

# IVS Management Training Program

## Curlycup Gumweed-Fact Sheet Mary McKinney

**Scientific Name:** *Grindelia squarrosa* (Pursh) Dunal  
**Common Name:** Curlycup gumweed: Other names:  
rosinweed, tarweed

**Image:** Mature plants

**URL:** <http://www.natronacountyweeds.com/curlycup-gumweed/>

**Native Range:** *Grindelia squarrosa* is a native to North America with the exception of WV, LA, MS, AL, GA, SC, NC, and FL.



**Image:** Rosette

**URL:** <http://bugwoodcloud.org/images/384x256/5374466.jpg>

**Description:** Curlycup gumweed is a 1-3 foot tall tap rooted annual; biennial to short lived perennial with one to many stems. Curlycup gumweed has a sticky resin on their flower heads and to a lesser degree on leaf surfaces. Leaves are alternate, oblong toothed/serrated leaves 1-2.5 inches long, sessile and appear to clasp the stems. Upper leaves are smaller. The flowers are typical *Asteraceae* type with yellow ray and disk florets 1-1.5 inch wide with a single flower on the end of each stem. Several layers of reflexed (downward curved) bracts secrete a sticky resin. Both flowers and leaves appear shiny due to the sticky substance. Curlycup gumweed seeds oblong, cream colored and ridged. Reproduces via seeds.

**Image:** Flower, buds/bracts.

**URL:** <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/gumweed>





**Image: leaves**

URL:

[https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/udata/r9ndp23q/yellow/grindelia-squarrosa-gumweed\\_0705\\_122245.jpg](https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/udata/r9ndp23q/yellow/grindelia-squarrosa-gumweed_0705_122245.jpg)

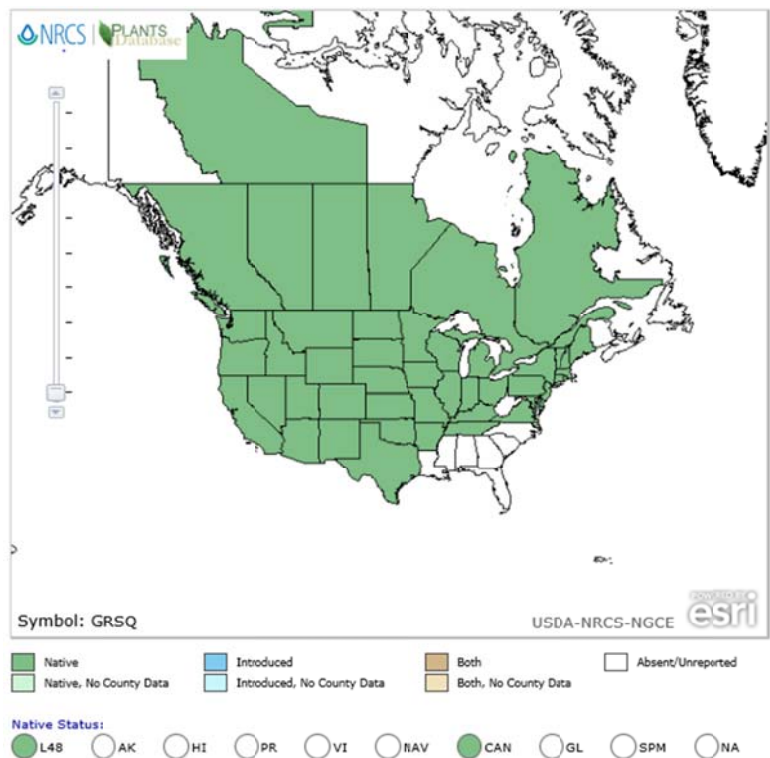
### Pathways of Introduction and Spread.

Curlycup gumweed spreads via seeds. Localized spread is usually due to the decrease in desirable vegetation from overgrazing allowing for dense monocultures of the species. Can also be transported via construction equipment. May also spread via wind-blown seeds.

**Distribution in North America:** Curly cup gumweed is native to most of North America except WV, LA, MS, AL, GA, SC, NC, and FL.

**Image: North America Distribution**

URL: <https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=grsq>



**Ecological Impacts:** Although a native species usually found in dry alkaline soils, Curlycup gumweed can be weedy along compacted gravelly roadways, areas disturbed by human activities, and poorly managed pastures and rangeland. It is generally the first sign of an overgrazed pasture. The species is highly adaptable to saline and drought conditions and may be found inhabiting areas infested with less desirable species such as cheatgrass. Curlycup gumweed provides little nutritional value or cover for most wildlife although a few upland bird species may consume fruits/seeds. While ecological impacts may seem minimal, Curlycup gumweed is usually found among other pasture and range weed species that may be of more concern (cheatgrass, knapweeds, etc.).

**Economic Losses:** Curlycup gumweed is resistant to grazing and drought and therefore can cause overgrazing of more desirable species as animals tend to avoid areas infested with it. This can increase production costs should supplemental feeding be necessary. Loss of wildlife forage should also be considered. Of concern is the degradation of productive land due to mismanagement allowing other invasive weeds to dominate. The rosin can foul the coats of sheep and other animals.

### **Management Strategies:**

Integrated management plans that include all available tools should be utilized. Prevention strategies such as proper pasture and grazing management are useful. Small infestations of this species can be controlled by hand pulling or hoeing rosettes in early spring. Herbicide selection and timing is critical for best results. Post emergent products that contain 2, 4-D amine or ester formulations (ester being more effective) early in June are effective. Once late June rolls around, the addition of Escort® (metsulfuron) to 2, 4-D will provide better control. Products containing the active ingredient triclopyr, clopyralid, or aminopyralid are also effective before flowering. Once blooming occurs, it is too late for effective herbicide applications. Always use a high quality surfactant in solution with the herbicide to facilitate herbicide uptake. As with most weed issues, herbicides are only one of the tools available. Remember to manage for desirable species to gain long term control. Proper watering and fertilizing along with limiting grazing may have the same effect as herbicide use.

### **Notes:**

Tannins, volatile oils, resins, bitter alkaloids, and glucosides give it an unpleasant taste making Curlycup gumweed unpalatable to cattle, sheep, and horses. If it is consumed, it may lead to poisoning due to the selenium the plant can accumulate. It is resistant to grazing and drought. *Always read and follow herbicide labels and wear proper personal protective equipment. An adjuvant or surfactant may improve control with post emergent applications. University Extension, Weed and Pest Districts, or other land management agencies are good resources for more information on choosing the proper herbicide for your specific need.*

### **Other Online Resources:**

[https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg\\_grsq.pdf](https://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_grsq.pdf)

[https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/grindelia\\_squarrosa.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/grindelia_squarrosa.shtml)

<http://igrow.org/livestock/beef/controlling-curlycup-gumweed-grindelia-squarrosa/>

