

Coltsfoot

Tussilago farfara

Description

Believed to have been brought to the United States by early settlers for its medicinal properties.

Habit

Perennial herb, Rhizomatous, 2-20 in tall with large basal leaves and scaly-bracted stem. Scales are purplish in color.

Leaves

Basal, heart-shaped (cordate), appear after flowers, 3-7 inches wide, slightly toothed; deep, narrow sinus; upright and the underside is whitish. Arise directly from the root with no main stem present.

Stems

Scaly, bracted.

Flowers

Solitary flowers, dandelion-like, bright yellow in color, grows 3-12 in in height, emerge before the





leaves in early spring through June.

Fruits and Seeds

Brown nutlets are attached to a pappus resembling the white fluffy seed heads of common dandelion.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Found in stream banks, moist field or pastures, roadsides and disturbed areas. It can also be found in drier sites and in poor soils. It is intolerant of shade and is not commonly found in wooded areas; though it has been documented invading forests following fire.

Reproduction

Both vegetatively and by seed. The roots can remain dormant underground for long periods of time.

Similar

Common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Initial infestations may be controlled by hand-pulling to remove the entire plant. Can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<http://www.invasive.org>). Individual photo author credits may not be included due to the small display size of the images and subsequent difficulty of reading the provided text. All other images appear courtesy of Google (<http://images.google.com>).