



HORSE CHESTNUT

Aesculus hippocastanum



IDENTIFICATION

Large, showy, deciduous tree reaching 50 - 80 ft in height with a round crown. Large leaves are opposite, divided into 5-7 leaflets with finely toothed margins. Tall spikes of large, white flowers in spring with yellow and red spots. The fruit is a round, prickly, leathery capsule enclosing 1 to 3 large, smooth, brown seeds.

IMPACTS

Once established, competes with native species for sunlight, moisture, and nutrients. Seeds, leaves, and sprouts are highly toxic and can cause death.

MANAGEMENT

Manual: Girdle remove bark and phloem layer from 10 cm band around trunk. Note: damaging the xylem layer could encourage suckering. Chemical: Cut stems then apply herbicide; retreat suckers. Follow all label instructions and wear appropriate personal protective equipment. Replace with Oregon white oak or Pacific dogwood.

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The Cooperative Weed Management Area partnership connects land managers, increases awareness, and supports collaborative efforts. Visit us at marionswcd.net/what-we-offer/mid-willamette-cwma/.