

Dame's rocket

Hesperis matronalis

VERY INVASIVE – upcoming in the Arrowhead

Invasive habitat: grows in full sun to shade; occurs on roadsides, ditches, disturbed sites, forests, meadows.

Native range: Europe



Beginning to appear in the Arrowhead



IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: biennial or short-lived perennial that grows to 2-3' tall. Similar to wild phlox, but flowers have 4 petals, not 5.



Flowers: flowers have 4 purple petals that are $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1" wide. Flowers grow in clusters of up to 30, and each plant has multiple clusters. Blooms May-September.



Leaves: leaves are 5" long by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide with a rounded base and sharp tip. Leaves are hairy and most attach directly to the stem.



Seeds: seeds are produced in thin 4" long pods. Plants are prolific seed producers.

CONTROL



Manual: pulling or digging is effective.



Chemical: use broadleaf herbicides.



Prescribed fire: burning is effective.



Cultural: check wildflower seed mixes for this plant.



Mechanical: to limit and reduce seed production, cut prior to flower formation, or cut flowers and burn.