

# Common burdock

Colorado Department of Agriculture

305 Interlocken Pkwy  
Broomfield, CO 80021

(303) 869-9030  
weeds@state.co.us

## Identification and Management



year due to the spines and burs. The burs can easily get entangled into livestock fur, make distribution easy over large areas.

The key to effective control of minimizing soil disturbance and preventing the establishment of plants. Using an integrated weed management approach combining chemical, cultural, and mechanical methods to control these plants is effective. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

## Identification and Impacts

Common burdock (*Arctium minus*) is a biennial forb that is native to Europe. The first year of growth is a basal rosette, producing large cordate, thickly hairy leaves. The second year of growth, is a coarse, multi-branched, erect stem that will grow to heights of 3 to 10 feet tall. The large, dark green leaves are alternate and appear to have toothed or wavy margins. They are broadest and the base of the leaf and diminish as they approach the tip of the leaf, and have a hairy underside. The flowers appear at the end of the branches, numerous, clustered and are pink to purple in color. At the base of the flower there are many spines that often have a hook on the end. The flower and the spines dry and become an easily dispersible bur. Flowering and seed production occur from July to October. The plant grows from a sturdy taproot that is brown and fleshy in color.

Common burdock is designated as a "List C" species on the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local jurisdictions managing this species. For more information, visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds) or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.



### Key ID Points

Habitats for Common burdock include roadsides, ditch banks, waste places, pastures, and fencerows. Animals will avoid eating the plant in both years of growth, the first year due to the hairy leaves and the second



Photos © All Photos from Kelly Uhing, Department of Agriculture

*Arctium minus*

**CULTURAL**

Minimizing soil disturbance and encouraging the establishment of desirable grasses and forbs, can assist in controlling Common burdock. For specific seed recommendations contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Services for seed mixes.

**BIOLOGICAL**

Currently there is not any biocontrol available for Common burdock. Biocontrol takes many years of research and development. For more information, contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916 for more information.

**MECHANICAL**

Hand pull or dig when soil is moist, but make sure to wear gloves. Bag specimens carefully so as not to scatter seeds. Mowing is also effective, cutting the top growth of the plant. The key to effective control is to prevent seed production and/or spread.

*Integrated Weed Management:*

*Preventing the establishment and minimizing soil disturbance is an effective way to control Common burdock. Combining treatment methods of cultural, mechanical and chemical assist with controlling these plants.*

# Common burdock

**HERBICIDES**

NOTE: The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gal/acre. Please read label for exact rates. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!

HERBICIDE	RATE	APPLICATION TIMING
Aminopyralid (Milestone)	4-7 oz/acre or 1 teaspoon/gal water	Apply in rosette stage in spring or fall. Add non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water.
Clopyralid (Stinger)	1/2-1 1/3 pts/acre	Apply to young to actively growing plants in the spring. Add non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 pt/100 gal water.
2,4-D Amine	2 pts/acre	Apply to young to actively growing plants in the spring. Add non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 pt/100 gal water.
2,4-D Dicamba	1 pt/acre	Apply to young to actively growing plants pre-flower stages in spring. Add non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 pt/100 gal water.

Photos © Top to Bottom; Kelly Uhing, Colorado Department of Agriculture; Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org; Kelly Uhing, Colorado Department of Agriculture