

## Giant ragweed

### *Ambrosia trifida*

#### Description

Capable of producing large amounts of allergenic pollen, causing hayfever.

#### Habit

Annual herb with long clusters of green-yellow flowers and opposite leaves.

#### Leaves

Opposite, up to 12 in. long and 8 in. wide, larger leaves are divided into 3-5 deep lobes, lobe divisions are oval-lance shaped. Edges are finely toothed, surfaces variably hairy, smooth to covered in fine, stiff pubescent hairs.

#### Stems

Coarse, mostly smooth in the lower stalk with spreading hairs in the upper, central stem branching from nodes.

#### Flowers

Slender spike-like racemes, branched at the base, 3-8 in. long, borne at the tip of the central





stem and branches. Male flowers are yellow to greenish in color with no petals, 1/8 in. across, hanging. Female flowers are hiding in clusters of short leafy bracts at the base of the cluster, along the stem or in axils. Densely pack but spreading out with age.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Achene is pyramidal in shape, 6-12 mm. long, brown to gray in color, glabrous or slightly pubescent with 4-5 spines.

### **Habitat**

Native to North America. Can be found in disturbed sites, fields, roadsides, edges of woods.

### **Reproduction**

By seed. Capable of producing up to 10,300 seeds.

### **Similar**

Lanceleaf ragweed (*A. bidentata*), Flatspine bur ragweed (<https://plants.usda.gov/home/plantProfile?symbol=AMAC2>), *A. acanthicarpa*, and Annual ragweed (*A. artemisiifolia*)

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Tilling and hand-pulling can be effective in controlling seedlings. Repeat mowing is effective in reducing seed production. Many biological control agents have been tests and has shown success including *Euaresta bella* and *E. festiva*.

### **Credits**

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