

Common motherwort

Leonurus cardiaca

Description

Brought to North America as a medicinal herb, used particularly for ailments of the heart and nervous system.

Habit

Perennial, herbaceous; 2-5 ft tall.

Leaves

Oppositely arranged along the stem; shape is variable, palmate or hand-shaped, with 3 or 5 sharply-pointed lobes, deeply toothed and veins are conspicuous along upper surface.

Stems

Erect; 2-5 ft tall heavily ridged, square stem.

Flowers

2-lipped and about 1/3 in long, tubular green calyx has 5 lanceolate teeth, small; tubular, pink or purple in color, generally hairy or fuzzy.

Fruits and Seeds

Plant contains 4 nutlets that are 3-sided and





reddish brown or brown.

Habitat

Native to central Asia. Found in disturbed woodlands, areas along woodland paths, woodland borders and thickets, edges of degraded wetlands, edges of yards underneath trees, and partially shaded fence rows.

Reproduction

Reseeding and vegetatively by means of the rhizomes; it often forms colonies.

Similar

Siberian motherwort/Honeyweed (*Leonurus sibiricus*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Monitor less shaded areas and wooded areas. Spreads very quickly; Small infestations - pull and make sure to remove the root system, also bag and bring to municipal compost facility to prevent spreading.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the Natural Area Preservation of Ann Arbor and the USDA PLANTS Database. 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 (<https://images.google.com>).