

# New Invaders Watch Program

## Early Detection and Rapid Response Network

COMMON NAME: **NARROW-LEAF BITTERCRESS**

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Cardamine impatiens*

FAMILY: *Brassicaceae*

ORIGIN: Europe

US INTRODUCTION: Unknown

MAJOR PATHWAYS OF SPREAD:

- Pathways not documented

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS:

- Annual or biennial forb, grows 6 – 31 inches tall. First year plant a rosette, rarely flowers; second year plant bolts and flowers on an erect stem, spreads by seed
- Rosettes have 3-11 round-lobed leaflets. 2<sup>nd</sup> year plants have 6-20 sharply toothed leaflets up to 4 inches long or longer. Lower and middle stem leaves have 6-9 pairs of long-pointed, somewhat lobed leaflets
- Small ears of the leaf bases (auricles) remain on the main stem when the principal leaves are removed
- Flowers many, small with 4 white petals; flowers in June
- Seedpods erect, slender (siliques) up to 0.75 inches long produced from May to September
- Threatens floodplains and riparian areas; grows in shade, occasionally in dry, sunny areas away from water



P. Erdmann  
Plant



MN Dept. Ag.  
Rosette



MN Dept. Ag.  
Seed pods



MN Dept. Ag.  
First year rosette leaf



Second year leaf

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES:

Narrow-leaf bittercress can be mistaken for small-flowered bittercress (*C. parviflora*) and Pennsylvania bittercress (*C. pennsylvanica*). Narrow-leaf bittercress can be distinguished from the other species by its ear-lobed shaped leaf bases (where the leaf meets the stem), which are not present on the other species.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Minnesota Wildflowers.  
<http://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/narrow-leaf-bittercress>

Minnesota Department of Agriculture.  
<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/badplants/bittercress.aspx>



www.minnesotawildflowers.info

Ear-lobed shaped leaf bases



S. Kobal

Plant