

African Mustard Fact Sheet

Brassica tournefortii

Brassicaceae Family



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Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** The flowers are a dull yellow in color and are inconspicuous. Individual flowers are approximately 1.5 cm in width. They are also self-pollinating, which rapidly accelerates seed production and spread.
- ❷ **Seeds:** Seeds can survive up to 3 years (USDA, 2015).
- ❸ **Leaves:** The leaves are green and usually moderately well-developed basal rosette. The leaves also have serrated margins (Pratap and Gupta, 2009).
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** The seed stalk appears in early spring and grows to approximately 3 feet tall (USDA Forest Service).
- ❺ **Life cycle:** African Mustard is a rapid growth annual which germinates in the fall, flowers in winter, and dies in spring.

Impacts:

- Its ability to spread extremely rapidly allows African Mustard to outcompete most native wildflowers, decreasing biodiversity.
- African Mustard biomass greatly increases the fuel available to wildfires.
- African Mustard seeds can be harvested to produce oil. It is cultivated as an oil plant in India and Tibet.

Control:

- Small infestations of African Mustard can be effectively controlled by manually pulling and disposed of in the trash.
- Chemical applications can effectively control African Mustard year round. Care must be taken to avoid killing surrounding plants.
- African Mustard is best treated at the beginning at its life cycle (late autumn) (Invasive Species Compendium, 2017). At this point, it is possible to control the spread of the plant and prevent it from wiping out any remaining native wildflowers.



Mary Welch-Keesey, 2016. Bloomingatacademyvillage.org



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