

Elongated Mustard Fact Sheet

Brassica elongata

Brassicaceae Family



Larry Walker, Chaffee County Weed Department



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Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** The small bright yellow flowers have 4 obovate shaped petals, each containing 6 stamens.
- ❷ **Seeds:** The seeds are grey to brown with a reticulate coat. They are spread when the seed stalks dry, break off, and are rolled by the wind. Seeds can remain viable in the ground for up to 10 years.
- ❸ **Leaves:** Basal leaves are slightly lobed to shallowly toothed and lance-shaped. Upper leaves are much smaller and do not clasp the stem.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** June through July.
- ❺ **Life cycle:** Elongated Mustard is a perennial that can grow worldwide. It germinates in mid spring (cold weather affects this) and flowers in mid to late summer. Seeds are produced shortly thereafter.

Impacts:

- Its ability to spread extremely rapidly allows Elongated Mustard to outcompete most native wildflowers, decreasing biodiversity.
- Elongated Mustard quickly colonizes disturbed ground, making restoration and replanting with native species difficult.
- Elongated Mustard seeds can be harvested to produce oil. It is currently being studied for possible use in biodiesel production in several European countries.



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Control:

- Small infestations of Elongated Mustard can be effectively controlled by manually pulling and disposing in the trash.
- There are currently no biocontrol agents approved to combat Elongated Mustard in the US.
- Elongated Mustard is best treated at the beginning at its life cycle (late autumn).

*Please visit our website for references sourcing this information.



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