

MUGWORT

Artemisia vulgaris



Virginia Tech Weed Guide

Mature Height	Up to 6 feet	Soil Type	Prefers high pH soils
Mature Spread	Colonizes	Flower Color	Light yellow
Mature Form	Upright—single stem	Foliage Color	Light green
Growth Rate	Fairly Rapid	Fall Color	Brown as it dies
Sun Exposure	Prefers full sun		
Soil Moisture	Most moisture conditions		

Mugwort is a Eurasia native plant that was brought to the US and has become highly invasive. It has been used for medicinal purposes over the years. It is not currently widespread in Indiana but is a very common and troublesome weed in the southeastern United States and has been found in Indiana along the Ohio River. It spreads mostly by underground rhizomes and is a perennial plant. New colonies are created by seed and by pieces of roots that get moved in fill dirt or moved by heavy equipment. It has deeply dissected leaves and gives off a strong odor when crushed. It is said to cause dermatitis when contacted by bare skin or when drinking tea made from its leaves. Since it sprouts from roots, control by pulling or grubbing is extremely difficult. It also tolerates mowing so that is not a good control measure. The best control will be achieved with a herbicide containing glyphosate according to label directions for Mugwort.



Photos from Ohio State Weed Lab Archives



This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

