



Photo: Sasha Shaw, King County Noxious Weed Control Board

# Policeman's Helmet

<b>Scientific Name:</b>	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
<b>Weed Class:</b>	B
<b>Year Listed:</b>	1999
<b>Requirement:</b>	Control Required
<b>Other Names:</b>	Ornamental Jewelweed, Bobby Tops
<b>Native To:</b>	India and Western Himalaya
<b>Toxicity:</b>	Not known to be

## Why is it a noxious weed?

Policeman's helmet is extremely invasive to moist, natural areas. Sold as an ornamental, this species escaped into lowland riparian areas including moist forests, along streams and roadside ditches.

## How would I identify it?

### General Description

Policeman's helmet is an herbaceous annual that is succulent, smooth and hairless, and can range from 3 feet to 10 feet tall.

### Flower Description

Flowers are irregular. The color ranges from white to all shades of pink and purple. They have 5 petals (2 fused), 3 sepals (2 fused), and 5 stamens. The shape resembles a British policeman's hat.

### Leaf Description

Leaves are alternate, opposite or whorled and usually have 3 leaves to a node. The shape is oblong to ovate to elliptic. They are about 6 inches long and half as wide, with sharply toothed margins.



### Stem Description

Stems are hollow, upright and have a purplish tinge.

### Fruit/Seed Description

Flowers form capsules that contain small seeds (3 mm).

### May Be Confused With

Western Touch-Me-Not (*Impatiens noli-tangere*) has a similar appearance to Policeman's Helmet, and is found in similar habitats.

### Where does it grow?

Policeman's helmet is partially shade tolerant and is found in riparian areas which include moist forests, stream sides and roadside thickets.

### How does it reproduce?

Each plant can produce up to 800 seeds, which are ejected up to 20 feet from the capsule. Seeds are viable for 18 months or more and can germinate underwater.



## How do I control Policeman's Helmet?

The most effective way to manage weed infestations is to research, plan for, and use a combination of prevention and control methods specific to the problem weed. This approach is called **I**ntegrated **W**eed **M**anagement (IWM), which uses mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical control methods that effectively treat the problem weed yet protect human health, habitat, water, and other natural resources.

IWM Control Method	Effectiveness of Control			Timing and Notes **
	Good	Fair	Poor	
Digging	<b>G</b>			Remove as much of the root system as possible.
Hand-Pulling	<b>G</b>			Policeman's Helmet has a shallow root system, which makes it easy to pull.
Mowing			<b>P</b>	Possible. Monitoring is required to ensure there is no re-growth. If in flower, remove and properly dispose of flowerheads before mowing.
Tilling			<b>P</b>	Not recommended.
Bark Mulch			<b>P</b>	Not Effective.
Black Plastic		<b>F</b>		Not recommended.
Cover Crop		<b>F</b>		Not effective as sole control method. Use in conjunction with digging, hand-pulling or herbicide.
Native Plant Restoration		<b>F</b>		Use to discourage new infestation in conjunction with digging, hand-pulling or herbicide.
Soil Amendments			<b>P</b>	Not Effective.
Managed Grazing		<b>F</b>		Sheep and cattle have been know to graze and consume the whole plant. However, livestock use in riparian areas is often not advised.
Weed-Feeding Insects				None
<b>Herbicides - (Examples*)</b>		<b><i>Timing is Important! For most effective control, apply herbicides before plants bloom.</i></b>		
<i>Herbicide use in wetland settings requires caution and, in many cases, permitting. Please call 360-397-6140 for details.</i>				
Aminopyralid	Milestone	<b>G</b>		Apply in both spring (May) and fall (October) to actively growing plants. Effective until plant is in bud stage. Do not spray while in flower.
Glyphosate	Roundup Custom	<b>G</b>		Apply in both spring (May) and fall (October) to actively growing plants. Effective until plant is in bud stage. Do not spray while in flower.
Triclopyr	Renovate 3	<b>G</b>		Apply in both spring (May) and fall (October) to actively growing plants. Effective until plant is in bud stage. Do not spray while in flower.

\*Brand names are listed as examples only. Other products may contain the listed chemical. Clark County does not endorse any product or brand name. Always read and follow the herbicide label.

**\*\*Timing of control is critical!** Herbicide treatments are often not effective or appropriate when plants are in flower. If the weeds have produced seed, bag the plants and place in garbage, not compost. Regardless of control method chosen, multiple treatments may be needed each year. For more information on IWM, specific herbicides, and timing of control, please contact the Weed Board at:



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