

Common nipplewort

Lapsana communis

Description

Produces a milky-latex substance used for sensitive skin.

Habit

Erect; annual; 1/2- 5 ft tall with milky juice; slightly reddish stems with white glandular.

Leaves

Thin, alternate, petiolate, ovate to sub-rotund blade, shallowly toothed, 2.5-10 cm long and 2-7 cm wide, narrowed and less petiolate upward.

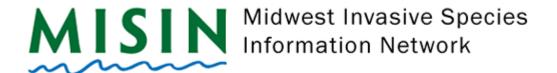
Stems

Straight; simple or branchy; 20-100 cm in height; hollow; ridged from above; often reddish green; glabrous or pubescent in the lower part; simple hairs or with an impurity of glandular hairs.

Flowers

Arranged in groups of 5-25 with 8-15 ray florets each, 5-toothed tips, inflorescence of several to many heads in loose clusters on bare stalks;





blooms June through September.

Fruits and Seeds

Smooth, curved dry seed with no fluffy pappus.

Nerved; oblong; 3-5 mm long.

Habitat

Native to Russia and Europe. Grows well in moist shaded areas. Found in woods, fields, disturbed sites.

Reproduction

By seed. Plant can produce 400-800 seeds, viable for 6 years.

Similar

Wall Lettuce (Mycelis muralis); Western Rattlesnakeroot (Prenanthes alata).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling; mowing before seed set; effectively controlled by the use of the following herbicides: dicamba, clopyralid, and atrazine and mixtures of dicamba and atrazine, bromoxynil and atrazine, diflufenzopyr and dicamba, and atrazine and 2, 4-D.

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