

MISIN Midwest Invasive Species Information Network

# Common St. Johnswort

Hypericum perforatum

#### Description

Grow in dense patches; plants have been used to treat mild depression, but have been shown to cause hyper photosensitivity.

#### Habit

Perennial, rhizomatous herb that can reach 1.2 m (4 ft) in height; long taproot with shallow, slender, branched root system.

#### Leaves

Opposite, sessile, elliptic, 2/5- 1 1/5 in. (1-3 cm) long, dotted with many pellucid glands.

#### Stems

Erect with numerous branches and up to 3 ft tall; often reddish in color and become woody at the base with maturity.

#### Flowers

Bright yellow flowers develop at the tips of the stems, flowers have five petals and many stamens, 5/8-1 in wide, petals typically have





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black glands along the margins.

# Fruits and Seeds

Fruits are three-chambered capsules with three persistent styles, contains numerous dark brown to black cylinder-shaped seeds.

## Habitat

Native to Europe. Found in disturbed sites, rangelands, pastures, roadsides and forest clearings.

## Reproduction

By seeds and short runners.

#### Similar

Spotted St. Johnswort (Hypericum punctatum), which has black dots and streaks along the interior of the flower petals while others lake black dots.

# Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hard to control. Physical and Chemical controls have been ineffective due to extensive root system and wax on its leaves.

#### Credits

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