

MISIN Midwest Invasive Species Information Network

# 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

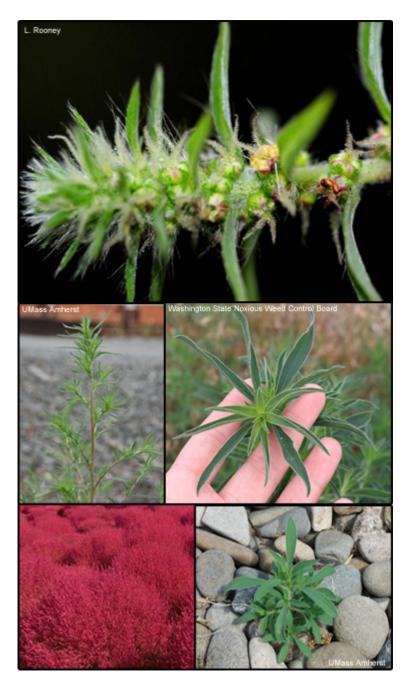
Alternate, simple, linear to narrowly ovate to 5.5 cm long, hairy depending on age. Short petioled or sessile with 1-5 prominent veins and entire margins fringed with hairs.

#### 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.

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