

***Lapsana communis*, Nipplewort**

General Botanical Characteristics

Lapsana communis is an annual invasive weed with one erect stem that grows from 15 cm -150 cm high. The leaves are dull-green, simple, alternate, pinnately toothed or lobed, and oval-shaped. About 13 yellow flower petals are contained by each dandelion-like flower head.

Seasonal Development

It flowers from June to September and the seeds ripen from August to October. Flowers are hermaphroditic (having both male and female organs), are pollinated by bees, flies, moths and butterflies.

Distribution/Habitat

Nipplewort is native in Europe and Asia. An invasive weed throughout the United States and Canada, it is common on the western side of the Cascade Mountains of the Pacific Northwest. It can grow easily in disturbed areas such as roadsides, waste areas, gravel bars along streams, gardens, yards, and open woods.



Interesting Facts

- The leaves and the upper stem portion can be eaten raw with salad.
- It has medicinal use for healing ulcers of the nipples of women's breasts.

References

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