

## Perennial sowthistle

### *Sonchus arvensis*

#### Description

Introduced to the United States as a seed contaminant.

#### 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 produce 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**

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

### **Credits**

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