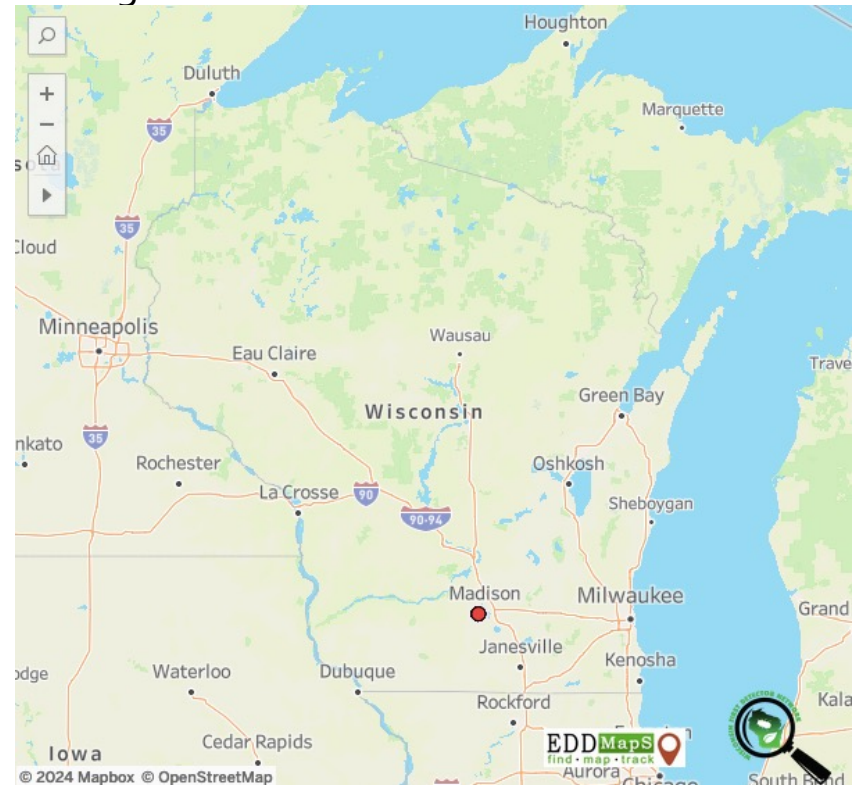


# Narrowleaf bittercress (*Cardamine impatiens*)



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- Short-lived mustard with compound leaves and tiny flowers
- Habitats it invades:
  - Urban forests
  - Waterways
- Status
  - Wisconsin: Prohibited
  - Regulated in: MN



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# Narrowleaf bittercress (*Cardamine impatiens*)

*Leaves alternate, compound*

- 6" long, with 13-25 narrowly oval leaflets
- Tiny "ears" (auricles) at petiole base





# Narrowleaf bittercress (*Cardamine impatiens*)

## *Flower/fruit*

- Flowers are small, with four white petals; May-July.
- Flowers are borne at the tops of the plants in long clusters
- Fruit is a dry, narrow, long capsule





# Narrowleaf bittercress look alike

Narrowleaf bittercress (*Cardamine impatiens*) may be confused with other *Cardamine* species that have pinnately compound basal leaves with rounded leaflets and stem leaves with narrower leaflets, especially Pennsylvania bittercress.



Narrowleaf bittercress has tiny flowers with indistinct petals.



Narrowleaf bittercress has a pair of auricles clasp the stem at the base of each leaf.

Species	Flowers	Stem
Narrowleaf bittercress ( <i>C. impatiens</i> ) I	~1/2" rounded clusters of tiny flowers; white to greenish, 4 absent or indistinct petals; May - July	6-30" tall; hairless; pair of auricles on stem where leaf joins
Pennsylvania bittercress ( <i>C. pennsylvanica</i> ) N	Elongated clusters of 1/8 – 1/4" flowers; 4 white petals; April – June	6-18" tall; mostly hairless or sparsely hairy, especially near base; no auricles; green or sometimes purplish
Small flowered bittercress ( <i>C. parviflora</i> ) N	Elongated clusters of 1/8" flowers; 4 white petals; April – June	4-12" tall; hairless or hairy; unbranched; no auricles; sometimes purple near base
Cuckoo flower ( <i>C. pratensis</i> ) N	Loose, elongated clusters of 1/2" flowers; 4 white petals; May – June	8-20" tall; slender stems erect but very weak; often flopping over; no auricles