

Dame's Rocket

Hesperis matronalis



U S Forest Service Photo

Mature Height	2 to 3 feet	Soil Type	Moist to well drained
Mature Spread	Extensive Colonies	Flower Color	Purple to White
Mature Form	Upright with branched stems	Foliage Color	Green
Growth Rate	Rapid	Fall Color	Green rosettes thru winter
Sun Exposure	Full to Partial Sun		
Soil Moisture	Prefers moist		

Invasive Dame's Rocket plants are spreading across Indiana. If you haven't seen them yet, they are on the way. Dame's rocket is native to Eurasia but was introduced to North America in the 1600's as an ornamental but soon escaped into natural areas. This plant is usually found in woodlands, on woodland edges, along roadsides, and also in open areas displacing native plants. In woodlands the competition for moisture and nutrients inhibits tree seedling growth. It is normally a biennial having a basal rosette the first year from seed and growing a flower stalk the second and sometimes succeeding years. The first year rosette stays green all winter. It grows 2 to 3 feet tall and blooms from May to September. Seeds are produced in long wiry seed pods over the summer. Hundreds of seed are produced from each plant and stay viable in the soil for many years. Seeds are transported to new location by equipment, animals and human shoes. This results in extensive stands. Hand pulling is an effective control in small patches. Large infestation are best controlled by foliar spray of the rosettes with glyphosate or triclopyr in early spring or late fall to avoid damage to desirable plants.

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This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

