

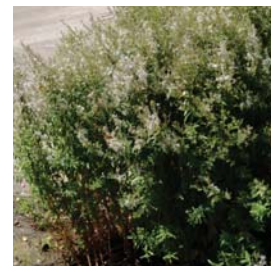


Hairy willow-herb is native to Eurasia and North Africa and was likely introduced to the U.S. as an ornamental. Some reports suggest it may have also arrived in ship ballast. The plant is typically found in water-logged soils and easily tolerates inundation. It does not tolerate shaded areas during seedling establishment, but once established can be somewhat shade-tolerant. Infestations can clog small waterways and displace native vegetation, increasing bank erosion and degrading wildlife habitat. Hairy willow-herb spreads easily into undisturbed areas and can form monotypic stands in wetland areas. Seeds require a soil pH for 5.5 or higher for germination and are thought to remain viable for several years in the soil. Site monitoring should be carried out for at least ten years after the last flowering adult plants have been eliminated.

Hairy willow-herb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) is a perennial, semi-aquatic plant also known by the names “codlins and cream” and “European fireweed.” The plant grows up to 6 feet tall and can reproduce via seeds or rhizomes. Each mature plant can produce up to 70,000 seeds, which can be wind-dispersed thanks to a tuft of long white hairs on the oblong and flattened seeds. The entire plant is covered with fine, soft hairs. Leaves are mostly opposite, lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate in shape, with sharply serrated margins. Leaves attach directly to the stem, are often clasping at the base, and grow from 2-5 inches long and 1/2-1 inch wide. The showy pink flowers are 3/4 inch across with four notched petals, four sepals, and eight stamens. Flowers occur in racemes in the upper leaf axils and are present in July and August.

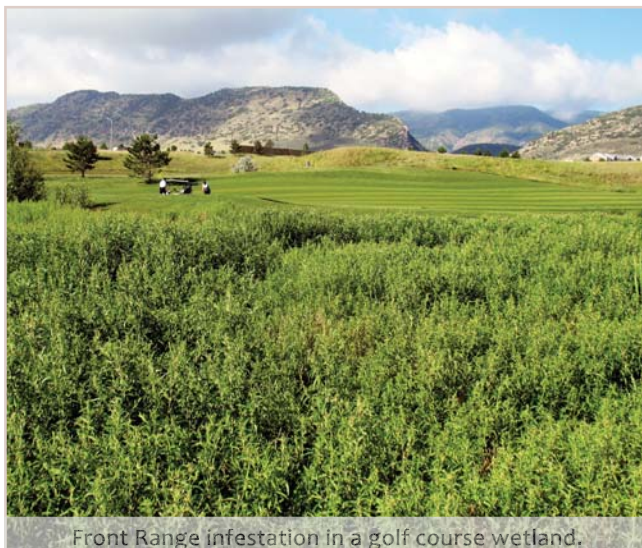
The key to effective control of hairy willow-herb is to prevent establishment through proper land management. Maintain healthy riparian corridors, wetlands and rights-of-way, and continually monitor your property for new infestations. Be aware that there are several native species of *Epilobium* in Colorado. Make sure to identify plants correctly before taking action to control them.

Hairy willow-herb is a designated “List A” species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be eradicated wherever found in the state. The following page provides management recommendations. For more information please visit: www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, at 303-869-9034.



Key ID Points

1. Bright pink flowers have 4 notched petals, 4 sepal, & 8 stamens.
2. Leaves mostly opposite & sessile on the stem.
3. Seeds have white, silky tuft in long seedpod.
4. Entire plant covered with soft hairs.



Front Range infestation in a golf course wetland.

Hairy willow-herb
Epilobium hirsutum

Integrated Weed Management Recommendations

Preventing the spread of this plant in Colorado is crucial since it is known to exist only in a few locations, mostly in the Denver Metropolitan area. Monitoring your land for infestations, especially lands near water and downstream of known sites, can significantly aid in detecting the species early and eradicating it quickly. Herbicide timing is important in controlling this species. Follow timing recommendations closely.



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CULTURAL

Prevent the establishment of new infestations by minimizing disturbance and seed dispersal, eliminating seed production, and maintaining healthy native communities. Survey regularly for noxious weeds on your property. Be sure to completely remove any seedlings or newly established plants by hand pulling the plants as early as possible in their development.

BIOLOGICAL

Biocontrol agents are not included in the prescribed management plans by the State. Eradication is the management objective for all List A's. No biocontrol agents for hairy willow-herb is available. For more information on the use of biocontrol agents to control weeds in Colorado, please contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916.

MECHANICAL

Small infestations can be dug by hand and should be performed prior to seed set. It is very important to remove the entire rootstalk and any existing rhizomes of the plant to avoid regrowth from root fragments. Composting of this species is not advised, and vegetation should be destroyed on site or contained in heavy-duty trash bags and disposed of in a landfill.

CHEMICAL

NOTE: The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied along riparian and wetland areas to treat hairy willow-herb. Rates are approximate and based on smaller infestation, spot-spraying techniques. Please read label for exact rates. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!

HERBICIDE	RATE	APPLICATION TIMING
Imazapyr* (Habitat**, Arsenal** for aquatic use)	0.5-1% v/v (0.6-1.3 oz. imazapyr/gal water) + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply evenly over leaf surface "to wet," not dripping. Treat in the pre-bud to flowering stage. (June to August).
Glyphosate (Rodeo**, AquaMaster**, Aqua-Neat** for aquatic)	Up to 5% v/v (Up to 6.4 oz. glyphosate/gal)	Apply evenly over leaf surface "to wet," not dripping. Treat in the pre-bud to flowering stage. (June to August; at least half of foliage should still be green).

Note: * Imazapyr is NOT for use in ornamental or turf settings.

****These herbicide products are non-selective and will kill any vegetation contacted.**

Other species herbicide recommendations: www.colorado.gov/agconservation/CSUHerbicideRecommendations.pdf



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Extension