

Hairy bittercress

Cardamine hirsuta L.

Life cycle

Rapidly growing winter or summer annual.

Leaves

Round cotyledons on long petioles are followed by heart- to kidney-shaped first two true leaves. Subsequent leaves are compound with two to eight alternately arranged leaflets and larger terminal leaflet. Leaflet margins are shallowly toothed to lobed. Mostly hairy leaves initially develop from a basal rosette, followed by a few smaller, narrow stem leaves. Basal leaves are persistent through maturity.

Stems

Mostly erect, smooth, angled stems branch mainly at the base. Stems are less than 12 inches tall.

Flowers and fruit

Very small, white flowers with four petals are arranged in terminal clusters. Fruit are very



Hairy bittercress seedling.

Hairy bittercress *continued*

narrow, about 1-inch-long, flattened, upward-pointing capsules that explosively eject numerous small seeds.

Reproduction

Seeds. Multiple generations may be produced in a single year.



Hairy bittercress rosette.



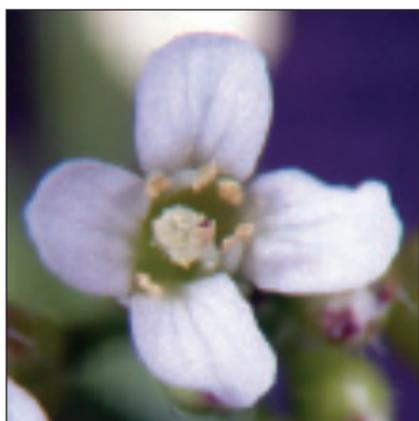
Hairy bittercress leaf.

Brassicaceae (Mustard family)

Hairy bittercress *continued*



Hairy bittercress flowering stem.



Hairy bittercress flower.



Hairy bittercress fruit.

Similar weeds

Smallflowered bittercress

(*Cardamine parviflora* L.)

Differs by having up to six leaflet pairs and basal leaves that are not present at maturity.