

Western gromwell

Lithospermum ruderale

Borage Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Leaves are linear and feel rough to the touch due to the short hairs covering plant
- ❑ 5-lobed, pale yellow flowers produced in clusters in the upper axils of stems
- ❑ Fruits are 4 shiny nutlets that are brown then turn a grayish color
- ❑ Several leafy stems in a clump, growing 18-24" tall

Biology and ecology

- A perennial plant spreading by seeds
- It grows in open dry slopes and plains
- Western gromwell is a native species of California and is found throughout the northwest
- Sometimes called Puccoon, a Native American word for plants that yield a dye; purple dye can be extracted from the roots
- Does not seem to like to grow in shaded areas
- Also has some medicinal qualities

Control

NOTE: This plant is listed for identification purposes only. We do not suggest removal of the plant from any sites.

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

There is a lack of data for control of this plant as it does not seem to be an aggressive plant in our county

Mechanical - It can be kept out of fields by tillage

Chemical - Western gromwell is not listed in the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) for specific chemical recommendations.

Where found - Plants can be found in open unfarmed areas of the county- usually in very small populations

