

## 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.

### **Credits**

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