

Beefsteak plant

Perilla frutescens

Description

Planted as a showy ornamental.

Habit

Small, freely branching annual herbs that reach a height of 18-30 inches.

Leaves

Small, ovate, generally purple or green in color, arranged in an opposite formation along a four-sided stem.

Stems

Four-sided and having a very strong odor.

Flowers

Small, bell-shaped flowers that are white and purple in color with a distinctive ring of fine hairs along the bottom. May be arranged in a terminal cluster or within the leaf axils. Bloom between July and October.

Fruits and Seeds

Wind-borne.





Habitat

Native to Asia. It is a traditional crop of China, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand and other Asian countries. Can be found along roadsides, railroad right-of-ways, streams, spring branches, pastures, fields, woodlands and gravel bars.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Seedlings and small or shallow-rooted plants can be handpulled when soil is moist. Dig out larger plants, including the root system. Cut off spent flowers or cut off seeds/fruits before they ripen to prevent the spread of seeds. Can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as Glyphosate.

Credits

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