

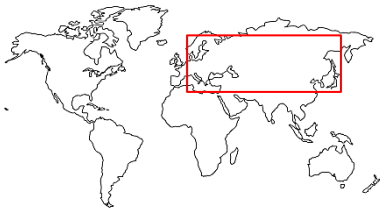
Perennial sow-thistle

Sonchus arvensis

SOMEWHAT INVASIVE – established in the region

Invasive habitat: grows in partial shade to full sun in moist, disturbed soils such as along shores, in fields, and in roadsides.

Native range: Europe and Asia



Common in the Arrowhead in roadsides and gardens



IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: herbaceous perennial that grows to be 2-4' tall and has a single stem with several flower stalks at the top. Broken stems have a sticky milky juice.



Leaves: leaves are alternate and have spiny toothed edges. Lower leaves are deeply lobed and upper leaves clasp the stem.



Flowers: bright yellow flowers grow in flower heads that are 2" wide and bloom July-October.



Seeds: seeds have a tuft of hair to aid in wind dispersal. Also reproduces vegetatively via large root systems.

CONTROL



Manual: digging and pulling are effective, but root fragments will re-sprout as new plants.



Chemical: glyphosate and triclopyr are effective in control.



Mechanical: cutting or mowing will reduce flower and seed production.



Cultural: plant native seeds to encourage competition; not usually a threat to intact native communities.