



London Rocket

O & T Guide W-11

Frank Sholedice, Research Associate &
Mark Renz, Extension Weed Scientist

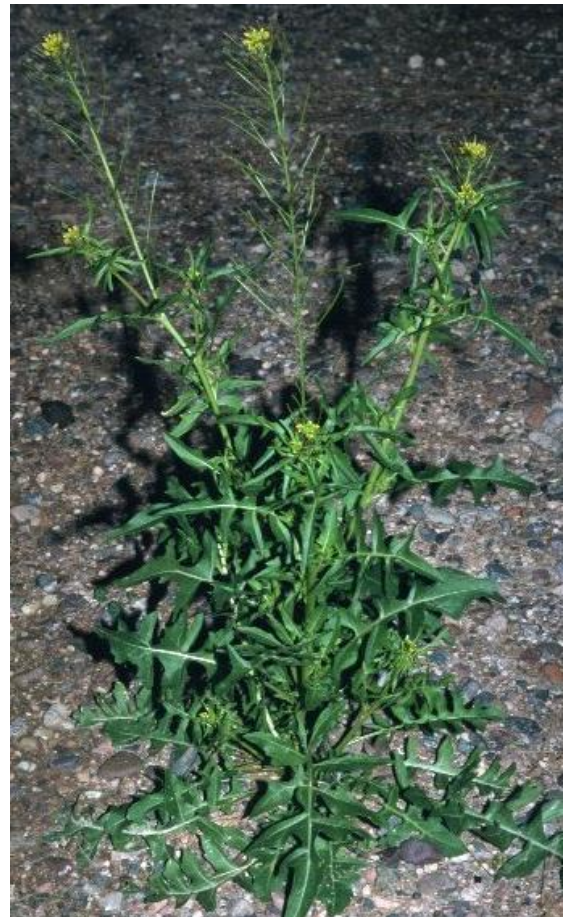


Cooperative Extension Service College of Agriculture and Home Economics October 2006

London Rocket, *Sisymbrium irio*, is a non-native winter annual mustard with bright or pale yellow flowers and slender, green to brown seed pods that ascend up the flowering stems. The plant exists as a rosette of leaves on the ground until it produces erect stems during flowering. London rocket is also known as desert mustard.



The stems are erect, branched at the base, and grow to about 20 in. tall. They are mostly green in color, but sometimes have a purple tinge, and often have hairs.



The lower leaves grow to about 6 in. long and have several pairs of opposite lobes separated by a pronounced midvein. The upper leaves are usually smaller, oblong or narrow in shape, with normally smooth edges, and one or more pairs of elongated lobes at the leaf base. All leaves are green with few to no hairs.



London rocket flowers are 0.2-0.3 in. in diameter with four bright or pale yellow petals. The plant produces seed pods that are round, very narrow, 1.0-1.5 in. long, green to brown in color, straight or curved, and hairless. The seed pods grow in an ascending pattern at the tops of flowering stems. The plant produces a taproot with branching, fibrous horizontal roots, and reproduces by seed only. Large populations of London rocket often develop if there is significant fall precipitation.

Management:

- Physical removal before seed production is effective
- Cultivation before seed production is effective
- Herbicides are effective