

Prioritization process report¹ for: *Ambrosia psilostachya* de Candolle

During the 2026 meeting of the Panel on Invasive Alien Plants, *Ambrosia psilostachya* was suggested as a candidate for the EPPO Alert List. However, the Panel noted the species is too widespread in the EPPO region for consideration on the Alert List. The Panel agreed that the species should be prioritized and considered for listing on the Observation List or the EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants. The output of the prioritization process is that *Ambrosia psilostachya* is added to the EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants. This report was reviewed and approved by the Panel on Invasive Alien Plants in 2026.

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Section A - Prioritization process scheme for the elaboration of different lists of invasive alien plants (pests or potential pests) for the area under assessment**Init1. Enter the name of the pest***Ambrosia psilostachya***Init2. Indicate the taxonomic position and synonyms**Preferred name: *Ambrosia psilostachya* de CandolleOther scientific names: *Ambrosia coronopifolia*, *Ambrosia psilostachya* var. *coronopifolia*

Common names: ambrosie lysoklasá [cs], ausdauernde Ambrosie [de], Staudenambrosie [de], ausdauerndes Traubenkraut [de], western ragweed [en], perennial ragweed [en], cuman ragweed [en], artemisa perenne [es], kare ambrosia [et], krassituoksukki [fi], ambrosie à épis glabres [fr], ambrosie à épis lisses [fr], ambrosie à feuilles de coronope [fr], zapadni limundžik [hr], évelő parlagfű [hu], ambrosia con foglie di coronopus [it], butakusa-modoki [ja], ブタクサモドキ [ja], kailvārpu ambrozija [lv], zandambrosia [nl], ambrozja zachodnia [pl], амброзия голоколосая [ru], Амброзия многолетняя [ru], sträv ambrosia [sv], luǒ suì tún cǎo [zh], 裸穗豚草 [zh]

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|- Plantae
|-- Magnoliophyta
|--- Angiospermae
|---- Campanulids
|----- Asterales
|----- Asteraceae
|----- Asteroideae
|----- Ambrosia
|----- Ambrosia psilostachya

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Init3. Clearly define the area for prioritization

EPPO region (Albania, Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guernsey, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jersey, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Republic of North Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation,

¹ Using EPPO (2012) PM 5/6 EPPO prioritization process for invasive alien plants. *EPPO Bulletin*, 42, 463-474.

Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan).

Init4. Provide the reasons for performing this prioritization, and detail any prioritization reports available for the assessed species.

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A.1. Is the plant species known to be alien in all, or a significant part, of the area under assessment?

Yes

Ambrosia psilostachya is native to North America (USDA, 2026).

A.2. Is the plant species established in at least a part of the area under assessment?

Yes, use the justification tab to describe the area where the species is established, and the area of potential establishment, considering major factors such as climatic conditions and soil conditions.

EPPO Global Database list the EPPO countries where the species is present (<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AMBPS/distribution>). It is recorded in 21 EPPO countries including Europe and North Africa.

Ambrosia psilostachya was identified in 12 different types of EUNIS habitats covering four of the eight level 1 units: coastal habitats (B), inland surface waters (C), grasslands (E) and regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats (I) (Fried et al., 2015).

A.5. How high is the spread potential of the plant in the area under assessment?

High

Ambrosia psilostachya spreads naturally by both seed and rhizomes. Seed is wind dispersed and can become incorporated into the water body. In the EPPO region, *A. psilostachya* has spread by both mechanisms and substantial clonal reproduction has been observed. Plant propagules have been shown to travel over long distances of up to 170 km from and to coastal dunes by sea currents (Karrer et al., 2023).

In addition to natural spread, *A. psilostachya* can also be spread via human activities, for example via hitchhiking on vehicles, to contamination of recreation equipment. Additionally, plant propagules can be spread through management methods and construction activities (Karrer et al., 2023).

A.6. How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on native species, habitats and ecosystems in the area under assessment?

List natural and semi-natural habitats where the species is known to occur based on the EUNIS habitat categorization (<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats-code-browser.jsp>),

Medium

Ambrosia psilostachya can represent a threat to biodiversity in protected prairie habitats In France (Fried et al., 2015). Other impacts are not detailed in the literature, however, there is the potential that that species can invade new habitats with climate change and impacts may seen on vulnerable species and habitats.

Saberi et al. (2025) showed that *A. psilostachya* consistently reduced soil pH while increasing EC. Nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) concentrations were generally enhanced. Invaded soils also exhibited higher organic carbon, organic matter, and microbial biomass carbon. Microbial activity was markedly stimulated, as indicated by increased basal respiration (BR), substrate-induced respiration (SIR), and respiratory quotient (qCO₂).

A.7. How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on agriculture, horticulture or forestry in the area under assessment?

The habitats and the situations in which the species has negative impact on agriculture, horticulture or forestry should be listed. It includes EUNIS habitats (<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats-code-browser.jsp>).

High

CABI (2022) note that '*Ambrosia* spp. (incl. *A. psilostachya*) are weeds harmful to various crops in in the invaded range. Allelopathic impacts can have effects on a number of species. Leaf and rhizome extracts of *A. psilostachya* inhibited germination and early seedling growth in a range of Poaceae including wheat, oats and rye, reducing germination by an average of 19.5% and shoot and root growth by an average of 56.8%.

Currently, *A. psilostachya* is not a common species in agricultural systems in the EPPO region. However, with habitat and land use change, and with the effect of climate change, there may be the potential for establishment and impact in agricultural systems.

A.8. How high are the potential additional impacts (e.g. on animal and human health, on infrastructures, on recreational activities, other trade related impacts such as market losses)?

Medium

A. psilostachya sheds large quantities of air-borne pollen that causes hay fever symptoms (Culver et al., 1988; Karnkowski, 2001).

Conclusion.

- The answer provided to question A.5 on the spread potential of the species assessed was: **High**
- The answer provided to question A.6 on negative impact on native species, habitats and ecosystems was: **Medium**
- The answer provided to question A.7 on negative impact on agriculture, horticulture or forestry was: **High**
- The answer provided to question A.8 on additional impacts was: **Medium**
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According to the ratings provided, the assessed species falls into the:

List of invasive alien plants (GO TO Section B)

Section B - Prioritization process scheme for the identification of invasive alien plants for which a PRA is needed

B.1. Is the plant species internationally traded or are there other existing or potential international pathways?

List the pathway(s) as justification.

Yes, at least one international pathway is identified.

International pathways can include as a contaminant of grain and seed for planting.

B.2. Is the risk of introduction by these international pathways identified to be superior to natural spread?

No

In the EPPO region, *A. psilostachya* has spread rapidly through natural mechanisms. The risk of international pathways is not superior to natural spread.

The prioritization stops here. *A. psilostachya* is not a priority for PRA.

Selected References

- CABI (2022) *Ambrosia psilostachya* (perennial ragweed) CABI Compendium 4692. <https://doi.org/10.1079/cabicompendium.469>
- Culver CA, Malina JJ, Talbert RL, 1988. Probable anaphylactoid reaction to a pyrethrin pediculocide shampoo. *Clinical-Pharmacology*, 7 (11): 846-849
- Fried G, Belaud A, Chauvel B (2015) Ecology and impact of an emerging invasive species in France: western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya* dc.). *Revue d'Ecologie (Terre et Vie)*, Vol. 70 53-67
- Karnkowski W, 2001. Can the weeds be recognized as quarantine pests? - Polish experiences with *Ambrosia* spp. Zbornik predavanj in referatov 5. Slovensko Posvetovanje o Varstvu Rastlin, C^hacek~atez^hacek~ ob Savi, Slovenija, 6. marec-8. marec 2001, 396-402; 21
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- Saberi H, Yousefi AR, Pouryousef M, Tokasi S, Rashidi S, Mastinu A (2025) Impacts of *Ambrosia psilostachya* Invasion on Soil Properties and Microbial Communities in Caspian Coastal Ecosystems. *Research Square*. <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-7766949/v1>
- Tela Botanica, Participez à l'opération "Ambroisie à épis lisses". <http://www.tela-botanica.org/actu/article6378.html>
- USDA, NRCS. 2026. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 03/27/2026).