

Chicory

Cichorium intybus L. Sunflower Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Plants grow from a deep taproot and range from 1-6' in height
- ❑ Leaves are lobed and rough in appearance with upper leaves reduced in size and occurrence
- ❑ Plants contain a milky juice
- ❑ Flowers are blue to purple; rarely white
- ❑ Flower petals are squared on the tip and toothed

Biology and ecology

- A perennial plant spreading by seeds
- It grows in waste areas and along road sides and can become a nuisance in pasture ground
- Chicory is from the Mediterranean region and now can be found in most of the northern hemisphere
- People have planted it for use as salad greens and the root is used for a coffee substitute
- It flowers from July to September

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

Biological - No known biological control in our area

Cultural - Plant competitive grass or other cover crop

Mechanical - Plants will regrow if mowed, but deep tillage will work for control

Chemical - the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) lists chicory as being susceptible to MCPA and mixtures with triclopyr as well as some other recommendations

Where found – Scattered areas of plants all through Stevens County and higher populations in pastures and abandoned crop fields. Not typically a problem weed, but we have seen a dramatic increase in densities where it is growing the past few years.

All photos courtesy Mike Haddock, <http://www.lib.ksu.edu/wildflower/>

