

Common ragweed

Ambrosia artemisiifolia L.

Life cycle

Erect, branching summer annual.

Leaves

Cotyledons are thick and oval to spatula-shaped. Leaves are fernlike, once or twice compound and usually hairy. Upper leaves are alternate; lower leaves may be opposite or alternate with distinct petioles.

Stems

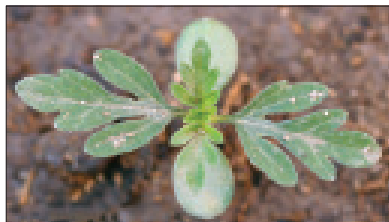
Usually hairy, erect and branched up to 6 feet tall.

Flowers and fruit

Flowers are generally inconspicuous, found on terminal branches. They produce prolific amounts of pollen. The seed is enclosed in a single-seeded, woody fruit with several spikes resembling a crown.

Reproduction

Seeds.



Common ragweed seedling.

Common ragweed *continued*

Similar weeds

Giant ragweed (*A. trifida* L.)

Differs by having cotyledons three to four times larger; three- to five-lobed leaves opposite in arrangement; and a height that may reach 15 feet.

Western ragweed (*A. psilostachya* DC.)

Differs by having a perennial nature with prolific creeping roots, densely hairy leaves and a height typically not above 4 feet.



Giant ragweed seedling and leaf.



Western ragweed root sprout and leaf.



Asteraceae (Aster family)