

# Chicory

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## Key ID Points

## Identification and Management



## Identification and Impacts

**C**hicory (*Chichorium intybus*) is a perennial forb native to Eurasia. Plants initially appear as a basal rosette with leaves similar to a common dandelion. The leaves are lanceolate shaped and have rough hair on the upper and lower surfaces. They are slightly lobed or dissected with toothed margins and can be 3 inches to 10 inches in length. The lobes and dissections are not opposite, like dandelions. The leaves that appear on the flowering stem are similar in shape but smaller in size. Stems can reach up to 3 to 5 feet in height and are sticky to glabrous to the touch. The plants' flowering stems appear later in the growing season, producing purple to blue to white flowers. The flowers are in clusters of 1 to 3, and individual flowers are about 1 inch in diameter with toothed petals. The root system consists of a large brown taproot, which will produce a milky sap if broken. Chicory generally reproduces by seeds, that can survive up to 4 years.

**H**abitats for Chicory include, pastures, turfgrass, hayfields, roadsides, waste ground, and any disturbed site. Plants can survive in

infertile and dry conditions. Plants can even be present after a drought period. It is found throughout Colorado from elevations of 4,000 to 7,000 feet. The milky sap released from all parts of the plant can cause dermatitis if it contacts the skin. Animals will consume Chicory. If consumed by dairy cattle, it can leave a bitter taste to the milk.

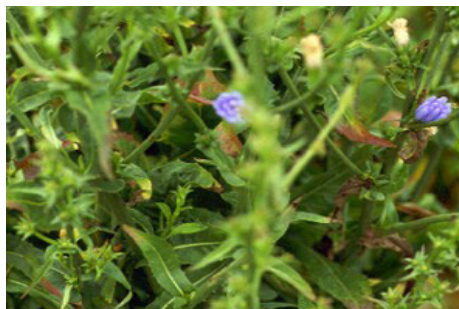
**T**he key to effective control of Chicory is preventing the establishment of the plant on disturbed sites. The plants can not resist persistent cultivation. Mechanical and chemical treatments are effective as well. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

**C**hicory is designated as a "List C" species on the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local jurisdictions managing this species. For more information, visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds) or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.



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*Chichorium intybus*

**CULTURAL**

Planting desirable grasses and forbs to outcompete chicory is an effective management tool. Reestablishing a healthy plant community where disturbed or bareground is present helps with management. For specific seed recommendations contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Services for seed mixes.

**BIOLOGICAL**

Currently there is not any biocontrol available for Chicory. Biocontrol takes many years of research and development. For more information contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916 for more information.

**MECHANICAL**

Hand pull or dig when soil is moist, but make sure to wear gloves. Bag specimens carefully so as not to scatter seeds. The key to effective control is to prevent seed production and/or spread. Mowing can also be an effective management option. Chicory plants don't respond well if mechanical treatments are persistent.

*Integrated Weed Management:*

*Identifying and preventing the establishment of Chicory on disturbed sites proves to be the most effective control. Plants can also be controlled using a combination of chemical and mechanical treatments.*

# Chicory

**HERBICIDES**

NOTE: The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gal/acre. Please read label for exact rates. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!

HERBICIDE	RATE	APPLICATION TIMING
Aminopyralid (Milestone)	4-6 oz./acre or 1 teaspoon/gal water	Spring at actively growing stage. Add non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water.
2,4-D Amine	2-4 qt./acre	Apply to early growth of flower bud stage in spring. DO NOT apply when outside temperature exceed 85 degrees. Add non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 qt/100 gal water.
2,4-D+Dicamba	3 pints/acre	Apply to early growth stage to early bolting stage in spring.
Picloram (Tordon 22K *This is a Restricted Use Pesticide*)	1-2 pts/acre or 0.75 oz/gal water	Apply in spring seedling to early growth stages. DO NOT apply near trees/shrubs/high water table.

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