

NYBG

New York City EcoFlora

Guide to Mustards (Brassicaceae) of New York City

The Mustards are a large family with approximately 350 genera and 3500 species distributed worldwide, primarily in cooler regions of the northern hemisphere. They are distinguished by the presence of pungent mustard oils, an often blue/green (glaucous) color, flowers with four petals arranged in the shape of a cross, and six stamens. The Greater Celandine (*Chelidonium majus*) can be mistaken for a mustard with its blue green color, deeply lobed leaves and four-petaled flower, but has multiple stamens in the center of the flower, whereas the Mustards have only six.

Sixteen Brassicaceae species are indigenous to New York City. Two are threatened with extinction in New York State (*Tomostima reptans* and *Cardamine douglasii*) and are probably no longer found in the City. The commonest native species are Virginia Pepperweed (*Lepidium virginicum*), Bog Yellowcress (*Rorippa palustris*) and Pennsylvania Bittercress (*Cardamine pennsylvanica*). Another native species, American Searocket (*Cakile edentula*) is found on the City's Atlantic beaches. Forty-two of our fifty-eight species are non-native and include Hairy Bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*), Narrow-Leaved Bittercress (*Cardamine impatiens*) and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Most of these species are European imports adapted to disturbed areas and so are less of a threat to our forests and wetlands, not withstanding the Garlic Mustard which can invade diverse forests types including Appalachian Oak-Hickory, Oak-Tulip Tree and Rich Mesophytic forests

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Guide to Common Mustards (Brassicaceae) of New York City Photos and observations from New York City EcoFlora Project on iNaturalist



695 observations

CC

Garlic Mustard
(*Alliaria petiolata*)



287 observations

CC

Shepherd's-Purse
(*Capsella bursa-pastoris*)



203 observations

CC

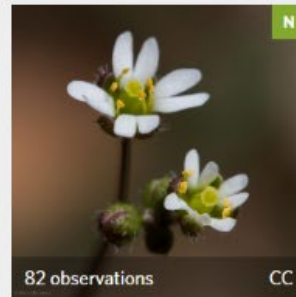
Hairy Bittercress
(*Cardamine hirsuta*)



121 observations

CC

Virginia Pepperweed
(*Lepidium virginicum*)



82 observations

CC

Common Whitlowgrass
(*Draba verna*)



49 observations

CC

Cut-leaved Toothwort
(*Cardamine concatenata*)



38 observations

CC

Lesser Swine-Cress
(*Lepidium didymum*)



34 observations

CC

Garden Yellowrocket
(*Barbarea vulgaris*)



33 observations

CC

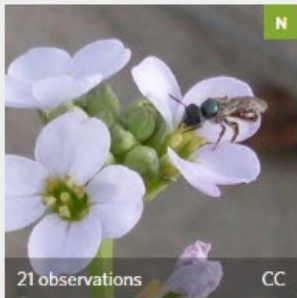
Mouse-ear Cress
(*Arabidopsis thaliana*)



26 observations

CC

Bog Yellowcress
(*Rorippa palustris*)



21 observations

CC

American Searocket
(*Cakile edentula*)



21 observations

CC

Field Penny-Cress
(*Thlaspi arvense*)



19 observations

CC

Annual Honesty
(*Lunaria annua*)



11 observations

CC

Watercress
(*Nasturtium officinale*)



10 observations

CC

Dame's Rocket
(*Hesperis matronalis*)



8 observations

CC

Hedge Mustard
(*Sisymbrium officinale*)



7 observations

CC

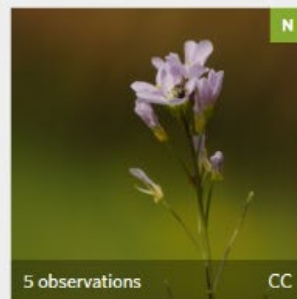
Field Mustard
(*Brassica rapa*)



7 observations

CC

Nursery Bittercress
(*Cardamine occulta*)



5 observations

CC

Cuckooflower
(*Cardamine pratensis*)



5 observations

CC

Sweet Alyssum
(*Lobularia maritima*)



1 observation CC

Sea Kale
(*Crambe maritima*)



1 observation CC

Desert Candle
(*Caulanthus inflatus*)



1 observation CC

Sea Rocket
(*Cakile maritima*)



1 observation CC

Horseradish
(*Armoracia rusticana*)



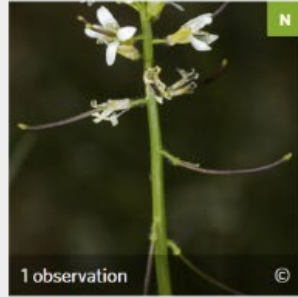
1 observation CC

Rapeseed
(*Brassica napus*)



1 observation CC

Pennsylvania Bittercress
(*Cardamine pensylvanica*)



1 observation ©

California Mustard
(*Caulanthus lasiophyllus*)



1 observation CC

Woad
(*Isatis tinctoria*)



1 observation CC

Common Peppergrass
(*Lepidium densiflorum*)



1 observation ©

Two-leaved Toothwort
(*Cardamine diphylla*)



4 observations CC

Hoary Alyssum
(*Berteroa incana*)



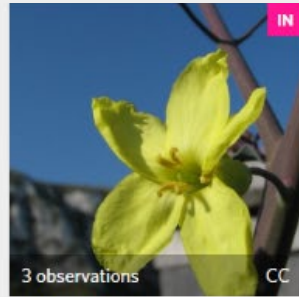
4 observations CC

Perennial Wall-Rocket
(*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*)



4 observations CC

Creeping Yellowcress
(*Rorippa sylvestris*)



3 observations CC

Cabbage
(*Brassica oleracea*)



3 observations CC

Land Cress
(*Barbarea verna*)



3 observations CC

Field Peppergrass
(*Lepidium campestre*)



3 observations CC

Narrow-leaved Bittercress
(*Cardamine impatiens*)



2 observations CC

Jointed Charlock
(*Raphanus raphanistrum*)



2 observations CC

Annual Wall-Rocket
(*Diplotaxis muralis*)



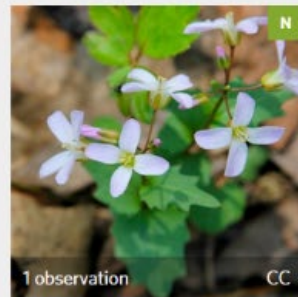
1 observation CC0

Black Mustard
(*Brassica nigra*)



1 observation CC

Perennial Honesty
(*Lunaria rediviva*)



1 observation CC

Purple Cress
(*Cardamine douglassii*)



1 observation CC

Garlic Penny-Cress
(*Thlaspi alliaceum*)



1 observation CC

Bulbous Cress
(*Cardamine bulbosa*)



1 observation CC

Perennial Candytuft
(*Iberis sempervirens*)