

Dame's Rocket

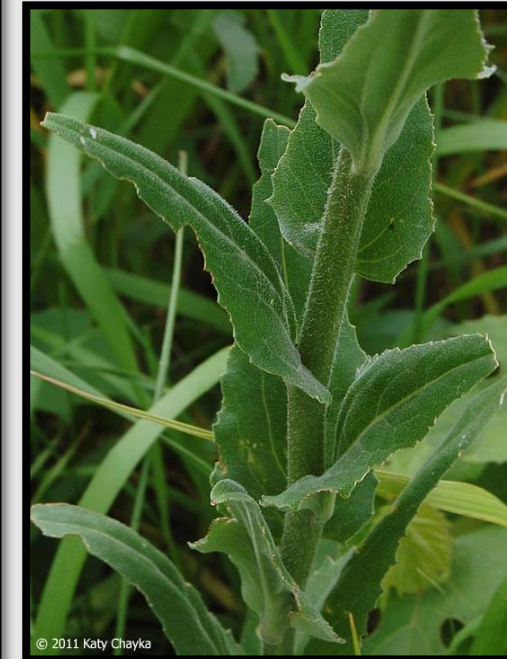
Hesperis matronalis

Description: Dame's Rocket is a tall biennial, with first-year rosettes that stay green all winter. Flowering plants shoot up a tall, 2-4 foot stem that is hairy with wide, sharply-pointed fine-toothed leaves. Flowers range from white to purple to pink. It is often confused with native phlox, however phlox has five-petaled flowers while Dame's Rocket has 4 petals. Seeds are in a thin, long pod, and it reproduces by seed only.

Ecological Threat: Dame's Rocket can crowd out and replace native flowers, forming massive colonies once established. Its relation to garlic mustard could be a sign of its invasive potential. It often spreads from gardens and is often included in wildflower mixes.

Control Methods: Mechanical- Hand-pulling can be effective anytime before seed pods start to shatter, but plants must be bagged or burned. Burning may be an effective control strategy in spring or fall.

Chemical- Foliar applications of herbicide can be effective on large populations.



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