

# Annual ragweed

*Ambrosia artemisifolia*

Minnesota C-Value: not assigned  
Wetland Indicator Status: FACU  
Native



**Leaves:** Lower leaves opposite, upper usually alternate, narrowly and deeply lobed in irregular patterns. Downy to smooth texture.

**Stems:** 2-5 ft tall; typically knee-high. Downy hairs on stem.

**Flowers and fruit:** Small, green flowers growing in 1-6 inch racemes. Male and female flowers are in separate heads on the same plant.

**Plant communities:** Ditches, roadsides, old fields, disturbed areas.

**Comments:** Also known as common ragweed, this native annual weed is a primary cause of hay fever. In some counties it is considered a noxious weed. Pollen easily becomes airborne when a strong wind blows or when walking through a dense colony. Often forms large clumps, fairly unique with its delicate, deeply lobed leaves and multiple green-flowered racemes. Western ragweed (*A. psilostachya*) looks similar, but has less divided leaves and is typically taller.

