Mini data sheet on *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*

Added in 2000 – Deleted in 2000

Reasons for deletion
The Panel on Phytosanitary Measures considered that the weed *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* did not have the characteristics of an alert. In 2000, it was therefore removed from the EPPO Alert List.

Ambrosia artemisiifolia (Asteraceae) - common ragweed

Why	The Panel on Phytosanitary Measures is currently discussing the potential quarantine status of weeds, and *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* was retained as a potential candidate.
Where	It is native to North America and has spread from there to many other areas in the world (except perhaps Africa). **Europe**: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia (Krasnodar territory), Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, Yugoslavia (at least Serbia). **Asia**: Azerbaijan, China (Yangtze river valley, Liaoning), Japan, Kazakhstan, India, Korea, Russia (Primorski territory), Taiwan, Turkey. **Africa**: Mauritius. **North America**: Canada (in all provinces, but most common in southern Quebec and Ontario, very rare in British Columbia and Newfoundland, uncommon in prairie provinces and provinces of the Atlantic coast), Mexico, USA (eastern, north central states, Hawaii). **Central America & Caribbean**: Cuba, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Jamaica, Martinique. **South America**: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay. **Oceania**: Australia, New Zealand.
On which crops	*A. artemisiifolia* can infest practically all field crops (cereals, maize, soybean, sunflower, rootcrops, etc.), meadows, pastures, orchards and vineyards, and also rangeland. However, it is commonest along waterways, roads, railways and in wasteland.
Dissemination	Fruits of *A. artemisiifolia* are dispersed by birds, melting snow, waterways and strong winds. Seeds of *A. artemisiifolia* are dispersed through exchanges of contaminated seed lots, forage and fodder.
Damage	*A. artemisiifolia* is an annual weed which competes strongly with crop plants for water and nutrients. It is very prolific (one plant may develop 30,000 - 40,000 seeds and up to 100,000); seeds remain viable for 5-14 years). It can seriously reduce yields of cereals and other field crops (e.g. sunflower), and causes problems in harvesting. Its presence greatly reduces fodder quality of meadows and pastures (*A. artemisiifolia* is not palatable to livestock), and taints diary products if cattle do feed on it. In addition, its pollen is strongly allergenic in man (hay fever) and can cause dermatitis on contact.
Pathway to plants.	Contaminated seed lots, forage and fodder, soil and growing media, soil attached
Possible risks	*A. artemisiifolia* is a serious weed mainly because of its prolific seed production. It has already shown a great potential for spread and it is regularly found on consignments of seeds. Once established in an area, it is difficult to control. *A. artemisiifolia* is apparently not present in all countries of the EPPO region, and it could present a risk to countries where it is still absent (except perhaps in northern countries where low temperatures may prevent its development).
Source(s)	Draft EPPO Data Sheet. Pest Risk Analysis on *Ambrosia* spp. for Poland prepared by W. Karnkowski, 1999. Byfield, A.J.; Baytop, A.; (1998) Three alien species new to the flora of Turkey. Turkish Journal of botany, 22(3), 205-208.

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