
Coltsfoot

Tussilago farfara



Bright yellow flowers appear on scaly stalks before the leaves.



Underside of the heart-shaped leaves is whitish.

Coltsfoot's root development is the secret to its invasiveness. It starts with a 2"-4" branched tap root. After leaves emerge, this root dies, but meanwhile, more roots have grown above or below ground from the stem, and grow up to 5' deep. Ultimately, these roots create rhizomes growing up to 10' deep and 18' long!

- Leaves are heart-shaped with slightly toothed edges and up to 6" wide. The underside is whitish and attached at the root without a main stem.
 - Flowers, like dandelions, are bright yellow in early spring through June. They appear before the leaves on several 3"-12" scaly, white flower stalks per plant.
 - Fruits and rhizomes help this invasive reproduce easily and form large colonies. The seed heads are similar to those of fluffy dandelions.
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HOW TO CONTROL:

- Hand pull before seeds set, when ground is wet, to remove the entire plant, as root pieces will sprout, creating many new plants. (Read about rhizomes above) Roots can remain dormant for a long time.
 - As a last resort, and if more than 25' from water, thoroughly wet all leaves with 2% glyphosate or triclopyr in summer when the leaves are full-sized.
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Sources

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<https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=6564;>

[https://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/wow/coltsfoot.pdf;](https://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/wow/coltsfoot.pdf)

<https://www.fs.fedus/database/feis/plants/forb/tusfar/all.html>

Controls

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