



Common Burdock *Arctium minus* Bernh.

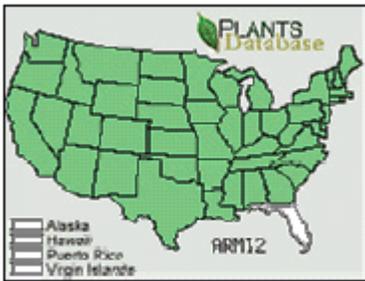
Common Names: bardane, beggar's button, common burdock, lesser burdock, wild burdock, wild rhubarb

Native Origin: Europe

Description: Common burdock is a biennial in the Aster family (*Asteraceae*). In the first year of growth the plant forms a rosette. The second year the plant is erect. The stout, grooved, rough stem has multiple branches, and grows to 2-6 feet tall. The large heart-shaped leaves are alternate, dark green, smooth above, whitish green, and woolly-hairy beneath. The flowers are pink, lavender, purple or white in numerous heads, 3/4 inch across. The head is enclosed in a prickly bur composed of numerous smooth or woolly bracts tipped with hooked spines, flowering July to October. One plant typically produces 15,000 seeds. It reproduces by seeds. Large thick taproots branch out in all directions.



Habitat: It grows along roadsides, ditch banks, stream banks, old fields, waste places, and neglected areas. It can be found in full or partial shade.



Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in CO, ID, IL, KY, MD, MI, OH, OR, PA, SC, TN, VA, WA, WI, WV, and WY.

Ecological Impacts: Indirectly affects the development of economically important plants by hosting powdery mildew and root rot. Reduces the value of sheep's wool due to the seed heads entangling in it and significantly damage the quality of the wool. It is responsible for tainting milk products if grazed in large quantities.

Control and Management:

- **Manual-** Top growth removal through mowing or cutting is effective. Pulling or digging out the plant at flowering. Remove seed heads before seed set. Pulling may be difficult due to large taproot.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or clopyralid. Follow label and state requirements.

References:

www.ct-botanical-society.org, www.cwma.org/burdock.html, www.nps.gov, www.forestimages.org, www.aspenpitkin.com/misc/weeds/common_burdock.htm, <http://plants.usda.gov>, Czarapata, Elizabeth J. Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest, An Illustrated Guide to their Identification and Control, 2005, p. 100