



# PLANTAINS

**BROADLEAF** (*Plantago major*)

**BUCKHORN** (*Plantago lanceolata*)

**NOTE: These are not noxious weeds but annual weeds in Kootenai County**

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?** Plantain leaves are all basal, in a rosette. Broadleaf plantain has many fibrous roots and the crown is not woolly or hairy. Broadleaf plantain leaves have several prominent, parallel veins and are typically 3 to 7 inches long and 1 to 2 inches wide. Buckhorn plantain has a short, thick taproot with fibrous lateral roots; the crown may be somewhat woolly or hairy. Buckhorn plantain leaves are long (4 to 12 inches) and narrow (up to 1 ½ inches wide) with 3 to 5 obvious parallel veins. Flowers of both are borne in dense clusters at the tip of leafless shoots.

**WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW?** Introduced from Europe, both plantains are often found in lawns, gardens, and other disturbed areas such as roadside and pastures.

**WHEN DOES IT BLOOM?** The inconspicuous flowers appear soon after the seedling stage and continue throughout the life of the perennial plant.

**HOW DOES THIS PLANT SPREAD?** Broadleaf plantain seeds are small (1/16 inch in diameter) reddish brown and angular. Buckhorn plantain seeds are black, shiny, boat shaped, and about 1/16 inch in length. Germination occurs throughout the growing season. Both species also grow buds from the uppermost area of the root, producing a crown that can regenerate “new” plants even when the plant is cut off at or below the soil surface.



## **NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL:**

- Cultivation (rototilling or hoeing) will effectively eliminate plants.
- Careful digging is useful to manage weed populations. However, digging can carry undesirable weed seed to the surface and foster further germination.

## **CHEMICAL CONTROL:**

- Contact the Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control Department or the U of I Kootenai County Extension for herbicide recommendations.

Want more information or herbicide suggestions? Contact:

**Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control**  
10905 N. Ramsey Road  
Hayden, ID 83835

208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145

kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us or [www.kcweeds.com](http://www.kcweeds.com)

*Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.*