

# 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.



Common ragweed leaf.

## 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



Common ragweed flowering branch.



Common ragweed seedling.

in a single-seeded, woody fruit with several spikes resembling a crown.

## Reproduction

Seeds.

## 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. (See pages 62-63.)

### 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.



Western ragweed root sprout and leaf.



**Asteraceae (Aster family)**