

# Discover the Flora of Our Campus

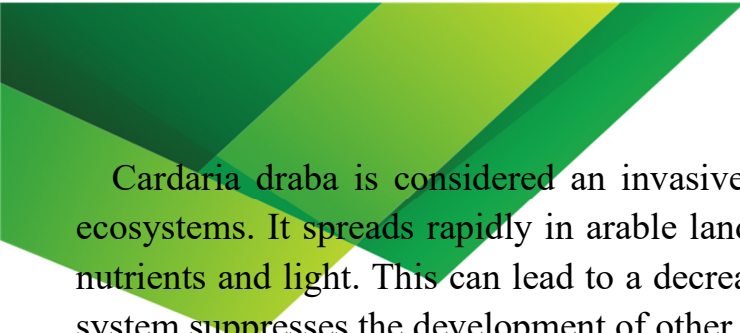
## *White weed (Cardaria draba)*

*Cardaria draba* is a perennial herbaceous plant belonging to the cruciferous family and is mainly known as a weed. The plant grows in a dense bush form and usually varies in height between 20–60 cm. The stem is erect, branching and slightly gray-green in color. The leaves are oblong, toothed and located close to the stem. The flowers are small, white and collected in dense clusters, giving the plant a "white blanket" appearance during the flowering period. The strong root system and rapid spread ability cause it to have invasive properties.



*Cardaria draba* is native to Southeast Europe and Western Asia. However, as a result of human activity, agriculture and seed dispersal, this plant has spread to many regions of the world. Currently, it is one of the most widespread invasive species in North America, Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East. It is also often found in Azerbaijan, especially along roadsides, in cultivated fields, on waste and disturbed lands. Since it is a very hardy plant, it can easily adapt to various climatic conditions.

This plant prefers sunny areas and can survive even in arid and semi-arid conditions. It is not very picky in terms of soil, but it spreads faster, especially on waste, disturbed and low-fertile soils. Its strong root system gives it resistance to both drought and mechanical stress. It can reproduce by seeds and root rhizomes, which causes it to spread quickly. It exhibits rapid growth during the vegetation period and can gain an advantage in competition with other plants.



Cardaria draba is considered an invasive plant that has a mainly negative impact on ecosystems. It spreads rapidly in arable land, competing with cultivated plants for water, nutrients and light. This can lead to a decrease in agricultural productivity. Its strong root system suppresses the development of other plants and can change the soil cover.

Cardaria draba is mainly known as a weed, so it does not have wide economic or food use. Some sources mention that it contains bioactive substances and there have been limited cases of use in folk medicine, but scientific evidence in this area is insufficient.

The main area of use is scientific research. The invasive properties of the plant, its spread mechanisms and its impact on ecosystems are studied in the fields of botany and ecology. At the same time, its stress resistance mechanisms are of interest to plant biology.

One of the most interesting features of Cardaria draba is its ability to spread very quickly. Once it gets into a field, it can quickly cover a large area and is therefore known as an “aggressive weed” in some regions.

Another interesting fact is that when the plant is viewed from afar during the flowering period, it looks as if there is a white fog or snow cover over the field. This visual effect is due to the fact that it produces very dense flower clusters.

