

Common wormwood

Artemisia vulgaris

Description

Contains medically active ketones and alkaloids;
Used for livestock feed.

Habit

Perennial with persistent rhizomes, ranges from
60-160 cm high, many thin lateral roots.

Leaves

2-4 in long, 1-3 in wide; simple, alternate,
distinctive aroma, deeply lobed and may lack
petioles; undersides are covered with soft,
white-gray hairs; upper leaf surfaces may be
smooth to slightly hairy.

Stems

5 ft in height, often reddish-brown in color,
becomes woody with age, parallel grooved,
ascending twigs covered with hairs.



Flowers

Inconspicuous, occur in clusters at the top of the plants, heads are 2.5-3 mm wide on short stalks, 7-10 purple female flowers, narrow tube-shaped corollas, 8-20 bisexual flowers.

Fruits and Seeds

Viable seeds are rarely produced in North America.

Habitat

Native to Eurasia. Found in high elevation pastures, forest edges, valleys, hillside wasteland, ditches and roadsides.

Reproduction

Vegetatively by rhizomes.

Similar

Garden Chrysanthemum (*Leucanthemum maximum*); Common Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Monitor fields, roadsides and disturbed areas.

Credits

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