

St. John's wort

Hypericum perforatum

VERY INVASIVE – emerging in the Arrowhead

Invasive habitat: poor, sandy, dry soils with full sun such as in grasslands, meadows, forest clearings, and forested areas with disturbed soils.

Native range: Europe, west Asia, and North Africa



Becoming an increasing problem in the Arrowhead



IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: grows 1-3' tall. Taproot grows 2-5 ft deep and there are long "runners" or stems growing along or just below the ground. Contains a phototoxin.



Flowers: flowers are 2.5" wide and each stem produces 25-100. Flowers bloom in June or July.



Leaves: leaves are typically 1-2" long and ¼" wide. Leaves have translucent dots that are visible against light.



Seeds: one plant can produce 30,000 seeds; seeds remain viable for 20 years. Additionally, it spreads aggressively through rhizomes.

CONTROL



Manual: can be effective for small patches; difficult because of deep roots.



Chemical: Escort XP, Milestone, and Opensight are very effective when applied early to actively growing plants (prior to flowering).



Prescribed fire: fire may increase the occurrence of St. John's wort.



Biological: St Johnswort borer, St Johnswort inchworm, Klamath weed beetle, Klamath weed midge



Mechanical: ineffective; resprouting will occur after crown removal or defoliation.



Cultural: competition with native wildflowers may help control young stages.