



# Integrated Weed Management



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
BC Ministry of  
Agriculture and Food  
Plant Industry Branch  
Crop Protection Program

## Stinking Tarweed – a.k.a Cluster Tarweed *Madia glomerata* a.k.a. Mountain Tarweed



Stinking Tarweed

**S**tinking tarweed is an annual member of the Sunflower Family, often forming dense stands in dry fields, closely grazed pastures and along roadsides where competition from perennial forages is weak. Its simple or branched stems grow 1 to 2 feet tall. The entire plant is covered with sticky, yellow glandular hairs. This “tar” is difficult to clean from clothes and the hair of pets and grazing animals. The small, inconspicuous yellow flowers formed at the top of the stem or in leaf axils are partially enclosed by leaves. Small infestations can be detected from some distance due to the exceptionally foul odour emitted from this weed.

This plant is native to western North America, including British Columbia. It usually inhabits forest openings and the margins between forest and grassland. It also establishes well on disturbed and heavily grazed sites. Although this plant is a native, it has recently been increasing in the East Kootenay region, through the Okanagan and north through Central and West Central BC to become of concern to ranchers, farmers and landowners.

Tarweed is classed as a poisonous plant but it is normally avoided by grazing animals due to its disagreeable odour. This preferential grazing will result in increase of the weed on pastures where overutilization of competitive vegetation occurs.



Entire plant covered with sticky, glandular hairs

### Control

- ✓ Maintain a strong, healthy competitive cover of perennial vegetation. Fertilize to soil test recommendation and **DO NOT** overutilize the available forage. Seed bare or weak areas to an adapted perennial forage mix.
- ✓ **Be Aware.** Learn more about stinking tarweed and how to identify it.
- ✓ **Control** existing patches. Research trials in West Central BC have shown excellent control can be achieved with properly timed herbicide application. The following treatments all provided excellent control: Tordon 22K (picloram) at 1.2 L/ha; Lontrel or Transline (clopyralid) at 0.42 L/ha; 2,4-D Amine 500 at 2.2 L/ha; 2,4-D Ester 700 at 1.6 L/ha; and Banvel 480 (dicamba) at 2.2 L/ha. Application should be made when the tarweed is **young and actively growing**.
- ✓ **Clean** equipment, vehicles, tools, footwear and animals **BEFORE** leaving infested sites.