

# Perennial sowthistle

*Sonchus arvensis*

Sunflower Family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ 1-2 inch wide rich, yellow, dandelion-like flowers
- ❑ Numerous gland tipped hairs on bracts surrounding flower and on upper stem
- ❑ Exudes a milky juice when injured
- ❑ Leaves vary from deeply lobed to entire, have a clasping base and mildly prickly margins
- ❑ Most leaves on lower portion of the stem
- ❑ Plants are usually 2 to 4 feet tall
- ❑ New shoots from roots foster dense stands
- ❑ Stems are hollow and branch near the top



## Biology and ecology

- Perennial-spreads by seeds and creeping roots
- Found in gardens, fields and roadsides
- Prefers fertile areas with adequate water
- Seeds are wind borne
- Withstands some cultivation
- Palatable to both sheep and cattle

## 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* - Primarily in the Colville Valley in the area north of Colville with a lesser infestation near Waitts lake, Stevens County.

