

Botanical name: *Cardamine hirsuta*

Common name: Flickweed, Hairy Bittercress, Hoary Wood Cress, Common Bittercress

Family: Brassicaceae

Origin: Native of damp areas in Western Europe and North Africa

Habit: Slender annual that forms basal rosettes about 30-40cm tall

Leaves: form a basal rosette, alternate along the stem and have slightly hairy upper surface. The lower leaves on the plant are pinnate and between 2cm-10cm in size, with the terminal lobe on each being kidney shaped. Small white flowers borne on a raceme are arranged in elongating clusters. The leaves are edible with a slightly peppery taste and packed full of vitamin C, calcium, magnesium and antioxidants. There are no real known medicinal uses

Stems: Slender slightly hairy stems that are mainly unbranched ranging in colour from reddish/purple near the base turning green the higher up the plant you go.

Fruit/Seeds: fruiting pod is 2cm long with 2 compartments separated by a partition. Young seed pods are green turning slightly yellow upon maturity. The pods split explosively releasing the seeds up to 2m from the original plant, thus its common name. The seeds are brown, flat and are arranged in 1 line along the seed pod.



Control

The key to combatting flick weed is to break its seeding cycle by weeding and or spraying at weekly intervals to avoid the weed flowering. If the weed goes into flower this weed will seed very quickly and the whole cycle starts all over again. The area should be thickly mulched.

There are multiple chemical and organic broadleaf weed killers on the market. Select one that is fit for purpose such as lawn weeder or for garden beds.