

Lesser burdock

Arctium minus

Description

Introduced to North American accidentally. Parts of plants can be used as food.

Habit

Biennial, 1st year plant forms a rosette while 2nd year plant is erect with a large taproot. Can grow up to 2-6 ft tall.

Leaves

Large, heart-shaped, alternate, dark green in color, smooth above and whitish green in color and woolly-hairy beneath.

Stems

Stout, grooved, rough, multiple branches and grows to 2-6 ft tall.

Flowers

Pink, lavender, purple or white in color in



numerous heads, 3/4 in across, flower head is enclosed in a prickly bur composed of numerous smooth or woolly bracts tipped with hooked spines; blooms from July to October.

Fruits and Seeds

One plant typically produces 15,000 seeds.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Found along roadsides, in ditch banks, stream banks, old fields, waste places, and neglected areas.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Woolly burdock (*Arctium tomentosum*), has abundant cobwebby hairs that cover the floral bracts below the hooked tips; Greater burdock (*Arctium lappa*), which can be taller and has larger flower heads.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Top growth removal through mowing or cutting is effective. Pulling or digging out the plant at flowering. Remove seed heads before seed set. Pulling may be difficult due to large taproot. Effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or clopyralid.

Credits

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