

Weed of the Month - Friends of Lochiel Park

“WANTED DEAD NOT ALIVE”

Portulacca or Purslane, bot. name - *Portulaca oleracea*

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portulaca_oleracea

Description :- Common purslane

It has smooth, reddish, mostly prostrate stems and alternate leaves clustered at stem joints and ends. The yellow flowers have five regular parts and are up to 6 millimetres wide. Depending upon rainfall, the flowers appear at any time during the year. The flowers open singly at the centre of the leaf cluster for only a few hours on sunny mornings. Seeds are formed in a tiny pod, which opens when the seeds are mature. Purslane has a taproot with fibrous secondary roots and is able to tolerate poor compacted soils and drought.

This weed is very prolific and is currently growing vigorously, particularly at the edges of roads and pathways where there is ponding and or runoff from hard surfaces.

Now is a good time to either dig it out and dispose of in your green bin, or spray with herbicide. Mulching garden areas helps to prevent seed germination as it prefers bare soil.

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