

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,
but may have limited distribution in some counties

Ragweed

Ambrosia artemisiifolia

Other common names: annual ragweed, bitterweed,
stammerwort, tassleweed and many more

USDA symbol: AMAR2

ODA rating: B



Introduction: Common ragweed is a native annual forb famous for its production of highly allergenic wind-borne pollen. As a summer annual, it readily infests summer crops such as corn and soybeans if not treated. It is not as prevalent in Oregon today due to better crop and right-of-way herbicides though it still can be found in late summer in non-crop areas.

Distribution: Southwest Oregon and parts of the Willamette Valley has historically been host to large infestations of ragweed but now it is less prevalent. The full extent of the species in Oregon counties has not been documented.

Description: Common ragweed is an annual broadleaved weed and a member of the composite or daisy family. It has a shallow, fibrous root system and grows 2 to 4 feet (60 to 120 cm) high. Its stems vary from no branches to bushy. Stems may be hairless, but usually they are densely covered with stiff erect hairs about 1/8 inch (3 mm) long. Mature leaves are 6 to 12 inches (15 to 30 cm) long and 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 cm) wide and are deeply indented. On the second and subsequent leaf pairs, the veins are visible as depressions on the upper surface and as ridges on the lower surface.

Impacts: Ragweed can be a serious pest of corn, cotton and soybean production. Tillage is only partially effective to control the plant. Herbicides are generally required to prevent crop losses. Volumes of wind-borne pollen are produced during August and September creating severe allergy reactions in sensitive people.

Biological controls: There are no biological control agents available in Oregon.

