



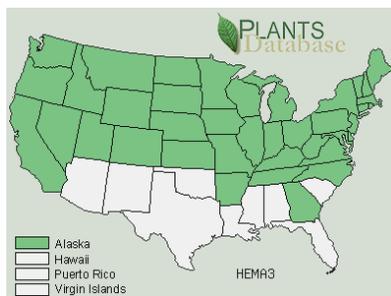
Dame's Rocket

Hesperis matronalis L.

Common Names: dame rocket, dame's rocket, dames violet, mother-of-the-evening

Native Origin: Eurasia; introduced to North America in the 1600's.

Description: An erect, herbaceous biennial or perennial in the mustard family (Brassicaceae) growing 1.5 to 3 feet in height. The leaves are oblong, sharply toothed, and alternately arranged. Leaves decrease in size as they ascend the stem. The pink, magenta, or white flowers have large loose, fragrant clusters with four petals that bloom May to June. Many seeds are produced in long, narrow fruits. The seeds of Dane's rocket are spread mechanically when the dehiscent fruits open. The seeds are also eaten and dispersed by ground-foraging birds.



Habitat: It grows in moist woodlands, woodland edges, roadsides, railroad right-of-ways, disturbed sites, waste ground, thickets, and open areas.

Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in CO, CT, IN, MD, MI, NJ, PA, TN, VA, WI, and WV.

Ecological Impacts: Many people think that it is a native wildflower and is planted in gardens, and is often sold in "native" wildflower mixes. These plants crowd out native vegetation with their great numbers of seeds.

Control and Management: Locating and removing plants immediately before seed sets is the best way to prevent the spread of dame's rocket. Be sure to check the contents of "wildflower" seed mixes for this species, and do not plant those that carry it.

- **Manual-** Pulling or use of a dandelion digger is most effective when the soil is moist is effective. Flower-heads should be bagged for landfill, or dried and burned where permissible. Where there is sufficient leaf litter or other fuel, burning has been found to be an effective control method.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. To avoid damaging adjacent native vegetation, apply herbicide in late fall when the rosettes are still green. Follow label and state requirements.

References: www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/factsheets/dames.htm
www.ct-botanical-society.org/galleries/hesperismatr.html. www.nps.gov/plants/alien/map/hema2.htm
www.forestimages.org, <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=HEMA3>,
Invasive Plants of New England <http://webapps.lib.uconn.edu/ipane/browsing.cfm?descriptionid=114>