

# Stinging nettle

*Urtica dioica L.*

Nettle Family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Plant stems grow erect 2-9' in height and are square
- ❑ Leaves are opposite and coarsely toothed
- ❑ Leaves have small bristly stinging hairs covering them
- ❑ Flowers form in green clusters in the axils of the upper leaves

## Biology and ecology

- A perennial plant reproducing by seeds and slow spreading roots forming monocultures
- Stinging nettle is native to our area
- It is a nuisance to humans due to the stinging hairs
- It is found mostly in shady moist areas
- Stinging nettle grows in areas all over the world; said to be native in North America, England, North Africa and many other countries
- It has many medicinal qualities and many sites on the internet have it for sale

## 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 crops

*Mechanical* - It cannot be effectively mowed or pulled, but digging or hoeing will eventually "wear out" root systems

*Chemical* -the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) does not have it listed as a problem weed but other sources list mixtures with either glyphosate (Roundup) or imazapyr (Habitat or Arsenal) as being effective control for stinging nettles

*Where found* - Along creek beds, in pastures, around old homesteads and wooded areas.

