

Common Name: Common St. Johnswort, Klamath weed.

Scientific Name: *Hypericum perforatum* L.

Family: St. Johnswort family (Clusiaceae)

Related Species: At least eighteen species of Saint Johnswort are found in the United States.

Description: Numerous erect stems from a stout taproot. Leaves opposite, up to one inch long, lacking a leaf stalk. **Tiny transparent dots** visible when leaves held up to a bright light. Flowers with five bright yellow petals ½ inch long with **deep purple dots** along petal margins and showy yellow stamens with purple tips.

Life History: Perennial reproduces from seed and vegetatively from roots. Root buds may separate from the parent to form new plants. One plant may produce 15,000-20,000 seeds.

Where Found: Hoonah, Sitka.

Photo: © John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy



Habitat: Rangeland areas and pastures (especially when poorly managed), fields, roadsides, forest clearings in temperate regions with cool, moist winters and dry summers. Grows best in open, disturbed sites and on slightly acidic to neutral soils. Does not tolerate saturated soils.

Impacts: One of the most aggressive weeds in the Pacific Northwest. Invades prairie meadows in CA, OR, WA

Fun Facts: Employed to alleviate nervous disorders, but also contains a phototoxin which causes sensitive persons to become susceptible to skin burns, especially after exposure to sunlight. St. Johnswort was introduced to the United States in the 17th Century by the Rosicrucians.

Control Options: Tillage may be employed to eliminate St. Johnswort. Biocontrol by beetles of the genus *Chrysolina* has been successfully used to control St. Johnswort.

Herbicide Options: combinations of 2,4-D before blossoms open, preferably on new seedlings just after germination.