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.](image)
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 continued

Similar weeds
Smallflowered bittercress
(*Cardamine parviflora* L.)
Differs by having up to six leaflet pairs and basal leaves that are not present at maturity.