

Common purslane

Portulaca oleracea L.

Purslane Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Leaves are smooth shiny and succulent and are teardrop shaped, being wider at the tip than the base
- ❑ Yellow flowers are small, have 5 petals and open only when there is sunshine
- ❑ Plant grows prostrate and branches can grow more than 12" long
- ❑ Stems are usually a reddish color

Biology and ecology

- An annual plant reproducing from seed but with the ability to re-root after cultivation
- It is persistent in soils that remain moist most of the time
- This plant has been introduced from Europe and has become a troublesome weed especially in gardens and cultivated fields
- Seeds can remain dormant in the soil for years before germinating
- Purslane is edible and is widely used as a salad green or cooked vegetable in many areas

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 - The plants are too close to the ground to be mowed, hand pulling can help reduce the density and seed population if done before flowering

Chemical - Purslane is susceptible to many herbicides; refer to the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) for specific chemical recommendations



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Where found – Scattered areas throughout Stevens County and is a big problem in gardens and flower beds where herbicides are not generally used