

Giant ragweed

Ambrosia trifida L.



Life cycle

Erect, branching summer annual.

Leaves

Cotyledons are thick and oval to spatula-shaped and differ from those of common ragweed by being three to four times larger. Initial leaves are entire; successive leaves have three to five lobes and leaves are opposite in arrangement. Leaves are hairy and rough.

Stems

Usually hairy and rough to touch, erect and branched and up to 15 feet in height.



Young giant ragweed plant.

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 five spikes encircling a long point, resembling a crown. Seeds are found in the axils of the upper leaves.

Reproduction

Seeds.



Giant ragweed flowering branch.



Giant ragweed seedling and leaf.



Asteraceae (Aster family)