

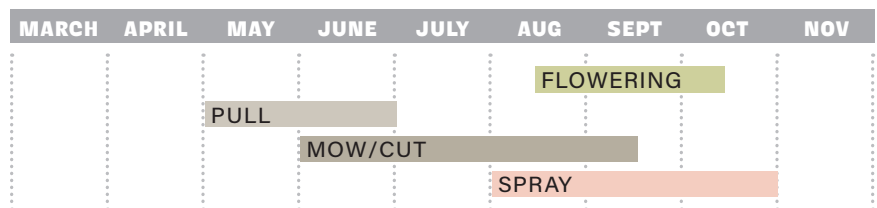
Disposal

BAG AND BAKE: If roots, rhizomes or mature seeds are present on cut plants, bag them in black plastic, close tightly and leave the bag in the sun. Without moisture and light, the plant material will “bake” and die and can then be disposed of outdoors. It may take six weeks or more for all the material in the bag to become completely lifeless.

DECAY IN PLACE: Stalks without roots, rhizomes or mature seeds attached after cutting may be left in place to decay.



Calendar



■ Treatment, mechanical

■ Treatment, herbicidal

Adapted from the Connecticut Invasive Plant Management Calendar produced by the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG).



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CORNWALL CONSERVATION COMMISSION: IDENTIFY, REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF INVASIVE PLANTS

COMMON MUGWORT

ARTEMISIA VULGARIS



WHAT'S THE SKINNY ON MUGWORT?

Common mugwort was brought to North America from Europe as a medicinal plant, possibly as early as the 1600s. Helpful for digestive issues, it is still used in healing traditions such as Chinese medicine. Mugwort is yet another plant that has not evolved in our ecosystem, leaving it free of natural predators and controls. Infestations are mostly found in northern parts of the US. It prefers plenty of sun and drier soils. In Cornwall, mugwort is found on roadsides, waste areas and edges of fields.

Identification

Mugwort's tall, purple-tinted stalks can reach five feet or more. Its pointed, feathery leaves are dark green, silvery grey on the underside. Crushing a leaf will yield a sage or geranium-like odor. In late summer, flower buds form in clusters at the top of the stalks, generating seedheads that mature in late September.



MUGWORT INVASIVE PLANT FACTSHEET: UCONN Extension guide to identification, control and disposal. bit.ly/ccc_mugwort

PLANT ID APP: PictureThis (about \$40 per year/free option). The app identifies the plant from a photo and provides details.

Spread

Mugwort spreads aggressively, mostly underground through rhizomes. These horizontal stems that grow beneath the surface generate new plants from their nodes. Unfortunately, even small pieces of rhizome or root can generate a new sprout that can start a colony. Mugwort proliferates readily in places where soils are moved, such as in nursery root balls, at turf farms and at construction sites. Mature seeds can become windborne, also promoting the spread, especially if the seeds fall on disturbed (bare) earth.



Removal

PULLING: Small, young plants can be pulled, including the roots, in spring and early summer before rhizomes have developed.

MOWING OR CUTTING: Mow or cut the stalks before the seedheads have matured in late September. Mowing after seeds have matured can actually spread the seeds. For larger infestations, repeated mowing during the growing season can weaken the plant by depleting its energy reserves.

HERBICIDES: Herbicides may be used if mechanical means are not ultimately effective in removing this aggressive plant. Timing and methods of application are crucial, so consulting with or hiring a licensed professional is recommended.