

MEDITERRANEAN SAGE

Salvia aethiopsis

Lamiaceae, the mint family

Category: Control

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FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Mediterranean sage is an invasive plant that outcompetes beneficial forage plants and is unpalatable to livestock and wildlife, reducing forage production.

Description

- Biennial that can grow up to 3 feet tall.
- Fine, woolly hairs cover the stems and leaf surfaces. Plants become less hairy as they mature and leaves develop prominent venation.
- Flowering stems are square and highly branched with yellow to whitish flowers in whorls of 5-10.
- Grey-green rosette leaves are ovate to triangular, irregularly lobed to deeply incised, and reach 1-4 feet in diameter.
- The stem leaves are smaller than lower leaves and clasp the stem. When crushed, they have a sage-like aroma.
- 4 smooth nutlets with dark veins develop from each flower.

Introduction and Movement

- Mediterranean sage is native to Europe and was likely introduced to the U.S. as a seed contaminant in alfalfa seed.
- Inhabits disturbed sites such as degraded sagebrush communities, fields, rangelands, roadsides, and some agronomic crops.
- Mature plants break off and become tumbleweeds, easily spreading as many as 100,000 seeds each. Seeds can also be dispersed by hitching a ride in mud on vehicles or shoes.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Mediterranean sage and eradicate infestations on your property.
- When gardening, always research plants before planting and only purchase seeds from licensed nurseries.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW & KNOCK IT OFF!**

Sources

- Invasive Plant Atlas of the U.S.: <https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=4361>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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MEDITERRANEAN SAGE DISTRIBUTION MAP

