

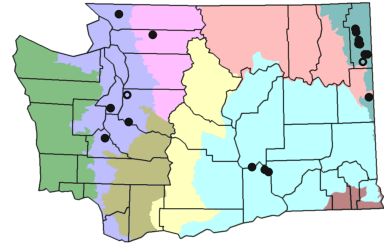
Hypericum majus (A. Gray) Britton

Canadian St. John's-wort

Clusiaceae - mangosteen family

status: State Sensitive, BLM strategic, USFS strategic

rank: G5 / S2



General Description: Perennial with short leafy rhizomes and upright stems 1-5 dm tall, simple or branched above. Foliage usually blackish- or purplish-dotted along the margins. Leaves opposite, sessile, 1-3.5 cm long, lanceolate to oblong, rounded at the tip, with 5-7 nerves.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence an inconspicuously bracteate cyme. Petals 5, yellow, not black-dotted along the margins, less than 6 mm long, about equal to the 5 lanceolate sepals. Stamens usually 15-35, the filaments almost capillary, not joined at the base. Flowers July to September.

Fruits: Blunt 1-celled capsules; styles 3, short. Seeds yellow, cylindrical, about 0.5 mm long, longitudinally striate and finely transversely corrugate.

Identification Tips: Easily distinguished from other species of *Hypericum* by its small petals (less than 6 mm long) that are not black-dotted along the margins, upright stems that do not form mats, and less than 50 stamens that are not joined at the base.

Range: B.C. east to Quebec and Nova Scotia, and throughout the northern U.S., excepting WY, south to PA, IL, OK, CO, and OR.

Habitat/Ecology: Along ponds, lakesides, riparian habitats, or other low, wet places, from 15-710 m (50-2340 ft). *H. majus* is a facultative wetland species. In WA it occurs in habitats that are completely submerged during portions of the growing season or periodically inundated from water controlled by hydroelectric dams. Associated vegetation includes horsetails (*Equisetum* spp.), rushes (*Juncus bufonius*, *J. tenuis*, *J. articulatus*), sedges (*Carex* spp.), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), and reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

Comments: This taxon can be easily overlooked due to its small size and association with dense, diverse vegetation. Significant changes to the hydrologic regime would likely be detrimental to the species. Populations may have been lost due to dam construction along the Columbia and Pend Oreille rivers. Known populations are being invaded by purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and reed canarygrass. This species was extirpated from DE and is rare in several states and Canadian provinces.



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