Giant ragweed
Ambrosia trifida

Minnesota C-Value: 0
Wetland Indicator Status: FAC+
Native

Leaves: Lower leaves opposite, turning alternate at top. 2-10 in. across with rounded base, 3-5 lobed, serrated.

Stems: Rough and hairy with several branches. Up to 15 ft tall.

Flowers and fruit: Terminal spike with numerous, small, greenish flowers. Spikes can reach 1ft in length. 5-15 bracts surround the flower head.

Plant communities: Alluvial soils, fields, ditches, low woods; may colonize mud flats and wet meadows.

Comments: Annual weed, also known as 'great ragweed.' Considered noxious in some counties. Fairly easy to identify in the field. Very few herbaceous plants in Minnesota attain heights over 8 ft tall with 3-lobed leaves.