

# Invasive Plant Alert: Shining Geranium



Shining Geranium. Image © Bruce Newhouse.

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Geranium lucidum*

**OTHER COMMON NAMES:** Shining crane's bill

**DESCRIPTION:** Shining geranium is an annual that bears a tiny pink to purple flower and a long, straight, pointed beak that appears at the top of the fruit pod (hence its nickname shining crane's bill). Its round and obtusely lobed leaves are shiny with widely scattered hairs. Towards the end of the summer, the leaves turn red and develop a waxy sheen.

## **WHEN TO FIND SHINING GERANIUM**

It is most easily identified during flowering, which occurs from spring until late July.

## **WHERE TO FIND SHINING GERANIUM**

It tends to grow in monotypic stands in shady areas, especially oak woodlands.

## **WHAT TO DO**

PLEASE CALL 1-866-INVADER IF YOU SUSPECT YOU HAVE FOUND THIS SPECIES. If possible, mark the site on a map and take a picture of the location.

This fact sheet was created for The Nature Conservancy's Weed Watcher Program. For more information about this program contact Tania Siemens [tsiemens@tnc.org](mailto:tsiemens@tnc.org) (541) 914-0701.

This pretty, yet noxious weed is native to Europe, Asia, and North Africa, and has a history of medicinal uses. It was first introduced to the United States for ornamental purposes; thus it likely escaped from gardens into wildlands.

Shining geranium reproduces by seed and germinates in the late winter. It is spreading rapidly into oak and riparian habitats in Oregon's Willamette Valley. It has become widespread in the Howard Buford Recreation Area near Eugene, and is also present in the Rogue River basin.

Shade-tolerant, shining geranium invades undisturbed forest understories and forms monoculture patches that replace native plant communities. Dense blankets of shining geranium cover small, mossy boulders and can extend up bases of tree trunks (Newhouse, pers. comm., March 29<sup>th</sup> 2007).

**CONTROL METHODS** for *G. lucidum* include (1) hand-weeding for isolated plants or small populations, (2) burning with a propane-based flaming unit is effective if done several times each growing season, and (3) chemical control with a 1.5 – 2% solution of either a broadleaf selective herbicide, such as triclopyr, or a non-selective herbicide, such as glyphosate. (LaBrecque, 2007).

## **REFERENCES**

Herbario Virtual del Mediterraneo Occidental.  
*Geranium lucidum* L. Retrieved 02/26/07, from <http://herbarivirtual.uib.es/eng/especie/4203.html>.



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