

B. Absinth Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*)

Key Characteristics:

Absinth wormwood is a member of the Sunflower family. Absinth Wormwood is a long-lived perennial with a strong aromatic odor, bitter taste, and a shrub-like appearance. Often misidentified as native *Artemisia* species, Absinth Wormwood is often overlooked, making good identification skills key to effective prevention and control.



Plants are multiple-stemmed, grow 16 to 48 inches tall, and die back every winter to crowns at soil-level. (In comparison, our native Big Sagebrush (*A. tridentata*) has one main stem that branches, and it retains its leaves all year.)

Leaves consist of rounded lobes, 3-10 cm wide by nearly as long, that are divided many times. Leaves are alternate, with lower leaves on long petioles and upper leaves on short petioles and less lobed. This contrasts to native Fringed Sage (*A. frigi da*) whose leaves are smaller, much more thinly divided, and almost lace-like throughout. In addition, Absinth Wormwood leaves are a bluer, olive gray-green color than native *Artemisia* species.



Locations:

Known infestations in Pitkin County exist in the AABC and North Forty neighborhoods, on Red Mountain, in Snowmass Village and Old Town Basalt, along Maroon Creek, Brush Creek, Capitol Creek, and Thompson Creek Roads, and along Hwy 133 near the Garfield-Pitkin County Line and near Marble.

Biological control:

No known biological controls at this time.

Cultural control:

Good perennial grass growth resists infestation. Be aware that varieties of Absinth Wormwood may be sold as ornamentals at garden shops and may be a contaminant in native sage seed mixes. Purchase only certified-weed free seed.

Mechanical control:

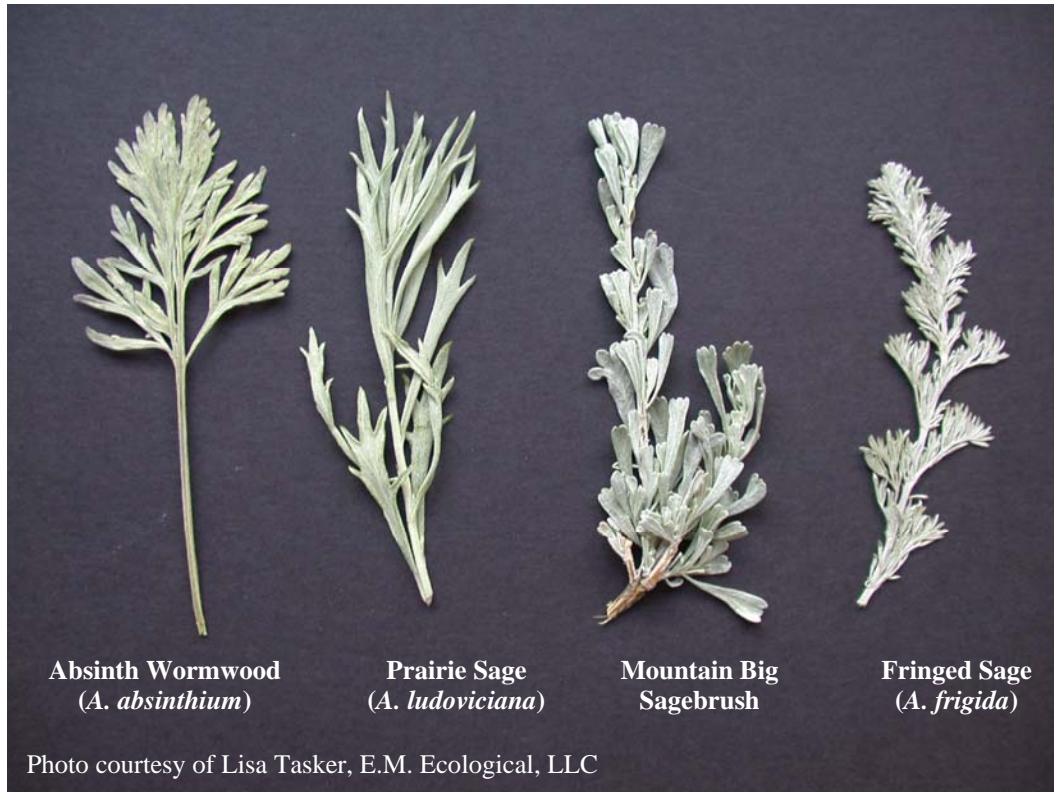
Summer fallow and fall tillage prevent establishment on cultivated land, but spring tillage is less effective. Cutting or mowing reduces seed production, but will not kill root system.

Chemical control:

There are effective herbicide options for Absinth Wormwood control. Contact the Pitkin County Land Management Department for more specific information about products, rates, and equipment calibration.

B. Absinth Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*) (continued)

Native Look-Alikes: Absinth Wormwood is closely related to several of our native sage species. These plants are shown side-by-side below for comparison.



Prairie Sage
(A. ludoviciana)



Big Mountain Sagebrush
(A. tridentata)



Fringed Sage
(A. frigida)