

European fireweed

Epilobium hirsutum

Description

Most readily surveyed from July to September while in bloom.

Habit

Herbaceous perennial, coarse, spreading rhizomes; grows from 0.5-2 m (1.6-6.5 ft) in height.

Leaves

Fuzzy, mostly opposite, lanceolate and slightly clasping.

Stems

Erect; fuzzy.

Flowers

Numerous flowers, 4 cleft stigma, 4 notched pink purple or white petals, 3 cm (0.75 in) across.

Fruits and Seeds

Seed pod, linear, elongate, splitting to reveal seeds with tufts of fine hairs.

Habitat





Native to Eurasia. Found in wet soils, in open wetland to semi-aquatic settings, meadows, marsh, and edges of lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers.

Reproduction

Primarily by rhizomes, although it also reproduces by wind dispersed seed.

Similar

Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) differs from European fireweed in that its leaves are longer, measuring 15-20 cm(6-8 in) and it does not have pubescent leaves.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling or cutting; effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides.

Credits

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