

Absinth wormwood

Artemisia absinthium L.

Sunflower family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Has a strong sage odor and a strong, bitter taste
- ❑ Several erect stems covered with fine gray hair
- ❑ Olive green alternate leaves also have silky hairs
- ❑ Lower leaves dissected 2-3 times into deeply lobed leaflets; upper leaves less lobed, 2-5" long
- ❑ Inconspicuous yellowish flowers arranged in large spike-like panicles
- ❑ Woody lower stems and base

Biology and ecology

- A long-lived perennial growing to 4 feet tall from a fibrous root system
- Reproduces by seed from spring to autumn forming rosettes first season
- Seedlings not good competitors in perennial grass; if started in disturbed areas can compete well
- Frequently found in fence lines, overgrazed pasture and rangeland, disturbed cut banks
- Flowers July to August
- Seeds spread by wind, water, animals and hay

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of fill dirt, hay and seed from outside your area

Biological - None known at this time

Cultural - Good perennial grass resists infestation

Mechanical - Summer fallow and fall tillage prevent establishment on cultivated land but spring tillage is less effective; cutting reduces seed production

Chemical - Several effective at label rates with an adjuvant helping to penetrate hairs to leaf surface; Late June to mid August treatments have given better control the following season than spring or fall treatments.

Where found - Found scattered throughout Stevens County.

