

Dame's rocket

Hesperis matronalis



HABITAT:

- Damp, shaded areas near wooded streams and floodplains, roadsides

ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS:

- Forms dense colonies that can displace native species



TIMING:

- Flowers May - early June
- Fruits in June
- Produces large quantities of seed from May into July

MANAGEMENT:

- Cut flower heads or pull when soil is moist before plant sets seed. Make sure to get roots to prevent resprouting
- Dispose of plants with flower heads in bags

Plant at a Glance:

1. **Leaf:** Year 1, rosette of leave at base
Year 2, alternate on stem, toothed, hairy on both sides
2. **Flower:** Year 1, *does not flower**
Year 2, fragrant, clustered, 4-petaled (white to pink)
3. **Fruit:** Year 1, *does not fruit**
Year 2, thin, narrow seed pods

*note: biennial life cycle

Native Alternative:

Summer phlox, *Phlox paniculata*

- Blooms July - October (flowers have five petals)
- **Habitat:** moist or moderate conditions in woods, wetland borders, thickets
- **Benefits and Uses:** fragrant flowers and nectar that attract butterflies, skippers and moths like the hummingbird moth
- **Growing tips:** moist conditions with part sun and loamy soil



Photos: *Dame's Rocket*. N.d. University of Purdue, Indiana University, Fort Wayne. Web. 10 Aug. 2012.
Chayka, K.. *Fruit*. 2008. *Minnesota Wildflowers*. Web. 10 Aug. 2012.