

# Perennial sowthistle

## Sonchus arvensis

### **Description**

Introduced to the United States as a seed contaminant. This species is listed under <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/plant-pest/plant-health-certification-and-export/seed">Regulation No. 715 - Seed Law Implementation</a> as a prohibited noxious weed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

#### Habit

Perennial herb with roots that can grow to depths of 5-10 feet deep and creeping rhizomes that can reach 6 feet in length in a single growing season. Entire plant is filled with milky latex.

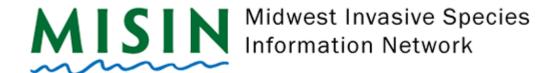
#### Leaves

Crowded on lower stems and sparse on upper stems. Can reach up to 6 inches long.

#### **Stems**

Erect, hollow, branched (varying from 2 to many per plant), 0.1-0.4 inches (3-10mm) in diameter, and 24-59 inches tall.





#### **Flowers**

#### Fruits and Seeds

Achenes with pappus. Can produces 30 achenes per flowerhead.

#### Habitat

Native to Europe and western Asia. Can be found in waste grounds, meadows, woods, lawns, and along roadsides, beaches, ditches and river and lake shores.

### Reproduction

By seeds that are dispersed by wind, by vertical, thickened roots, and by cylindrical, horizontal, spreading roots.

#### Similar

#### **Credits**

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