
Dame's rocket

Hesperis matronalis



Often included in wildflower seed mixes, this perennial plant is 2–3' high and will remind you of garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), but Dame's rocket has four flower petals, whereas Phlox has five.

- Leaves of 1st year plants in early spring are widely lance-shaped, up to 6", and form a crown on the ground. Then the hairy leaves stagger up hairy stems, are toothed, and 2–6" long, decreasing in size as they ascend the stem.
 - Flowers are fragrant, 4-petaled, about 1" wide, in shades of white/purple/pink, with a tubular base. Clusters of flowers are high on the stems, blooming for several weeks.
 - Seeds form in thin pods. These seeds remain viable in the soil for years.
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HOW TO CONTROL:

- Pull or dig when soil is moist before seed production. Monitor and repeat. Dispose of in trash if flowers or seeds are present, or burn.
 - For widespread infestations, and if more than 25' from water, spray with triclopyr in spring or early summer before flowering, or glyphosate in late summer/early fall. Avoid spraying during flowering period to protect beneficial insects.
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Sources

Dame's Rocket

<https://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=5702>;

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/hesperis.pdf

Controls

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/hesperis.pdf;

<https://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/wow/dames-rocket.pdf>
