



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?
It is an Emergent Invasive in Orange County

SAHARA MUSTARD

Brassica tournefortii

[Known OC sites & Status Updates](#)

Distribution map & info:

- calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=1146
- cal-ipc.org/ip/management/plant_profiles/Brassica_tournefortii.php

Can be confused with:

- Shortpod (aka Summer) Mustard, *Hirschfeldia incana*
- London Rocket, *Sisymbrium irio*
- Field Mustard, *Brassica nigra*



Sahara Mustard is a fast-germinating, fast-growing annual, flowering and fruiting from January to June. Petals are small, pale yellow; sepals often purplish.



Flowering stems grow up to 2.5 ft. from a basal rosette. The plants can flower & set seed when just a few inches high. Basal leaves are rough to the touch, pinnately lobed, each lobe with many teeth.



**SAHARA MUSTARD, P. 2**

Short-pod Mustard, London Rocket & Field Mustard (not shown) are also invasives, but much more widespread in OC than is Sahara Mustard.

- Sahara Mustard (left): fruits are long & narrow with long, distinct pedicels & beaks, held out from the stem below the flowers.
- Shortpod Mustard, (center): fruits are short & thick, held close to the stem.
- London Rocket (right): fruits are very slender with indistinct pedicels & beaks, held out from the stem, around & overtopping the flowers.



Seeds are produced in pod-like fruits (siliques) that, when ripe & dry, explosively open lengthwise & scatter the seeds. Seed is viable for about 4 years. Stems & fruits often form into an intertwined, rounded mass.

**IF YOU SEE THIS PLANT AT A SITE THAT'S NOT ON THE LIST:**

- Record the plant's location as exactly as you can (GPS coordinates if possible), the date you saw it, and an estimate of how many there were. Include the site's landowner or manager, if known.
- Take identifying photos: the whole plant & its surroundings, closeups of leaves, flowers & fruits/pods.
- If you take a sample, place it immediately into a sealed bag.
- To avoid spreading the plant, check your clothing and shoes thoroughly before leaving the area, and remove and bag all traces of seeds.
- Report the find immediately to invasives@occnps.org.