

Cardamine impatiens, Narrowleaf Bittercress

Narrowleaf Bittercress is native to Europe, spreading quickly in the US due to the plants seed-shooting ability. It can form dense infestations that outcompete native plants. This bittercress grows well in woods, along forest edges, wetlands, stream banks, roadsides, or backyard gardens.



Description: Narrowleaf Bittercress is a herbaceous plant that can grow up to two feet in height. The stem is erect, having 6-20 pinnately divided leaves on the stem. Each leaf has three to eleven leaflets with rounded lobes. The leaves along the stem are small, and sharply toothed.



Control: Small plants can be pulled manually by hand, with the best removal time being in the spring and summer to prevent the production of seeds. When removing plants with flowers or seeds, they should be bagged and disposed of properly. Chemical herbicides, such as glyphosate or triclopyr, may be used. Preventing the spread of Narrowleaf Bittercress can be enhanced by prevention efforts that include cleaning boots and field equipment before leaving infested areas.



Look-alikes: This species looks similar to other bittercress species such as sand bittercress (*Cardamine parviflora*), Pennsylvania bittercress (*C. pennsylvanica* Muhl. Ex Willd) and hairy bittercress (*C. hirsute*).

Flower Time and Description: This plant blooms from May to August, with seeds ripening from May to September. Each flower contains 10-24 seeds. The flowers are white and small (0.1 inch long).