

Identification of Shiny-geranium (*Geranium lucidum*):

- Low-growing annual (sometimes biennial) with small, pink, 5-petaled flowers that grow in pairs on little stems.
- Leaves are shiny (especially later in the season), round to kidney-shaped with 5-7 lobes (that are themselves shallowly lobed) and turn bright red late in the season in sunny locations.
- When crushed, leaves have a distinctive odour similar to that of Herb-robert, but much more subtle.
- Sepals (around the base of the flower) are keeled (stick out) with noticeable cross-ribs
- Stems are reddish and not hairy, up to 20 inches tall, and turn bright red late in the season in sunny locations.
- Bloom time is spring to late July (although it has been observed to bloom into Oct. on southern V.I.)
- Resembles the common yard weed called dovefoot geranium (*Geranium molle*) but dovefoot's petals are deeply notched (looks like the flowers have ten petals instead of five), and dovefoot is more fuzzy and the stems are less red



Other characteristics which have management implications:

- Has a weak tap-root which must be pulled to prevent re-sprouting and has a tendency to break just above the crown.
- Seeds are forcefully ejected when ripe, helping it spread up as well as out from parent plants.
- Likely has a long-term persistent soil seed bank (i.e. more than 5 years).

Sources: personal observations of D. Wong of Saanich Parks and C.O'Brien plus excerpts from: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/shiny-geranium.aspx> . Above photographs used with permission.

Other weedy geraniums in the Victoria area:

Dovefoot (*G. molle*)



Herb-robert (*G. Robertianum*)



Split-leaf (*dissectum*)

