

Marsh sowthistle

Sonchus arvensis L. ssp. uliginosus

Sunflower Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Leaves have prickly margins and are lobed -upper leaves less lobed and are clasping
- ❑ Plants grow anywhere from 1-6' tall and are usually slender
- ❑ Flowers are yellow and resemble dandelions
- ❑ Plants contain a milky juice
- ❑ This plant does not have the gland tipped hairs that are seen on perennial sowthistle (*S. arvensis*)
- ❑ Seeds are dark brown and prominently ridged and wrinkled, with a tuft of soft white hairs that help with wind dispersal

Biology and ecology

- A perennial plant spreading by seeds & an extensive creeping root system that grows up to 10' deep
- Plants are capable of producing up to 13,000 seeds that can remain dormant in the soil for up to 6 years
- It is a native of Europe but now found world wide in temperate zones
- Found in gardens, fields and roadsides

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of fill dirt, hay and seed from outside your area

Biological - None available in Washington

Cultural - Good vegetative cover lessens potential but this weed can invade well managed sites

Mechanical - Grazing, cutting mowing, cultivation and digging can reduce seed set but does not eliminate all plants or root spread

Chemical - Several effective at label rates; crop and site considerations may influence choices and timing

Where found - Scattered throughout Stevens County, mainly along ditch banks and edges of wet fields



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