

## Ragweed

### Can you recognize it?

Ragweed, [ not to be confused with poison ivy], is an annual plant belonging to the same family as the daisy and camomile.

Ranging in height from 5 to 90 cm, it features serrated foliage and hairy stems. It provokes no allergic reaction to the touch.

This plant appears in June, blooms in August (stalks of tiny yellowish flowers), and produces an outstanding quantity of seeds for the following year (as many as 1,000 per plant) before it dies. It is said that these seeds can germinate after being buried for more than 40 years!



### What can you do?

Ragweed can flourish in poor, damaged and sunny environments. Since other plants will not thrive in these environments, they can easily take over.

While they are not difficult to eliminate, you have to know they are there! They can easily and safely be ripped out by hand, but if you hope to eliminate them completely, you will have to modify the environment to make it more appealing to other plants. For example, improving the quality of the soil will allow grass to take better and be more competitive.

Ragweed quickly colonizes areas that have become barren, like the edge of the street or a patch of lawn weakened by white grubs or chinch bugs. To keep it from taking root where you live, simply repair problem patches in the spring, applying a mix of soil and compost before seeding.

Shoots first appear in June and are easy to detect in the grass. Check areas where they are likely to grow in June and July, rip out small plants as they emerge and reseed the lawn as needed. Ragweed doesn't like to compete with other plants. You will have no trouble eradicating it quickly and inexpensively.

Cutting ragweed down with the lawnmower before it blooms is a simple way of controlling it in large areas of greenery, but take care: if you mow your lawn regularly, the plant will eventually spread low on the ground, and bloom anyway. The best way of eliminating it is still to rip it out while maintaining a healthy lawn that will be more resistant.

Ragweed is responsible for serious allergy problems throughout Quebec. According to the Montreal Public Health Department, Quebecers spend more than \$50 million a year on various ragweed-related health problems. It is **your** responsibility to ensure that there is no ragweed on your property.

If you believe there is ragweed on your property and are unable to eliminate it, do not hesitate to contact the Town's eco-consultant, at 450 621-3500, ext. 3305.

### **Tips if you're allergic:**

If possible, during ragweed season, plan outings at the end of the day, take a walk after a rainfall, avoid drying your clothes outdoors, and wash your hair and hands before going to bed. In addition, leave your windows closed (use an air conditioner) or use an air exchanger with an anti-pollen filter. Check your car's air purifier as well!

Ragweed and poison ivy are two different plants with different effects on health. If you are unsure about their differences, see the Poison Ivy information sheet on our website at: [www.ville.rosemere.qc.ca](http://www.ville.rosemere.qc.ca)



### Practical references:

Agence de la Santé et des Services Sociaux du Québec (Quebec Health and Social Services Agency):  
[www.agencesss04.qc.ca/sante-publique/environnement/qae-herbe-poux.html](http://www.agencesss04.qc.ca/sante-publique/environnement/qae-herbe-poux.html)

Montreal Botanical Garden:  
[www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/biblio/bottin/toxiques\\_herbe\\_poux.htm](http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/biblio/bottin/toxiques_herbe_poux.htm)

City of Montreal:  
[ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?\\_pageid=4537,7191113&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=4537,7191113&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)