

Common kochia

Kochia scoparia

Description

Grown as an ornamental and can be toxic.

Habit

Introduced, erect, annual forb with a taproot that forms pyramidal or rounded bushes up to 7 feet tall.

Leaves

Alternate, simple, linear to narrowly ovate to 5.5 cm long, hairy depending on age. Short petioled or sessile with 1-5 prominent veins and entire margins fringed with hairs.

Stems

Green, red tinged or red depending on age.

Flowers

Green leaf-like bracts and surrounded by tufts of hair. Inflorescence is a spike and is axillary and terminal. Flowers are either perfect with 3-5 stamens or pistillate with both types having 2 stigmas.





Fruits and Seeds

Utricle fruits with an oval, brown to black seed within.

Habitat

Native to Asia. Found in grasslands, prairies and scrublands when soil is poor and rocky.

Reproduction

By seed and sometimes forms colonies. Highly invasive due to its' tumbleweed mode of seed dispersal.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Some populations have shown a resistance to 2, 4-D, triazine, auxinic herbicides, dicamba and sufonylurea. Leaf characteristics, such as pubescence and wax, make herbicide absorption difficult.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Guide. 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>).