

# Absinth Wormwood



Absinth Wormwood is a perennial forb that has a strong sage fragrance. A member of the Asteraceae family, it commonly reaches a height of 3 feet tall, but may grow to five feet under favorable conditions. The plant is woody at the base and regrows from the soil level each spring.

The leaves are light green to olive-green; 2 to 5 inches long and divided two or three times into deeply lobed leaflets. The leaves are covered with fine, silky hairs giving the plant a grayish appearance.

Flower stalks appear at each upper leaf node, producing numerous flower heads. The inconspicuous yellowish flowers are arranged in large, spike-like panicles. Flowering occurs from late July through August.

Absinth Wormwood is a prolific seed producer that spreads from perennial rootstocks as well as from seed. The seeds are easily scattered by wind, water, animals or as a contaminant in hay.

Absinth Wormwood is an escaped ornamental that was grown for its sage flavor. Young flower heads are the source of an oil used in preparation of vermouth and absinth. This weed will taint the milk of cattle and is said to cause paralysis when grazed by horses.

## **Control Measures:**

**Mechanical:** Cutting throughout the growing season will reduce seed production. Summer fallow and fall tillage will prevent establishment on cultivated land, but spring tillage is less effective.

**Cultural:** Good vigorous grass cover will prevent heavy weed growth, but will not totally prevent it.

**Chemical:** Absinth Wormwood can be controlled with selective herbicides, being sure to add a surfactant to the spray mix to help the chemical penetrate the hairy leaf surface.

Herbicides such as WeedMaster, Banvel or Milestone should be applied when the plant is at least 12 inches tall and actively growing. Sprays applied from late June to mid-August have generally given better long-term control than either spring or fall applications.

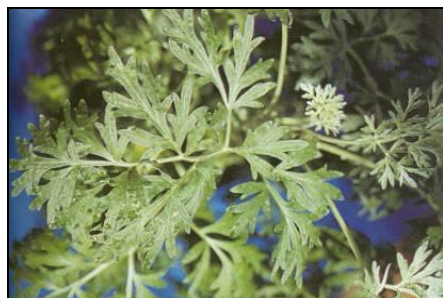
**(509) 477-5777**

**222 N. Havana, Room 112 ~ Spokane, WA 99202**

For Additional Information on Noxious Weeds, their Control and the State Weed Law, Visit our Website at:

**[www.spokanecounty.org/weedboard](http://www.spokanecounty.org/weedboard)**

*Read and follow all label instructions when applying herbicides. Trade names have been used to simplify instructions and no endorsement or warranty is expressed or implied.*



The strong sage odor is a definitive characteristic that helps separate this plant from the non-aromatic biennial wormwood



sinthium  
ette Kress

The small, inconspicuous yellow flowers are produced in head and are a pollen source for allergies and asthma

