

Common Name: Sweetrocket, Dames rocket

Scientific Name: *Hesperis matronalis* L.

Family: Mustard family (Brassicaceae)

Similar Species: Resembles a **native fireweed**, *Epilobium luteum*. Often mistaken for garden phloxes which have five petals instead of four.

Description: Branched stems to three feet tall from fibrous roots. Leaves oval-lance shaped, slightly toothed. Leaves decrease in size as they ascend the stem. Flowers showy, four-petaled purple to pink to white. Seeds borne in long, narrow siliques.

Life History: Biennial to perennial that reproduces by seed.

Where Found: Very common in downtown Juneau and Sitka.

Photos: Tom Heutte USDA Forest Service



Illustration: NRCS PLANTS database

Habitat: Prefers well-drained soil, will grow in part shade to sun. Grows in moist, open woodlands.



Impacts: An introduced weed that appears to be restricted to disturbed sites. Not thought to pose a threat to native plant communities. Report findings of this plant if found in undisturbed habitats or remote locations. Often a component of “wildflower” mixes. This plant can be readily ordered as a garden flower on websites and from various seed nurseries in the lower 48.

Fun Facts: This plant is reputed to be more fragrant at night.