

# Bur ragweed

## *Ambrosia grayii*

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**Also known as Woollyleaf bursage**

**Deep-rooted, perennial forb**

### Habitat

- Prefers consistent moisture, but can withstand extended drought
- Cropland
- Fallow

### Flowers

- Inconspicuous, greenish-gray
- July-August
- Male flowers on upper leaf axils, females lower on stem
- "Bur" is a cluster of female flowers, light tan with barbs

### Seeds

- Burs can contain two seeds
- 7-10 plants per sq.ft. can produce 760-920 seeds per sq. ft.

### Shoots

- 12-24" tall
- Can produce a single flower stalk from each stem
- New shoots arise from root-borne vegetative buds

### Roots

- Tap root can extend 15 feet deep
- Lateral roots can penetrate to 6 feet however, most are in top 3-10" of soil

### Growth and reproduction

- Four year old plant: roots 6 ft. deep, ¼" diameter
- 12 plants per sq. ft. can produce 380-460 burs per sq. ft.
- Reproduces primarily from root-borne buds, also seed

### Management

- 1. Tillage: 3-4" deep every 14-21 days, for 2-3 years
- 2. Herbicides: dicamba, glyphosate, imazapic, picloram, 2,4-D LVE
- \* Picloram+2,4-D or banvel provide best control
- \*Apply herbicide when flowering (July-August)
- \*Monitor for 12-24 months after eradication

### Threats

- Aggressively competes for light, moisture and nutrients
- Infestation during "bad" year can result in total crop loss
- Infestation during an "average" year can reduce yields by 40-75%
- A solid infestation of Bur ragweed can produce over

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