

L. Dame's Rocket

(*Hesperis matronalis*)

Key Characteristics:

Dame's Rocket is an escaped ornamental. It grows as a biennial or short-lived perennial, ranging in height from 1 to 4 feet tall. **Flowers** range in color from white to pink to purple and consist of 4 **petals** arranged in the cross shape distinctive of the Mustard family. **Leaves** are lanceolate and somewhat wooly in texture, with finely-toothed margins. **Fruit** is a silique.

Locations:

Although rare in Colorado overall, this escaped ornamental is often found in and around garden sites throughout the Roaring Fork Valley. It is particularly common in Snowmass Village and Aspen, but can be found in Old Snowmass and the Pitkin County portion of Basalt, as well as in the Crystal River Valley. Dame's Rocket particularly likes riparian areas and Aspen forest sites, where it quickly invades and displaces valuable native vegetation.



Biological control:

None known at this time.

Cultural control:

Do not plant this weed. There are many equally stunning native alternatives, such as varieties of Penstemon, Columbine, and Echinacea. Contact Land Management for suggestions.

Mechanical control:

Pulling or cutting is very effective. Be sure to bag and dispose of any seed pods present.

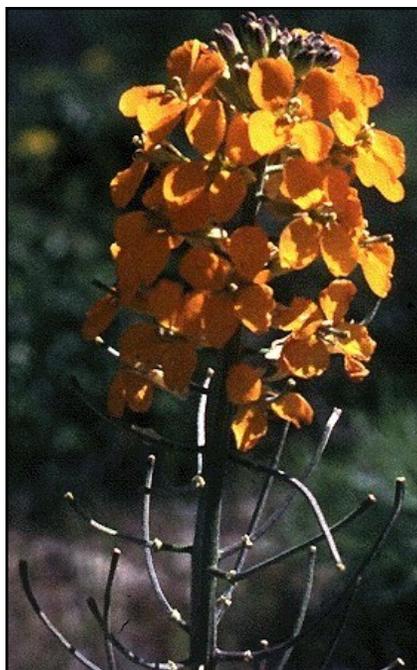
Chemical control:

Contact the Pitkin County Land Management Department for more specific information about herbicide products, application rates, and equipment calibration.

L. Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) (continued)

Native Look-Alikes:

	<p style="text-align: center;">Fireweed (<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>)</p> <p>Dame's Rocket is commonly confused with native Fireweed (left), which has a similar shape and flower color.</p> <p>The purple flowers of Fireweed have long styles that terminate in four stigmas (below). In addition, the petals of Fireweed are tapered toward the center and more delicate looking.</p> <p>Another distinctive feature of Fireweed is its fruit. The long seed capsule splits open in late summer to expose minute brown seeds with long silky hairs (right).</p>
	



Alpine Wallflower
(*Erysimum capitatum*)

This native wildflower is also a Mustard and looks very similar to Dame's Rocket, but it is typically orange, maroon, or yellow.

Note the long seed pods (siliques) present. These two-chambered fruits are characteristic of the Mustard family, and are similar to those made by Dame's Rocket.