

## Common wormwood

### *Artemisia vulgaris*

#### Description

Contains medically active ketones and alkaloids;  
Used for livestock feed.

#### Habit

Perennial with persistent rhizomes, ranges from  
60-160 cm high, many thin lateral roots.

#### Leaves

2-4 in long, 1-3 in wide; simple, alternate,  
distinctive aroma, deeply lobed and may lack  
petioles; undersides are covered with soft,  
white-gray hairs; upper leaf surfaces may be  
smooth to slightly hairy.

#### Stems

5 ft in height, often reddish-brown in color,  
becomes woody with age, parallel grooved,  
ascending twigs covered with hairs.

#### Flowers

Inconspicuous, occur in clusters at the top of the  
plants, heads are 2.5-3 mm wide on short stalks,





7-10 purple female flowers, narrow tube-shaped corollas, 8-20 bisexual flowers.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Viable seeds are rarely produced in North America.

### **Habitat**

Native to Eurasia. Found in high elevation pastures, forest edges, valleys, hillside wasteland, ditches and roadsides.

### **Reproduction**

Vegetatively by rhizomes.

### **Similar**

Garden Chrysanthemum (*Leucanthemum maximum*); Common Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Monitor fields, roadsides and disturbed areas.

### **Credits**

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