WEEDWATCH

STANDING SENTINEL TO PROTECT PLANT HEALTH



GOLDENROD Solidago spp.

IDENTIFICATION TIPS

> This genus consists of more than 65 species. Most are herbaceous perennials found in open areas.

> Goldenrod often grows in patches. In many cases, a colony of plants is a clone of a single plant.

> Stems are erect and slender, and can grow up to 8 ft. tall. Long, narrow leaves alternate along the stem.

> Most are identified by golden inflorescences clustered on long stalks. Goldenrod usually blooms in late summer or early fall.

CONTROL TIPS

Goldenrod is a very effective colonizer. Wind-blown seeds can widely disperse and quickly establish in bare soil or places where competition from other plants is light.

> After the first flower buds form and before the first flower opens, apply a systemic foliar herbicide, which moves down through the plant and injures the root system.

Products containing clopyralid or triclopyr work well.



BLACK MUSTARD Brassica nigra

IDENTIFICATION TIPS

> Also known as shortpod mustard, this winter annual grows profusely and produces allelopathic chemicals that prevent germination of native plants.

> Stems grow erect, with a slight covering of stiff hairs on the lower portion and a smooth top half.

> Leaves do not clasp around the stem. Lower leaves are lobed; upper leaves are toothed.

> Flowers resemble other *Brassica* or *Cruciferae* species, having four bright yellow petals.

CONTROL TIPS

> To prevent black mustard, apply a preemergent herbicide containing isoxaben in late summer or early fall, prior to germination.

> A postemergent product containing triclopyr may be applied to small and actively growing plants.

> Ensure good drainage, as black mustard prefers moist soil. Proper mowing height and fertility also can help prevent establishment in turfgrass. PHOTOS: ROB ROUTLEDGE, SAULT COLLEGE, BUGWOOD.ORG (LEFT); H. ZELL, WIKIMEDIA

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