Absinth wormwood

Colorado Department of Agriculture

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Absinth wormwood
Identification and Management

Key ID Points

1. Absinth is well branched and gets 3 feet tall and 2 feet across.
2. Silver-grey leaves and small yellow flowers.

Identification and Impacts

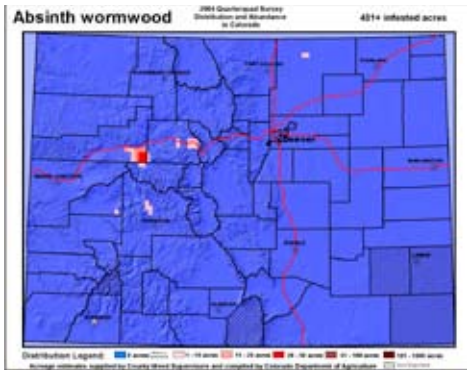
Absinth wormwood *(Artemisia absinthium)* is native to Eurasia, the Middle East and North Africa. It was introduced to North America in the early 19th century to be cultivated for medicinal use. It was first reported outside cultivated gardens in 1841, along roadsides and waste grounds.

Absinth wormwood is a long-lived perennial that possesses a strong sage odor and bitter taste. Plants grow 2 to 4 feet in height and are prolific seed producers. It has a taproot that can reach 2 inches in diameter and shallow lateral fibrous root branches that can extend up to 6 feet long in all given directions. Plants are woody at the base and regrow from the soil level each spring. The stems are numerous and are covered with fine, gray hairs while the leaves area blue-olive green, alternate and highly divided. Flowers are small, yellowish and arranged in large, spike-like panicles. The seed viability is estimated to be 3 to 4 years and are easily scattered by wind, water, animals, and in hay. The seeds are less than 1/6 inch long, smooth, flattened and light gray.

Habitats for Absinth wormwood include disturbed sites, moist soils, and is also shade tolerant. It can occur in 5,000 to 7,000 feet elevation and is considered a weed in pastureland, cropland, and rangeland. Absinth wormwood is listed as poor palatability in horses, but good for sheep.

The key to effective control of Absinth wormwood is a combination of control methods. Compared to most perennials, it is fairly easy to control with chemicals in combination with mechanical control. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

Absinth wormwood is designated as a "List B" species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations. For more information visit www.colorado.gov/ag/csd and click on the Noxious Weed Management Program. Or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.



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Artemisia absinthium L.

Updated on:
07/2015

Management Recommendations

CULTURAL
Cultural controls are possible in theory, but are very time consuming and expensive. Complete removal of any seedlings or newly established plants by continual hand pulling is also possible.

BIOLOGICAL
There is no biological control available for Absinth wormwood. Since biological control agents take years to research, develop and release, no releases are expected in the foreseeable future. For more information, contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916.

MECHANICAL
Hand pull or dig when soil is moist. Make certain to pull all the roots, including short horizontal roots. Bag specimens carefully so as to not scatter seeds if removed during or after flowering. Multiple mowings prior to seed generation can cause stress and may provide a control option.

Integrated Weed Management:

Absinth Wormwood is easily controlled using a combination of methods such as chemical and mechanical.

Compared to most perennials, it is fairly easy to control.

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HERBICIDES

NOTE: The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gal/acre. Please read label for exact rates. **Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!**

Herbicide	Rate	Application Timing
Aminopyralid* (Milestone)	7 oz. product/acre + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Apply late spring into summer though the flowering growth stage.
Aminopyralid* + Metsulfuron (Opensight)	3.3 oz. product/acre	Apply late spring into summer though the flowering growth stage.
Aminopyralid* + 2,4-D (Forefront HL)	2 pints product/acre	Apply late spring into summer though the flowering growth stage.
Clopyralid (Transline)	0.66 pint/acre	Apply late spring into summer though the flowering growth stage. Provides greater selectivity when applying near trees and shrubs.
Picloram* + 2,4-D (Tordon/Picloram 22K - Restricted use pesticide)	1 pint product/acre + 1 qt./acre 2,4-D	Apply late spring into summer though the flowering growth stage. DO NOT use near trees, desirable shrubs, water, or high water table.
*Product not permitted for use in the San Luis Valley.		
Additional herbicide recommendations for other species can be found at: **goo.gl/TvWnv9**		

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