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INVASIVE PLANTS

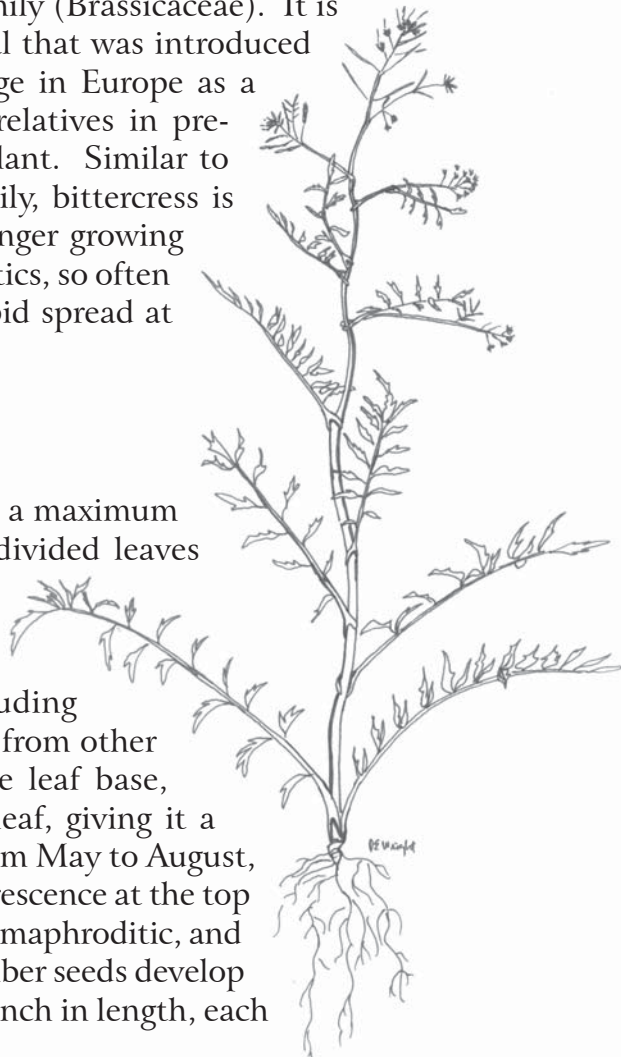
Narrowleaf Bittercress *Cardamine impatiens*

History

Narrowleaf bittercress (*Cardamine impatiens*), sometimes called bushy rock-cress, is a member of the mustard family (Brassicaceae). It is an invasive, herbaceous annual or biennial that was introduced to the United States from its native range in Europe as a vegetable green (you can find it, or its relatives in pre-mixed salad greens) and as a medicinal plant. Similar to other invasive plants in the mustard family, bittercress is very adept at seed dispersal, and has a longer growing season than our natives. These characteristics, so often found in invasives, contribute to their rapid spread at the expense of native biodiversity .

How Can I Identify It?

Narrowleaf bittercress is small; growing to a maximum 2 feet in height. The numerous, finely divided leaves are arranged alternately along the stem; a single leaf can have up to 9 pairs of leaflets. Narrowleaf bittercress may be confused with other bittercress, including native species. Distinguishing narrowleaf from other bittercress are two small spurs where the leaf base, or petiole, extends slightly opposite the leaf, giving it a clasping appearance. The plant flowers from May to August, producing small whitish flowers in an inflorescence at the top of the plant. The flowers are self-fertile, hermaphroditic, and pollinated by insects. From May to September seeds develop in slender, stalked fruits that are about an inch in length, each containing 10-24 seeds.



F A C T S H E E T

NARROWLEAF BITTERCRESS *Cardamine impatiens*

How Can Narrowleaf Bittercress Be Controlled?

- NAP's preferred method of control is hand-pulling.
- Cutting off flower heads before seeds have developed prevents further seed dispersal and may be necessary in controlling large infestations.
- Prescribed burning may be effective on seedling plants and first year rosettes.
- For more information on control methods visit The Nature Conservancy website at: <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>

What Can I Do?

- If you see a small infestation, pull it. When pulling be sure to remove the root to prevent re-sprouting from root fragments. Pulled plants should be bagged and taken to a municipal compost facility to prevent the spread of seed.
- Stay on, and keep pets on, established roads and trails to prevent invasive seed dispersal.
- After visiting an area that has narrowleaf bittercress, or other invasive weeds present, clean up before you leave the site! Make sure your clothes, shoes, vehicles, and pets are mud and/or seed free.
- Use plants native to southeastern Michigan in upcoming landscaping projects. NAP has a series of brochures to assist you in choosing native plants for your garden.
- Participate in NAP-sponsored volunteer workdays to remove narrowleaf bittercress and other invasives from city natural areas.
- Learn to identify narrowleaf bittercress and other invasive weeds. Invasive herbaceous plants NAP would appreciate help with are:

garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

bittercress (*Cardamine impatiens*)

knapweed (*Centaurea spp.*)

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*)

dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)

golden archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*)

common motherwort (*Leonurus cardiaca*)

purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)