

# Chinese clematis

Colorado Department of  
Agriculture

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## Key ID Points

1. Solitary flowers with four yellow sepals.
2. A herbaceous to woody vine climbing perennial.

## Chinese clematis Identification and Management



### Identification and Impacts

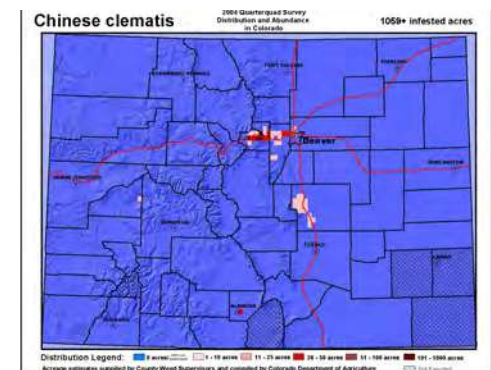
Chinese clematis (*Clematis orientalis*) is a herbaceous to woody vined perennial that is native to Eurasia. It is an escaped ornamental species that is a deciduous climber growing up to 12 feet. Solitary flowers have four yellow sepals (petal-like structures) that are often nodding. Each flower produces numerous feathery, long-tailed fruits which are conspicuous all winter. The plant flowers from August to September.

Habitats for Chinese clematis include roadsides, riparian corridors and rocky slopes. It is sometimes found in open woods. Plants prefer sunny areas but have shown to be somewhat shade tolerant. Chinese clematis prefers well-drained soils.

Chinese clematis can cause death to young trees and brush. It outcompetes native shrubs and herbaceous species. Plants will completely cover; rock walls, trees, bushes and fences. The juice of freshly crushed leaves and stems have blister causing agents.

The key to effective control of Chinese clematis is preventing the plants from going to seed. Pulling the woody stem prior to flowering can be an effective control. Chemical treatments are also effective when dealing with Chinese clematis. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

Chinese clematis 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/weeds](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds) 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.



**CULTURAL**

Cultural controls are possible in theory, but are very time consuming and expensive. Complete removal of any seedlings or newly established plants by continual hand pulling is also possible.

**BIOLOGICAL**

There is no biological control available for Chinese clematis. Since biological control agents take years to research, develop and release, no releases are expected in the foreseeable future. For more information, contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916.

**MECHANICAL**

Hand pull or dig when soil is moist. Make certain to pull all the roots and bag specimens carefully so as to not scatter seeds if flowering.

*Integrated Weed Management:*

*The most effective control method for dealing with Chinese clematis is preventing the plant from going to seed. Pulling the plant from the ground, by the woody stem, prior to the plant flowering is the most effective control. Chinese clematis also responds well to chemical treatments.*

**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
Metsulfuron (Escort XP)	1 oz product/acre plus 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply at flowering growth stage. (equivalent to 1 qt. over 100 gal. of total spray solution) (Fall)
Imazapic (Plateau)	12 fl oz product/acre plus 1 qt/acre methylated seed oil	Apply at flowering growth stage. (Fall)
2, 4-D amine	2,4-D amine that is 4.0 lb active ingredient/gallon of product	Apply at flowering to early post flowering growth stages, will damage neighboring brush species, if present (2 qts.product/acre) (Fall)
Picloram (Tordon 22K *this is a Restricted Use Pesticide*)	1 qt product/acre	Apply at flowering growth stages, will damage neighboring brush species, if present, do NOT apply near trees or water. (Fall)

Top to bottom photos, © (Top 2 photos) Stevens County (Washington State) Noxious Weed Control Board; and bottom photo David Hallinan, Bannock County Weed Superintendent, Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign.

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