



SHINY GERANIUM

Geranium lucidum L.



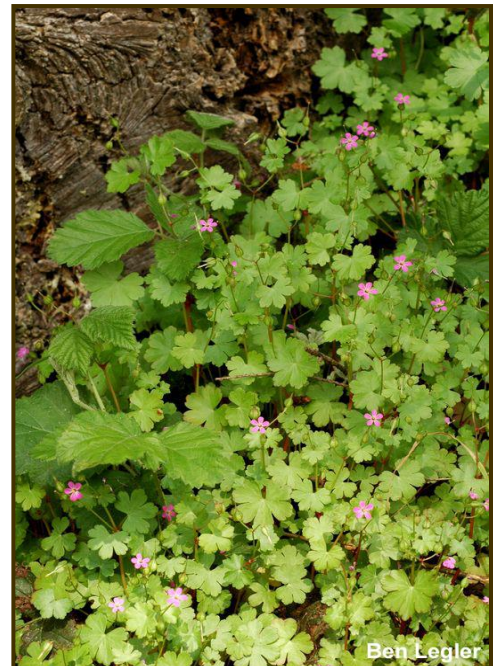
- ✦ Other names: shiny crane's-bill, shining geranium, shiny-leaf hawkbill, shiny-leaf geranium
- ✦ Shiny Geranium is listed as a Class B Designate noxious weed in Pierce County.
- ✦ A small annual, or biennial herbaceous plant in the Geraniaceae Family, Shiny Geranium reproduces by seeds.
- ✦ Shiny Geranium stands between 10 to 12 inches high and can tolerate both sun and shade. Seedlings sprout during the first fall rains and continue to grow through fall and winter, forming large patches that begin blooming in April and May. Stems are usually tinged bright red. Leaves are round, deeply lobed and around 1 ½ inches across. They are

very waxy, shiny and bright green, turning vivid red in late summer and fall. Its five petaled, pink flowers grow in pairs on the ends of stalks, at the same height, or in amongst the leaves. Each seed capsule produces five seeds that are forcefully ejected when ripe. The ability to propel seeds allows this plant to spread in an upward direction, into the crevices of tree trunks, or up steep hillsides. It can produce up to 5 generations in a single year.

- ✦ Shiny geranium establishes quickly in early spring and then dominates the site by pushing out many other early season plants. It prefers shade and will invade undisturbed forest understories and form monocultures that replace native plant communities. As soils dry, few other plants are able to establish through the receding weed canopy.

CONTROL OPTIONS

- ✦ Hand pulling is a viable control option where there are small populations or isolated plants. Hoeing or raking may also work if plants are removed after being loosened up. However, disturbing the soil this way may cause new seedlings to emerge, especially when dealing with large populations of Shiny Geranium.
- ✦ Because the species is a low-growing plant, it is often found amongst desirable vegetation. Therefore, applications of herbicide should be used only where there are large numbers of plants.





- ★ Spot spraying with an herbicide containing the active ingredient *glyphosate* (used in Roundup Pro, or Glyphos) is effective. *Glyphosate* is non-selective however, and will injure any plants it comes in contact with. Spot applications may be done anytime the plants are actively growing, from early spring to late fall. It is best to treat them before seed capsules mature and produce seed.

- ★ Spot spraying with triclopyr (example: Ortho Weed B Gon “Chickweed, Clover and Oxalis Killer”) is effective in controlling shiny geranium. Triclopyr is a selective herbicide that will not kill grass when used according to label instructions, but may damage or kill other broadleaf plants.

- ★ When using herbicides, carefully read and follow all label instructions and obey all label precautions. (Note: pesticide product registration is renewed annually and product names and formulations may vary from year to year.)

