



TETON COUNTY WEED AND PEST DISTRICT

Absinth wormwood *Artemisia absinthium*

Absinth wormwood is a perennial herb that is native to Europe and Siberia. The adult plant grows from two to four feet tall with multiple small yellow flowers that are bent down. The entire plant is covered with short white hairs giving it a grey-green appearance. The leaves are deeply divided into many lobed segments. The primary

modes of reproduction are from seeds and short rhizomes. Absinth wormwood is considered a very drought resistant plant and is most often seen escaping into dry soils in; wastelands, overgrazed pastures, rangelands, and roadsides.

It was more than likely introduced as an ornamental or for its value as a medicinal herb.

Absinth wormwood is a threat for many reasons. First, because it is a prolific seed producer and takes advantage of dry soil, it can expand greatly during drought years. Second, it has low to fair palatability and wouldn't be readily grazed. Furthermore, absinth wormwood contains sesquiterpene lactone absinth, which may be toxic to competing plants. Also, it produces very strong pollen grains that often affect people with allergies.

In Teton County we have seen absinth wormwood growing and spreading along roads. We have also seen it being grown as an ornamental. If you find this plant or need help in managing the effects of it, **please contact Teton County Weed & Pest District 733-8419.**



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