

HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET

CORNELL

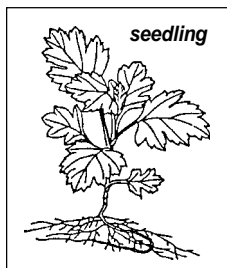
Cooperative Extension
Nassau County



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Mugwort

Chrysanthemum Weed



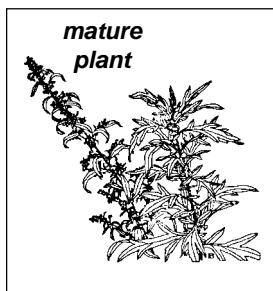
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Considerations

IPM is a common sense approach to pest control and plant care. It employs a number of measures to prevent, control or reduce plant problems.

These include using resistant plant varieties, proper plant selection and placement, good aftercare and biological and/or mechanical controls. As a last resort, after all other remedies have been explored, a pesticide* that is least toxic to people and natural predators, can be considered. Prior to using any pesticides, plants should always be monitored for the degree of infestation and a sensible control measure considered.

* A pesticide is a substance that kills, or attempts to kill, a particular pest, e.g. **insecticide**, **fungicide**, **herbicide**, etc.

Artemisia vulgaris, sometimes called chrysanthemum weed or mugwort, is known as the Mother of Herbs and can be easily established from poorly-composted material, top soil or landscape stock.



As the name indicates, the weed resembles the garden chrysanthemum in size and in the shape of its foliage. Unfortunately, it is often mistaken for a garden chrysanthemum. Mugwort leaves are whitish and woolly on the undersides; the garden mum

is the same color green on both the upper and lower leaf surfaces or slightly lighter on the undersides of the leaves. Mugwort also looks a lot like ragweed.

How do you know if you have mugwort or ragweed? Ragweed blades are more deeply dissected.

On the plus side, mugwort is also known as midge plant because it has some insect repellent properties.

Chrysanthemum weed spreads rapidly by means of rhizomes (underground stems). Mugwort has many rhizomes. Pulling the weeds is an unsuccessful means of control, because new plants quickly emerge from rhizome fragments, just like the brooms in "The Sorcerer's Apprentice." Mugwort is relatively tolerant of most herbicides, so try mulching beds to reduce their growth.

When found in landscape plantings containing only certain woody ornamentals or in open uncultivated areas, the areas contaminated with mugwort can be treated with a non-selective systemic herbicide. Care should be taken not to get this chemical on the foliage of any desirable plant material. **Read the label completely** before using any chemical. Do not use near roses or deciduous azaleas.

A non-systemic herbicide can also be used on turf, but only in areas to be completely renovated, because it will kill the turf as well as the mugwort. You will have to reseed or resod after the areas are completely killed out.

Another, perhaps less effective option, in turf areas that have been invaded by mugwort and where renovation is not desirable, is to use an herbicide in the spring and repeat in the fall. This may give fair control. There are no very effective treatments for selective control of mugwort in turfgrass at this time.

If you choose to use a pesticide, call your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office for specific recommendations.

C-2-3 MTC reviewed TTY 1/03

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