

STORK'S-BILL

Erodium cicutarium (L.) L'Her.

Family: Geraniaceae (Geranium).

Other Scientific Names: None.

Other Common Names: Redstem filaree, cranesbill, cutleaf filaree.

Legal Status: Not categorized.

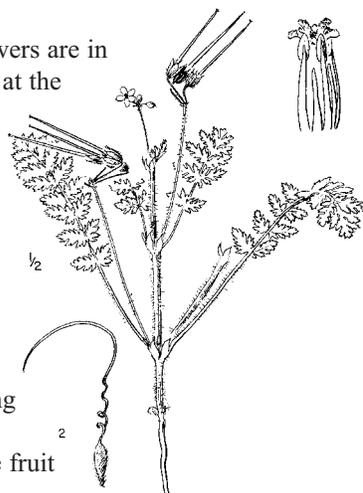


Identification

Growth form: Winter annual or biennial forb.

Flower: Flowers are in an umbrella-like cluster at the end of long, slender stalks arising from the leaf axils.

Flowers are purplish pink and generally borne in clusters of 2 or more (Whitson et al. 1996). The persistent styles of this plant are 2.5–5.0 cm long and coil together at maturity, enveloping the fruit at the base.



Seeds/Fruit: Fruits are 5-lobed and long-beaked, with each lobe splitting away at maturity.

Leaves: The leaves of young plants form a basal rosette. Older leaves grow up to 30 cm long and are divided into narrow, feather-like lobed or toothed segments. Both leaves and stems are hairy.

Stems: Mature plants have decumbent to erect stems that are 3–40 cm long.

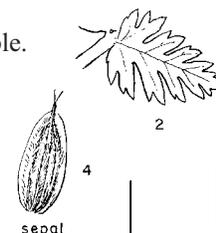
Roots: The slender taproot is about 8 cm long, and there are secondary fibrous roots.

Seedling: No information available.

Similar Species

Exotics: None known.

Natives: None known.



Impacts

Agricultural: Can compete with agricultural crops for moisture and nutrients. It may also cause livestock poisoning and is an alternate host for beet curly top, peach yellow bud mosaic, and strawberry green petal, among other plant diseases (Royer and Dickinson 1999).

Ecological: An annual, winter annual, or biennial that can quickly invade disturbed sites.

Human: No information available.

Habitat and Ecology

General requirements: In BC, grows from low- to mid-elevations in moist to dry fields, woodlands, and disturbed habitats on well-drained, clayey, loamy, or sandy soil. It will tolerate a broad range of climates and can grow in areas that experience harsh, snowy winters because its short growing season allows it to complete its life cycle before the onset of freezing weather (FEIS 1996). It will tolerate partial shade, but plant vigour is reduced.

Distribution: Common in southwestern and south-central BC (Douglas et al. 1999) and throughout North America. Reported from all agricultural reporting regions except the Omineca but is not considered a major concern anywhere in the province.

Historical: Introduced from Europe, perhaps as early as the 1700s by Spanish explorers (FEIS 1996).

Life cycle: Plants often germinate in the autumn and

develop leaves. The following spring the plant resumes growth and flowers in the spring. Seeds ripen from May to June, depending on geographic location.

Mode of reproduction: By seed.

Seed production: No information available.

Seed bank: Seeds can remain viable for many years (FEIS 1996).

Dispersal: When moist, the coiled styles enveloping the seed expand, uncoil, and drive the arrow-shaped fruit into the ground.

Hybridization: No information available.

Management

Biocontrol: None.

Mechanical: Mowing or burning before seed-set can eliminate seed production.

Fire: (See above.)

Herbicides: Can be controlled with late autumn or early spring applications of 2,4-D or dicamba to rosettes, but it is tolerant of glufosinate (Ehlhardt and Stracham 1993). Consult the most recent edition of BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Crop Production Guides for specific recommendations.

Before applying herbicides, read the label for full use and precautionary instructions.

Cultural/Preventive: Minimize disturbance, eliminate seed production and dispersal, and maintain vigorous perennial plant communities.

Integrated Management Summary

Integrated management should focus on reducing or eliminating seed production and depleting the seed bank. Combine herbicide or mechanical methods to remove rosettes and remove seed heads from flowering plants. Seed disturbed areas to perennial grasses and manage livestock to minimize disturbance and maintain vigorous perennial plant communities.

References

Douglas, G. W., D. Meidinger, and J. Pojar, eds. 1999. *Illustrated Flora of British Columbia*. Vol. 3: *Dicotyledons (Diapensiaceae through Onagraceae)*. Province of British Columbia.

Ehlhardt, M. H., and W. F. Stracham. 1993. Orchard and vineyard weed control with glufosinate. *Western Society of Weed Science* 46: 44–45.

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Royer, F., and R. Dickinson. 1999. *Weeds of Canada and the Northern United States*. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press.

Whitson, T. D. (ed.), L. C. Burrill, S. A. Dewey, D. W. Cudney, B. E. Nelson, R. D. Lee, R. Parker. 1996. Redstem filaree. *Weeds of the West*. Western Society of Weed Science, in cooperation with the Western United States Land Grant Universities Cooperative Extension Services, Newark, CA.

