

Perennial sowthistle

Sonchus arvensis

Description

Introduced to the United States as a seed contaminant. 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 prohibited noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Habit

Perennial herb with roots that can grow to depths of 5-10 feet deep and creeping rhizomes that can reach 6 feet in length in a single growing season. Entire plant is filled with milky latex.

Leaves

Crowded on lower stems and sparse on upper stems. Can reach up to 6 inches long.

Stems

Erect, hollow, branched (varying from 2 to many per plant), 0.1-0.4 inches (3-10mm) in diameter, and 24-59 inches tall.





Flowers

Fruits and Seeds

Achenes with pappus. Can produces 30 achenes per flowerhead.

Habitat

Native to Europe and western Asia. Can be found in waste grounds, meadows, woods, lawns, and along roadsides, beaches, ditches and river and lake shores.

Reproduction

By seeds that are dispersed by wind, by vertical, thickened roots, and by cylindrical, horizontal, spreading roots.

Similar

Credits

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