

# Venice mallow

Colorado Dept. of  
Agriculture  
Conservation Services  
Division  
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## Key ID Points

1. Alternate leaves that are 3 inches wide & long.
2. Flowers are light yellow with a red to purple center and only last a few hours.

## Venice mallow Identification and Management



### Identification and Impacts

Venice mallow (*Hibiscus trionum*) is a summer annual forb that has a spreading profile and is native to Europe. The seeds are dark brown and can remain viable for 50 years. The cotyledons are round with hairy petioles. The first true leaves have toothed margins and are alternate. Leaves are alternate and divided into 3 to 5 distinct lobes. Margins on the lobes are toothed. The leaves are approximately 3 inches wide and long. The upper surface of the leaf is not hairy, on the underside of the leaf hair is present. Flowers are a light sulfur to yellow color with a red to purple center. Flowers only last a couple of hours and are up to 1½ inches in diameter. The 5 petal flowers appear from July through September. The stems are erect, hairy, branching near the base, and are 10 to 18 inches tall.

Habitats for Venice mallow include: disturbed areas, cultivated fields, nurseries, orchards, roadside fields and open waste areas. Venice mallow is drought tolerant and can grow in gravelly and acidic soils. Venice mallow is found mainly amongst agricultural crops, making it difficult to control.

The key to effective control of Venice mallow is preventing

establishment of the plant and seed production. The earlier detected the faster the response to control Venice mallow. This will keep infestations smaller. Herbicide treatments are another control option. Multiple applications or a pre-emergence application will be most effective, since Venice mallow can grow throughout the summer months. When soils are moist, hand pulling or digging may be an option of control. Be sure to bag plants, since seed viability is a concern. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

Venice mallow is designated as a "List B" species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations. For more information visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/csd](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/csd) and click on the Noxious Weed Management Program. Or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.



Photos © (Clockwise from lower left): Lynn Sosnoskie, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org; Lynn Sosnoskie, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org; Virginia Tech Weed Identification Guide; Bogdan Giuşcă, blog.serenataflowers.com; and Dan Tenaglia, Missouriplants.com, Bugwood.org.

*Hibiscus trionum*



**CULTURAL**

Outcompeting Venice mallow, is difficult with native grasses and forbs, since Venice mallow likes agricultural crop areas. But, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service for seed mix recommendations that may help in rangeland areas. Bareground is prime habitat for weed invasions.



**BIOLOGICAL**

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



**MECHANICAL**

Hand pulling or digging when soil is moist, making sure to get the roots to prevent resprouting. Removing flowers before the plant sets seed will also be effective. Be sure to bag specimens carefully so as not to spread seeds.

*Integrated Weed Management:*

*Locate and remove plants immediately before plants set seed to prevent the spread of Venice mallow. Since the plant reproduces solely by seed, integrated management efforts must include the elimination of seed production and depletion of seed bank. Combing control methods of herbicide and mechanical can be effective.*

**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 gallons per acre. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!*

HERBICIDE	RATE	APPLICATION TIMING

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