for contracted licensed control work. Contact Colorado Department of Agriculture <http://www.ag.state.co.us/dpi> for more information.

Colorado Weed Management Association. Troublesome Weeds of the Rocky Mountain West. Seventh Edition