

M e d i t e r r a n e a n s a g e

(*Salvia aethiopsis*)



Distinguishing Features:

- A biennial: first year rosettes have blue-green, woolly, slightly notched leaves and second year plants are leafier with a flowering stem.
- The flower stem can grow 2 to 3 feet tall and branch 2 to 3 feet wide.
- White to yellowish-white flowers appear in clusters.
- The stem breaks off in the fall and forms a tumbleweed, dispersing thousands of seeds.
- Leaves have a pungent odor when crushed.



Typical Habitat:

- Native to the Mediterranean region and northern Africa.
- Colorado infestations can be found in Boulder and Larimer Counties.
- Invasive ornamental plant.
- Prefers south-facing slopes in loose, gravelly, well-drained soils.
- Primarily a rangeland weed but will easily invade riparian areas, forests, roadsides, and dry pastures.



Impacts:

- Mature plants can produce 100,000 seeds each.
- It initially invades disturbed sites but quickly spreads to non-disturbed and natural sites.
- It adapts to a wide variety of environmental conditions and quickly displaces native vegetation.
- Capable of forming dense monocultures.
- It is unpalatable to most grazing animals.

For cost share, identification, or management information please contact:

Tim Carney or Nancy McIntyre - Boulder Valley and Longmont Conservation Districts: 303-776-4034 x3
Tim D'Amato - Boulder County Weed Supervisor: 303-678-6110
Kathy Damas - City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks: 303-413-7647
Adrian Card - CSU Cooperative Extension: 303-678-6383



Report all sightings
to your local
weed manager
immediately!

M e d i t e r r a n e a n s a g e C o n t r o l o p t i o n s

Chemical Control:

(listed in order of efficacy)

- **Metsulfuron + 2,4-D** (Escort or Cimarron + 2,4D - general use)
 - ~ 1oz + 1 qt product/acre plus 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant
 - ~ Apply in spring during rosette to bolting (early flowering) growth stages
- **Metsulfuron** (Escort or Cimarron - general use)
 - ~ 1 oz product/acre plus 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant
 - ~ Apply in spring during rosette to bolting (early flowering) growth stages
- **Glyphosate** (Roundup and many others - general use)
 - ~ 1% - 2% solution applied as a spot spray application
 - ~ Apply in spring during rosette to bolting (early flowering) growth stages
 - ~ Apply only to target plant as Glyphosate is a broad spectrum, non-selective herbicide and will kill most other non-target plants.

The soil seed reserve of Mediterranean sage is unknown. The site must be monitored for at least 10 years after the last flowering adult plants have been eliminated and treatments repeated when necessary.

Not all products listed are for use near homes. Be sure and read the label to determine if a listed product is appropriate for your site. The label is the law!



Mechanical Control:

(good for light infestations)

- Hand pull or shovel when soil is moist .
- Make certain to pull up all the roots or sever at least 2 to 3 inches of taproot with a shovel. Shake excess soil from specimens and turn over to dry out.
- Bag specimens carefully so as to not scatter seeds if flowering.



There is no biocontrol available or approved for Mediterranean Sage!

Mediterranean sage is a State of Colorado List A Noxious Weed.
Mediterranean sage is designated for statewide eradication!

Eradication requires intensive and persistent control efforts to effectively eliminate weed infestations and soil seed reserves.

Contact your local weed manager for more information.

A list of local weed managers can be found at:

<http://www.ag.state.co.us/csd/weeds/mapping/countyprograms.html>