

Sweetrocket

Hesperis matronalis L.

Alternate Names

Dames rocket

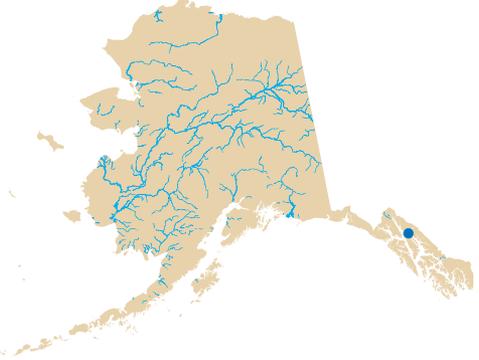
Description

Sweetrocket is a biennial to perennial plant with branched stems growing up to 4 feet tall from fibrous roots.

Leaves are ovate-lanceolate shaped and slightly toothed. Leaves decrease in size as they ascend the stem. Flowers are showy, 4-petaled, and purple to pink or white in color. Seeds are borne in long, narrow siliques.

Similar Species

Sweetrocket resembles a native fireweed (*Epilobium luteum* Pursh) but does not have clefted flower petals.



USDA Forest Service photo by Tom Heutte



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Management

Small populations can be pulled to prevent seed production. There has been no extensive documentation of control efforts for this species, but it is likely that larger populations would require a major effort over a span of 5–10 years or more in order to exhaust the seed bank (Invasive Plants of Wisconsin 2004).

Notes

Sweetrocket is grown by gardeners for its fragrance. It is often a component of wildflower or meadow seed mixes.