

Garden yellowrocket

Barbarea vulgaris

Description

Introduced to North America as a garden plant due to its showy nature. This species is listed under <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/plant-pest/plant-health-certification-and-export/seed> Regulation No. 715 - Seed Law Implementation as a restricted noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Habit

Erect, Biennial/perennial, 8-32 in tall forb, dark green, branched towards the top, variable in regards to fruit and foliage.

Leaves

Cotyledons are egg-shaped on long stalks and slightly notched at the tip. First true leaves are rounded, usually with wavy margins. Mature leaves are pinnately-lobed to deeply-toothed, clasping; lower leaves with a large, rounded end lobe and 1-4 pairs of smaller side lobes; stems





leaves getting smaller towards the top and becoming merely oval.

Stems

Biennial plants produce flowering stems during the second year of growth. Stems are erect, smooth, ridged, and branched at the top.

Flowers

Yellow in color, showy, 4-parted, 0.5 in wide; inflorescence a crowded cluster (raceme) of stalked flowers; blooms from April through June.

Fruits and Seeds

Fruits are long, thin pods that are roundish in cross-section; seeds in 1 row.

Habitat

Native to Eurasia. Grows well in moist areas such as fields, disturbed sites and gardens.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Wild mustard (*Brassica kaber*) and wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) because at maturity the flowers of several mustard species resemble those of yellowrocket.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Pull out small infestations and cultivate out young plants from bare soil areas. Effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate, 2,4-D and triclopyr.

Credits



Midwest Invasive Species
Information Network

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