



Arum italicum

WA – Class C Noxious Weed, Prohibited Plant List

Italian Arum

Italian Lords and Ladies, Italian Lily, Cuckoo's Pint

Family: Araceae

Origins: Native to Asia, Europe, and North Africa. Originally introduced to the United States as an ornamental. The first documented site in Washington State was on San Juan Island in 2002.

Range: The most extensive infestations in the United States are along the West and East Coasts. In Washington and Oregon, the infestations are more dense west of the Cascade Mountains.

Habitat: Commonly found in forest understories, riparian areas, wetlands, gardens, and disturbed locations near urban development.

Impact: Italian Arum is toxic to humans and livestock and is very difficult to control once established. Reproducing both by seed and tubers, new plants can begin producing independent daughter tubers in the second growing season. Tuber formation leads to the establishment of dense infestations, shading out and preventing the small native plants' establishment. Seeds can spread by birds, water movement, and improper disposal of plant parts.

Description: Italian Arum is a perennial herbaceous plant that typically grows 12 to 18 inches tall. Smooth, spade-shaped leaves with a distinct cream to light green marbling emerge in fall to late winter and reach up to 12 inches long. Pale yellow flowers emerge in spring with a displeasing odor and resemble a calla lily flower (bottom image). The flowers and leaves die back in late summer, leaving behind oblong, tight clusters of green berries that turn a vibrant red/orange color when ripe. On average, the first flower is produced 4 to 5 years after seed germination. Each berry contains three seeds.

Common Look-Alikes: Wapato, Calla Lily, Jack in the Pulpit.

** All parts of Italian Arum are toxic to humans and livestock. Italian Arum contains large quantities of calcium oxalates in the form of needle-shaped crystals that occur in the cells of all plant parts. These crystals cause irritation upon contact and may cause death if consumed.*



Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

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Non-Herbicide Control

Italian Arum is extremely difficult to eliminate; multiple years of consistent control may be necessary.

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)	Digging and carefully removing the tuber and daughter tubers can provide some control after many years of repeated treatment. Cutting and bagging the stems with berries will prevent seeds from dispersing and establishing new infestations. Dispose of all plant parts in a sealed bag. Wear protective gloves to protect the skin from toxic properties. An experiment was performed to apply boiling water to the tubers; trials were successful; however, long-term control is uncertain.
Cultural	Planting native vegetation may help provide competition and reduce the spread of an infestation. Do not introduce this plant to your landscape.
Biological	Biological agents are currently not available for Italian Arum in Washington State.

Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

Published information is limited; the following herbicides showed positive results in initial trials.

Sulfometuron (Oust, SFM 75)	Timing: Spring when leaves have emerged. Remarks: Do not allow spray to drift to sensitive crops; apply only to pasture, rangeland, and non-crop sites; application sites differ between products; for best results, use a surfactant.
Glyphosate (Roundup, Rodeo, Killzall)	Timing: Spring when leaves have emerged. Remarks: Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; Glyphosate is nonselective and may injure or kill any vegetation it contacts; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
Metsulfuron (Escort, MSM)	Timing: Spring when leaves have emerged. Remarks: Do not allow spray to drift to sensitive crops; apply only to pasture, rangeland, and non-crop sites; application sites differ between products; for best results, use a surfactant.
Imazapyr (Habitat)	Timing: Spring when leaves have emerged. Remarks: Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; do not apply near water; may be harmful to some tree species; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
Aminocyclopyrachlor (Streamline, Perspective)	Timing: Spring when leaves have emerged. Remarks: Even low rates can kill non-target tree and shrub species, avoid application near sensitive species; application to stressed plants may reduce treatment effectiveness; do not allow spray to drift off target.

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.