

Artemisia vulgaris var. vulgaris, Mugwort

Mugwort has an extensive rhizome system that enables it to spread rapidly, often forming large monoculture stands. The plant is hard to control because it has a dense root system and produces large amounts of seeds. A single plant can produce up to 200,000 seeds. Mugwort has been used in various holistic remedies throughout the years as well as being used to make smudge sticks. It grows well in right-of-ways and roadside habitats.

Description: The stems of Mugwort are longitudinally ridged, with several axillary branches near the upper parts of the plant. As the plant ages, the stem becomes more woody” The leaves are alternately arranged and covered with wooly, silver hairs on the underside with a slight hairiness on the upper leaf side.

Control: Due to the dense root system, Mugwort isn’t easily pulled from the ground. The species is tolerant to mowing, and even successive mowing doesn’t fully eradicate Mugwort strands. Chemicals can be used to control the spread but are not too effective on large infestation areas.

Look-alikes: Mugwort looks similar to the common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) but can be distinguished by the strong “herbal” odor from crushed Mugwort leaves.

Flower Time: Flowering occurs from July to late September. Mugwort flowers tend to be small (5 mm) and green with yellow or dark red petals, growing in clusters.

