

I. Chicory

(*Cichorium intubus* L.)

Key Characteristics:

Chicory is a member of the Sunflower family. It is native to the Mediterranean region, but now broadly distributed throughout the northern hemisphere. Chicory is a **tap-rooted perennial** that grows 1-6 feet tall and . Low-growing **rosette leaves** resemble dandelion leaves but have fine hairs. Blue flowers (occasionally pink or white) usually close by midday. Leaves are often used in salads and dried roots as a coffee substitute.

Locations:

Patches of Chicory exist along Hwy 133 near the Penny Hot Springs, and along Capitol Creek and Sopris Creek roads.

Biological control:

None known at this time.

Cultural control:

This perennial weed is difficult to eliminate. Prevent invasion by minimizing soil disturbance and use of contaminated seed, eliminating seed production by current infestations, and maintaining healthy native plant communities.

Mechanical control:

Chicory may be controlled by mowing, cutting, or pulling plants before seed production. This process may have to be repeated annually to exhaust nutrient reserves in the roots of the plants as well as to eliminate plants that emerge from the soil seed bank.

Chemical control:

There are effective herbicide options for Chicory control. Best control occurs when the plants are actively growing, and in the fall to rosettes. Contact the Pitkin County Land Management Department for more specific information about products, rates, and equipment calibration.

