

Control of Absinth Wormwood

PREVENTION:

- Minimize soil disturbance from vehicles and machinery.
- Avoid over grazing in pastures.
- Monitor your property, so early detection will prevent a large invasion.
- Good perennial grass will help to resist infestation of absinth wormwood.

MECHANICAL CONTROL:

- Tillage can prevent establishment of absinth wormwood in crop production areas.
- Hand pulling or digging when soil is moist, making sure to remove ALL of the roots.
- Mowing may prevent seed production if mowed several times throughout the growing season. Unfortunately most areas infested with absinth wormwood are not easily accessible with a mower.

Absinth Wormwood rosette



HERBICIDE CONTROL:

TechLine Invasive Plant News recommends the following herbicide options for absinth wormwood:

5-7 ounces of Milestone™ per acre; Milestone is labeled for rangeland, CRP, roadsides, natural areas.

Or

1.5 – 2 pints of GrazonNext® HL per acre; be sure to read the label, as there are grazing restrictions with this product.

Or

2/3 pint Transline® per acre.

Herbicide control is most effective when the plant is 12-24 inches tall. Mature plants are much more difficult to control.

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ABSINTH WORMWOOD

NEBRASKA
WATCH LIST WEED



*Artemisia
absinthium L.*

NEWMAC

Nebraska Weed Management
Area Coalition



GROWTH FORM:

Forb

LIFE SPAN: Perennial, absinth wormwood is a prolific seed producer, but can also spread by short roots.

ORIGIN: Europe

HEIGHT: 4-5 feet tall



LEAVES: Olive green, 2-5 inches long, divided into deeply lobed leaflets. Leaves and stems are covered with fine silky hairs that give the plant a grayish appearance. Absinth wormwood has a strong sage odor.



FLOWERING DATES:

July to mid-September



FLOWERS: Dull inconspicuous yellow flowers



SEEDS: One absinth wormwood plant can produce 25,000 seeds, which may remain viable for 3-4 years in the seed bank.

UNDERGROUND: Woody lower stems and base, with large woody taproot

Absinth wormwood was added to the Nebraska Watch List in all ecoregions of the state in 2018.

It is on the noxious weed list in South Dakota, North Dakota and Colorado. We hope that with early detection and rapid response, we can keep this non-native invasive plant from becoming established in Nebraska.



Absinth Wormwood small plant... for excellent results, control at this stage of growth.

WHERE FOUND IN NEBRASKA:

Absinth wormwood has been found in at least 22 Nebraska counties. It invades overgrazed or disturbed areas. Generally found in dry soils in pastures, roadsides, fence rows and waste areas. Most often where hay has been fed, stacked or stored. Single plants on roadsides are likely started from seed, after hauling infested hay. Absinth wormwood has also been found around ponds, where gravel with absinth wormwood seed was hauled. Given the opportunity, absinth wormwood will out-compete desirable forbs and grasses in pastures, fields and native grasslands.

USES: Many years ago, absinth wormwood was the main ingredient in the drink named Absinthe. Due to its toxicity it was banned in several countries in the early 20th Century, because it's psychoactive ingredient 'thujone' can produce bizarre and psychotic behavior, hallucinations and delirium.

OTHER FACTS ABOUT ABSINTH WORMWOOD

Poisoning: Although livestock tend to avoid absinth wormwood, if forced to eat it, all parts of the plant are very toxic.