

Indian Hedge Mustard

Genus / Species:

Sisymbrium orientale L.

Family: Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)

Annual

Indian Hedge Mustard occurs in all parts of the State, but is generally less common than Hedge Mustard. It is a weed of waste areas and orchards, and occasionally occurs in arable crops. It is of little economic importance. Germination occurs in Autumn and Spring.



The cotyledon has a blade 5 to 8 mm long with a petiole of approximately the same length, and has a few long hairs. The seedling has only a short hypocotyl and no epicotyl. The leaves grow singly, the first having a blade 8 to 12 mm long with a petiole of approximately the same length. The leaves carry longish hairs. As the plant grows the leaves elongate, becoming lobed and ultimately pinnately lobed or pinnate. The plant forms a rosette 200 to 300 mm in diameter.

The mature plant is erect in habit, with stems reaching some 1.0 m or more in height. The stems are branched and the branches stand out at approximately 45 degrees to the main stem. They are solid with a pithy core and usually woody, circular in cross section, and have scattered fine hairs. The lower stem leaves are petiolate and some 50 mm long, while the upper stem leaves are shorter, may be sessile, and have considerable reduced lobes. The leaves carry fine hairs on the upper and lower surfaces.

The inflorescence is terminal, the flowers being some 10 mm in diameter with four yellow petals. The seed pods reach a length of about 120 mm and are held at an angle of 45 to 90 degrees to the stem.

In the seedling stage Indian Hedge Mustard are practically identical. In the rosette Indian Hedge Mustard can be distinguished by the terminal lobe of the leaf which is elongated and pointed while that of Hedge Mustard is short and rounded. In the mature plant the larger size of the flower and the long seed pod held away from the stem are characteristics separating this species from Hedge Mustard.

Organic Eradication Methods:

Organic eradication can be helped by:

- Mow lawn while plant is flowering. Avoid mowing when seed heads are present
- Place 5 or 6 teaspoons of normal table salt (cooking salt) on individual plants.
- Manually pull weeds from lawn, ensure ALL tap root is removed
- Natural Organic fertilizer high in Nitrogen (Chicken manure is ideal) should be added to the lawn during late summer and late winter.

References:

Text & Weed Image sourced from - Tasmanian Weed Handbook (Department of Agriculture – Tasmania)

An Organic Weed Control Fact Sheet provided by: [Lifestyle Home Services](#)



[MiOrganicFuture](#)