

Wisconsin Weed Identification

common ragweed - *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*

Life History: Annual, reproducing only by seed. Begins emerging in late March to early April.

Leaves: Deeply lobed pinnately compound (once or twice) that are 6" long and 4" wide. Leaves are initially hairy and green to yellow but lose hairs and become grayish green at maturity.

Stem: 6"-5' tall with a purple tint. Upper stem is branched multiple times and can be hairy.



Flower/Fruit: Small (0.05-0.1" across), green, inconspicuous but numerous, forming distinctive slender, spike-like flowers (racemes) that emerge at the tips of the stem. Male flowers are yellow to greenish, inverted and hang down on short stalks without petals. Female flowers are indistinct, forming clusters with short leafy bracts at the base of the spike. Blooms August-September.

Similar Plants: Giant ragweed's prominent 3-5 lobed leaves distinguish it from common ragweed. **Absinth wormwood** is also similar, but is distinguished by its silvery hairs and unique odor of crushed leaves.



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