

Giant ragweed

Ambrosia trifida

Description

Capable of producing large amounts of allergenic pollen, causing hayfever.

Habit

Annual herb with long clusters of green-yellow flowers and opposite leaves.

Leaves

Opposite, up to 12 in. long and 8 in. wide, larger leaves are divided into 3-5 deep lobes, lobe divisions are oval-lance shaped. Edges are finely toothed, surfaces variably hairy, smooth to covered in fine, stiff pubescent hairs.

Stems

Coarse, mostly smooth in the lower stalk with spreading hairs in the upper, central stem branching from nodes.

Flowers

Slender spike-like racemes, branched at the base, 3-8 in. long, borne at the tip of the central





stem and branches. Male flowers are yellow to greenish in color with no petals, 1/8 in. across, hanging. Female flowers are hiding in clusters of short leafy bracts at the base of the cluster, along the stem or in axils. Densely pack but spreading out with age.

Fruits and Seeds

Achene is pyramidal in shape, 6-12 mm. long, brown to gray in color, glabrous or slightly pubescent with 4-5 spines.

Habitat

Native to North America. Can be found in disturbed sites, fields, roadsides, edges of woods.

Reproduction

By seed. Capable of producing up to 10,300 seeds.

Similar

Lanceleaf ragweed (*A. bidentata*), Flatspine bur ragweed (<https://plants.usda.gov/home/plantProfile?symbol=AMAC2>), *A. acanthicarpa*, and Annual ragweed (*A. artemisiifolia*)

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Tilling and hand-pulling can be effective in controlling seedlings. Repeat mowing is effective in reducing seed production. Many biological control agents have been tests and has shown success including *Euaresta bella* and *E. festiva*.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from CABI: Invasive Species Compendium and Minnesota Wildflowers .Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are



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