



A Northern Nevada Homeowner's Guide to Identifying and Managing Redstem Filaree

Susan Donaldson, Water Quality and Weed Specialist

Wendy Hanson Mazet, Master Gardener Program Coordinator and Horticulturist

Other common names: Alfilaree, alfilaria, common storks bill, pin clover, stork's bill, etc.

Scientific name: *Erodium cicutarium*

Family: Geraniaceae

Description: Redstem filaree is a low-growing, mounding plant with feathery leaves and small pink flowers. It flourishes in vacant fields in early spring when there is more precipitation than usual.

Leaves: Finely divided and feather-like; hairy.

Stems: Range from 1 inch to 2 feet long, spreading or upright, generally from a rosette (ground-hugging form) growing along the soil surface (see photo at right). Stems are branched, hairy, and reddish.

Flowers: Small, purplish-pink, with five petals; usually found in clusters of two or more per stem. Blooms from early spring to summer.

Seeds: Form in groups of five and have long protrusions resembling a stork's beak (see photo on back). The seeds split away at maturity and can lodge in socks, shoes or animal fur.

Roots: Shallow, thick white taproot with fibrous lateral roots.

Native to: Europe; naturalized throughout the United States

Where it grows: Roadsides, lawns, gardens, vacant lots, pavement cracks and other disturbed or unmanaged sites

Life cycle: Winter annual (sprouts in fall) or biennial

Reproduction: Reproduces by seed



Typical plant growing in disturbed site.



Rosettes have finely divided leaves and grow in flat, circular clumps.

Control methods: Focus on preventing production of seed to control this common weed.

Mechanical: Dig, hoe or pull young seedlings.

Plants that are mowed will regrow. Mature plants are difficult to pull.

Cultural: Thick mulches can help prevent seed germination. Plant desirable vegetation that will shade the area and reduce germination and growth of young plants.

Biological: None.

Chemical: Apply broadleaf-selective herbicides on young plants. Pre-emergence herbicides can be used to manage existing seed in the soil.

References:

- DiTomaso, J.M. and E.A. Healy. 2007. Weeds of California and Other Western States. University of California Publication 3488.
- Julian, J. 2009. Red Stemmed Filaree. Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, U. of Georgia, http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPM:Red_stemmed_filaree.
- Oregon State University. No date. Redstem Filaree. IPMP 3.0, <http://mint.ippc.orst.edu/redstemfilaree.htm>.
- Pratt, M., J. Bowns, R. Banner and A. Rasmussen. 2002. Redstem Filaree. Range Plants of Utah, Utah State University, <http://extension.usu.edu/range/forbs/filaree.htm>.
- Whitson, Tom D. (editor). 2002. Weeds of the West. University of Wyoming, Jackson, Wyoming.



The leaves are almost feathery in appearance.



The flowers are small, pink and have 5 petals.



The seeds have the appearance of a stork's bill.

(All photos by S. Donaldson)

The University of Nevada, Reno is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, creed, national origin, veteran status, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation in any program or activity it conducts. The University of Nevada employs only United States citizens and aliens lawfully authorized to work in the United States.