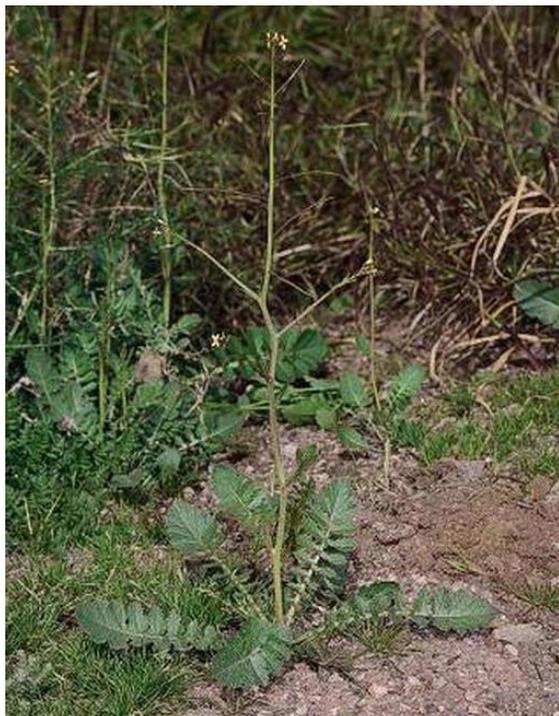




Brassica tournefortii (Gouan), Asian mustard, Brassicaceae

Synonyms: *Brassica tournefortii* var. *sisymbrioides* (Fisch.) Grossh.



Asian mustard. Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California - Davis, Bugwood.org .

Species Description & Habitat

Species Description

Asian mustard is a slender, green-branched weed that rapidly spreads while growing up to 1m tall. Its yellow inflorescence is a classical example of a mustard, with 4 petals and sepals. The leaves are green, basal, stiff, and hairy, with lobes and serrations that surround the stems in a basal rosette. Seed pods form at the end of the stems, and when dropped, the seeds can survive fire. The plant generally flowers between January and June.

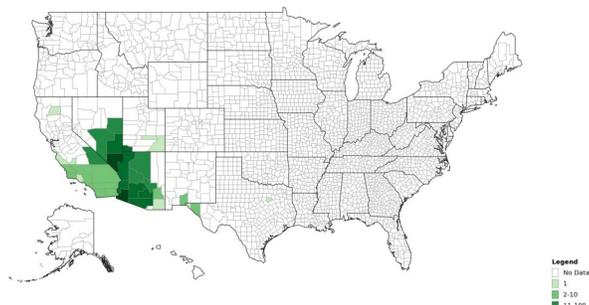
Habitat

In North America, Asian mustard occurs in a variety of disturbed sites along roads and in cultivated farmlands. It is very drought tolerant and prefers to invade barren desert regions. The weed has a harder time establishing itself above elevations of 2500 feet, where weather is too cold in the winter to sustain the perennial.

Introduction and Impact

Asian mustard, despite the common name, is native from Southern Europe, Northern Africa, and the Middle east. It was first documented in the United States in 1927 in the Coachella Valley of California, where it was likely brought over as a competitive scrubby surface cover for date palm plantations.

Brassica tournefortii invades disturbed areas where native plants take a while to reestablish. The aggressive stands of the plant crowd out natives too, and disperse easily in the presence of moisture.



States where Asian mustard occurs. EDDMapS. 2018. Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System. The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. Available online at <http://www.eddmaps.org/>; last accessed July 10, 2018.

Distribution in Introduced Range

In the United States, Asian mustard has been reported as invasive in AZ, CA, NM, NV, TX, and UT. It spreads quickly in scrub fires and along roadsides to cover vast swaths of land in a relatively short period of time.

In addition to its invasion of North America, *Brassica tournefortii* has been naturalized in Australia, Northern Europe, Chile, South Africa, China, and New Zealand.



African mustard damage. Bonnie Million, Bureau of Land Management, Bugwood.org .



African mustard foliage. Bonnie Million, Bureau of Land Management, Bugwood.org .

Prevention, control, management

Manual and mechanical, environmental/cultural, and chemical methods can all be used to control Asian mustard. It is recommended that all treatments of *Brassica tournefortii* take place before seed pods are allowed to develop. Fortunately, the plant can only reproduce by seed, and there are clear windows when non-pesticide treatment can be conducted. The branched-chain amino acid inhibitor chlorsulfuron (Common name Telar) is very effective at treating broadleaved mustards like *tournefortii* up until their rosettes grow.

Regulatory status

This species is listed on watchlists in many southwestern states, but no laws or executive regulations control their spread.

References and Resources

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