

# St. John's Wort Biocontrol Factsheet



St. John's wort plant



St. John's wort leaves



St. John's wort flowers

## HOW THEY WORK:

Biological control agents (typically insects) weaken the target plant's seed production and overall plant integrity by feeding on the seed heads, and other parts of the plant, such as their root systems. Biocontrol will not typically get rid of your weeds all together. It is a long-term control strategy and results are usually seen over numerous years.

## Biocontrol Agents

### *Chrysolina quadrigemina*

**TYPE OF AGENT:** Foliar feeding beetle

**COLLECTABILITY:** Mass

**ORIGIN:** France

**INVASIVE PLANTS ATTACKED:** St. John's wort  
(*Hypericum perforatum*)

### BIOCONTROL AGENT LIFECYCLE:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Overwintering eggs			Larva	Pupa	Pupa/ Adult	Adult	Inactive adult	Adult	Overwintering larva		

### Larva:

The larvae are orange to pink-grey. They are plump and hump-backed. Larvae feed on the leaf buds and immature leaves causing complete defoliation which causes the most significant damage.

### Adult beetle:

Measure 6.1 - 7 mm long and round shaped. They are metallic bronze, green, blue, purple or black coloured. The adults emerge in early June and begin feeding in clusters on young terminal leaves, flower buds or the underside of leaves. Adult beetles are found along the flower buds, stem, leaves most notably in early June.



*C. quadrigemina* larvae



*C. quadrigemina* adult



*C. quadrigemina* adults defoliating  
St. John's wort

## More Information:

Classical biocontrol is a long term management tool used in integrated pest management (IPM). IPM involves selecting from a range of manual, mechanical, chemical, cultural and biological control methods to match the management requirements of a specific site. The goal is to maximize effective control and to minimize negative environmental, economic and social impacts. Biocontrol is an important tool in the IPM toolkit. It involves controlling invasive plants, by introducing natural enemies.

The biocontrol's listed are tertiary insects regulated by the BC Ministry of Forests. There are currently 3 St John's wort biocontrol agents that have been released in BC. The information in this factsheet was created using the Province of British Columbia Government's Biocontrol resources found at [www.gov.bc.ca/invasiveplants](http://www.gov.bc.ca/invasiveplants).



For more information about the TNRD's biocontrol program and how to request insects contact us!

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