

CITRUS WEED SPOTLIGHT

Wild mustard (field mustard, charlock mustard) *Brassica kaber (Sinapis arvensis)*

By Stephen H. Futch, David W. Hall and Brent Sellers

Life cycle: winter annual, with a thin taproot

Plant height: 1 to 3 feet tall

Leaves: alternate, egg-shaped to ovate, 2 to 8 inches long and 1 to 4 inches wide; lower leaves occur as rosette with long petioles, deeply lobed; upper leaves smaller upward on the stem, lanceolate, not lobed, slightly toothed, stalkless

Stem: erect, branched, lower stems with stiff hairs

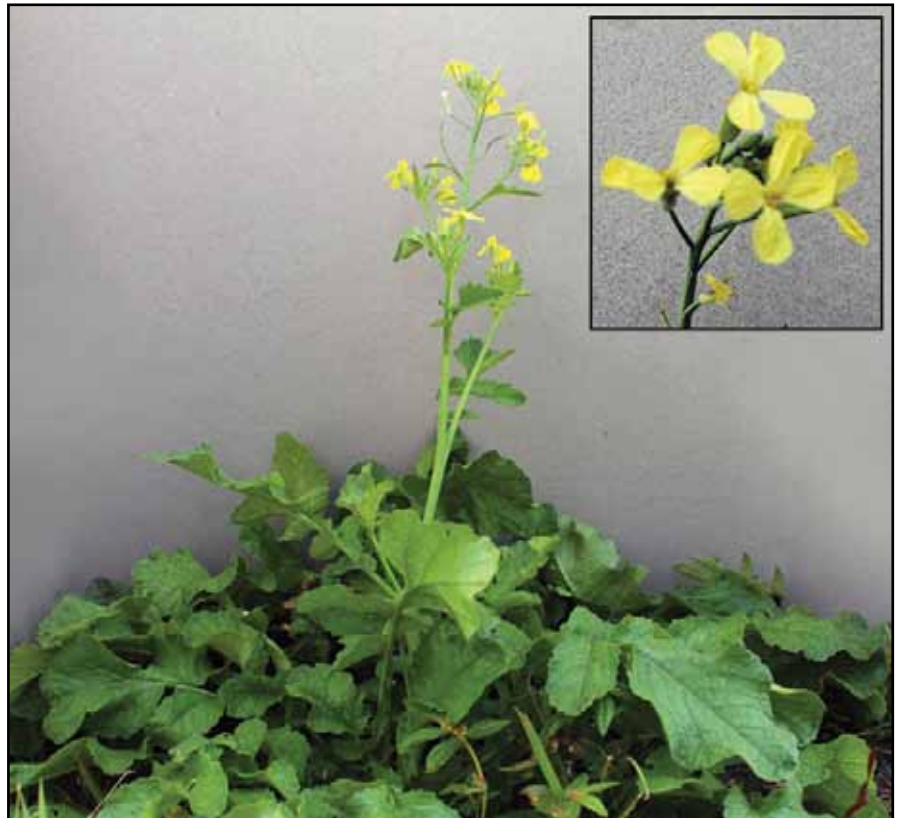


Flowers: yellow, with four petals, forming dense clusters; flowers in early spring or early summer

Seeds: small, in hairless seedpod that is 1 to 2 inches in length; seedpod is smooth and slender, with a narrow beak at tip

Growth characteristics: rapid growth from seeds

Distribution: throughout United States, Europe, northern Africa, Asia, Russia, Australia and several islands; native to Europe



Comments: Populations can quickly become dense. The massive number of flower clusters in a dense population are quite attractive as

wildflowers, when they're not in an agricultural operation.

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