

# Wormwood

## *Artemisia absinthium*

### Description

Introduced in the early 19th century to be cultivated for medicinal and social uses.

### Habit

Herbaceous, perennial plant that can grow up to 5 feet tall.

### Leaves

Alternate, gray-green in color, 1-4 inches long and give off a strong sage-like scent when crushed. Covered in fine, silky white hairs. Deeply pinnately divided with round lobes/edges.

### Stems

Somewhat woody and branching.

### Flowers

Yellowish in color, 1/8 inch wide on dangling stalks; inflorescence large, leafy clusters of drooping heads; blooms July through September.

### Fruits and Seeds

Nearly cylindrical, dry seed narrow at the base





and rounded at the top.

### **Habitat**

Native to Eurasia, the Middle East and North Africa. Found in hardwood and coniferous forests, prairies, meadows, grasslands, fields, and disturbed areas.

### **Reproduction**

By seed or vegetatively by rhizomes.

### **Similar**

Resembles other species of Sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Dig up individual plants. For large infestations, mow as close to the ground as possible. Cover infestation with black landscape fabric in early spring when leaves emerge. Prescribed fire may also be effecting as well as picloram, dicamba, 2,4-D and glyphosate herbicides.

### **Credits**

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Bugwood Wiki. 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 (<http://images.google.com>).