Taxon: Lactuca saligna L.

Family: Asteraceae

Common Name(s): least lettuce
narrow-leaf lettuce
wild lettuce
willow lettuce
willow-leaf lettuce

Synonym(s):

Assessor: Chuck Chimera **Status:** Approved **End Date:** 1 Aug 2025

WRA Score: 7.0 **Designation:** H(HPWRA) **Rating:** High Risk

Keywords: Annual/Biennial, Disturbance Weed, Seed Propagated, Self-Fertile, Wind-Dispersed

Qsn #	Question	Answer Option	Answer
101	Is the species highly domesticated?	y = -3, n = 0	n
102	Has the species become naturalized where grown?		
103	Does the species have weedy races?		
201	Species suited to tropical or subtropical climate(s) - If island is primarily wet habitat, then substitute "wet tropical" for "tropical or subtropical"	0 = low, 1 = intermediate, 2 = high (see Appendix 2)	Intermediate
202	Quality of climate match data	0 = low, 1 = intermediate, 2 = high (see Appendix 2)	High
203	Broad climate suitability (environmental versatility)	y = 1, n = 0	y
204	Native or naturalized in regions with tropical or subtropical climates	y = 1, n = 0	y
205	Does the species have a history of repeated introductions outside its natural range?	y= -2, ? = -1, n = 0	y
301	Naturalized beyond native range	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = question 205	y
302	Garden/amenity/disturbance weed	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	y
303	Agricultural/forestry/horticultural weed		
304	Environmental weed	y = 2*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	n
305	Congeneric weed	y = 1*multiplier (see Appendix 2), n = 0	y
401	Produces spines, thorns or burrs	y = 1, n = 0	n
402	Allelopathic		
403	Parasitic	y = 1, n = 0	n
404	Unpalatable to grazing animals	y = 1, n = -1	n
405	Toxic to animals		
406	Host for recognized pests and pathogens	y = 1, n = 0	y
407	Causes allergies or is otherwise toxic to humans	y = 1, n = 0	n
408	Creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems	y = 1, n = 0	n

Qsn #	Question	Answer Option	Answer
409	Is a shade tolerant plant at some stage of its life cycle	y = 1, n = 0	n
410	Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions (or limestone conditions if not a volcanic island)	y = 1, n = 0	y
411	Climbing or smothering growth habit	y = 1, n = 0	n
412	Forms dense thickets	y = 1, n = 0	n
501	Aquatic	y = 5, n = 0	n
502	Grass	y = 1, n = 0	n
503	Nitrogen fixing woody plant	y = 1, n = 0	n
504	Geophyte (herbaceous with underground storage organs -- bulbs, corms, or tubers)	y = 1, n = 0	n
601	Evidence of substantial reproductive failure in native habitat	y = 1, n = 0	n
602	Produces viable seed	y = 1, n = -1	y
603	Hybridizes naturally		
604	Self-compatible or apomictic	y = 1, n = -1	y
605	Requires specialist pollinators	y = -1, n = 0	n
606	Reproduction by vegetative fragmentation	y = 1, n = -1	n
607	Minimum generative time (years)	1 year = 1, 2 or 3 years = 0, 4+ years = -1	1
701	Propagules likely to be dispersed unintentionally (plants growing in heavily trafficked areas)	y = 1, n = -1	y
702	Propagules dispersed intentionally by people	y = 1, n = -1	n
703	Propagules likely to disperse as a produce contaminant		
704	Propagules adapted to wind dispersal	y = 1, n = -1	y
705	Propagules water dispersed	y = 1, n = -1	y
706	Propagules bird dispersed	y = 1, n = -1	n
707	Propagules dispersed by other animals (externally)		
708	Propagules survive passage through the gut	y = 1, n = -1	n
801	Prolific seed production (>1000/m2)		
802	Evidence that a persistent propagule bank is formed (>1 yr)		
803	Well controlled by herbicides		
804	Tolerates, or benefits from, mutilation, cultivation, or fire	y = 1, n = -1	n
805	Effective natural enemies present locally (e.g. introduced biocontrol agents)		

Supporting Data:

Qsn #	Question	Answer
101	**Is the species highly domesticated?**	**n**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lebeda, A., Dolezalová, I., Feráková, V., & Astley, D. (2004). Geographical distribution of wild Lactuca species (Asteraceae, Lactuceae). Botanical Review, 70(3), 328-356	[No evidence of domestication] "Lactuca saligna is widely distributed over the Mediterranean Basin and extends to the Caucasus and to temperate Europe as far as central Germany and southern Russia (Kirpicznikov, 1964; Jeffrey, 1975; Ferakova, 1976; Cvelev, 1989) (Table II). In Europe its distribution area reaches 52° N (Ferakova, 1977). It occurs as a facultative halophyte in western France, England, and Belgium, mostly at the seaside (Meusel & Jager, 1992) (Table II)."

102	**Has the species become naturalized where grown?**	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	NA

103	**Does the species have weedy races?**	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	NA

201	**Species suited to tropical or subtropical climate(s) - If island is primarily wet habitat, then substitute "wet tropical" for "tropical or subtropical"**	**Intermediate**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lebeda, A., Doležalová, I., & Novotná, A. (2012). Wild and weedy Lactuca species, their distribution, ecogeography and ecobiology in USA and Canada. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, 59, 1805-1822	"Lactuca saligna (willow-leaved lettuce) is a Eurasian species (Fera´kova´ 1977), widely distributed throughout the Mediterranean Basin (Beharav et al. 2008), extending to the Caucasus and parts of temperate Europe (Lebeda et al. 2004b)."
	POWO (2025). Plants of the World Online. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; https://powo.science.kew.org/. [Accessed 21 Jul 2025]	"The native range of this species is Azores, Europe to Iran, NW. Africa. It is an annual or biennial and grows primarily in the temperate biome. "

202	**Quality of climate match data**	**High**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	POWO (2025). Plants of the World Online. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; https://powo.science.kew.org/. [Accessed 21 Jul 2025]	"The native range of this species is Azores, Europe to Iran, NW. Africa. It is an annual or biennial and grows primarily in the temperate biome."

203	**Broad climate suitability (environmental versatility)**	**y**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Calflora. (2025). Lactuca saligna. Plant Characteristics and Associations. https://www.calflora.org/entry/plantchar.html?crn=4549. [Accessed 22 Jul 2025]	"Hardiness Zones 7a to 11a (0 to 45 ° F)"

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Lebeda, A., Dolezalová, I., Feráková, V., & Astley, D. (2004). Geographical distribution of wild Lactuca species (Asteraceae, Lactuceae). Botanical Review, 70(3), 328-356	"Lactuca saligna is a characteristic weedy species of both lowland and hilly areas (Europe to 1000 min Italy; Cyprus to 1680 m; Turkey to 2400 m) (Hegi, 1987; Meusel & Jager, 1992). Nevertheless, the most frequent occurrence of this species in Europe is at elevations between 0 and 300 m (Lebeda et al., 2001a)." [Broad elevation range]
	Lebeda, A., Doležalová, I., & Novotná, A. (2012). Wild and weedy Lactuca species, their distribution, ecogeography and ecobiology in USA and Canada. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, 59, 1805-1822	"Recently for North America, Strother (2006) reported only one general habitat ‘‘disturbed sites’’ and an elevational range of 10–1,500 m a.s.l. L. saligna has a broad elevational range in Europe. In Italy, it can be found up to 1,000 m a.s.l., in Cyprus up to 1,680 m a.s.l., and in Turkey up to 2,400 m a.s.l. (Hegi 1987; Meusel and Ja¨ger 1992). Nevertheless, in Europe it is most frequently found between 0 and 300 m a.s.l. (Lebeda et al. 2001). The single site we recorded in California was located at 16 m a.s.l."

204	Native or naturalized in regions with tropical or subtropical climates	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	"Lactuca saligna L. Asteraceae Total N° of Refs: 69 Global Risk Score: 14.4 Rating: Medium Habit: annual Herb Preferred Climate/s: Mediterranean, Subtropical, Tropical Origin: Africa, E Asia, Europe"

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	USDA, Agricultural Research Service, National Plant Germplasm System. (2025). Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN-Taxonomy). National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland. https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxon/taxonomysearch. [Accessed 22 Jul 2025]	"Native Africa NORTHERN AFRICA: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia Asia-Temperate ARABIAN PENINSULA: Saudi Arabia WESTERN ASIA: Cyprus, Egypt [Sinai], Iraq (n.), Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey CAUCASUS: Russian Federation-Ciscaucasia [Ciscaucasia], Azerbaijan, Georgia Europe NORTHERN EUROPE: United Kingdom MIDDLE EUROPE: Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands (extirpated?), Slovakia EASTERN EUROPE: Russian Federation-European part [European part], Moldova, Ukraine (incl. Krym) SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE: Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece (incl. Crete), Croatia, Italy (incl. Sardinia, Sicily), North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia SOUTHWESTERN EUROPE: Spain (incl. Baleares), France (incl. Corsica), Portugal Naturalized Australasia AUSTRALIA: Australia NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand Europe SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE: Montenegro Northern America EASTERN CANADA: Canada [Québec, Ontario] NORTHEASTERN U.S.A.: United States [Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia] NORTH-CENTRAL U.S.A.: United States [Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Illinois, Oklahoma, Wisconsin] NORTHWESTERN U.S.A.: United States [Oregon, Washington] SOUTHEASTERN U.S.A.: United States [Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia] SOUTH-CENTRAL U.S.A.: United States [New Mexico, Texas] SOUTHWESTERN U.S.A.: United States [Arizona, California, Nevada] NORTHERN MEXICO: Mexico [Sonora] Southern America SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA: Argentina, Uruguay"

205	Does the species have a history of repeated introductions outside its natural range?	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Lebeda, A., Doležalová, I., & Novotná, A. (2012). Wild and weedy Lactuca species, their distribution, ecogeography and ecobiology in USA and Canada. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, 59, 1805-1822	"Lactuca saligna (willow-leaved lettuce) is a Eurasian species (Fera´kova´ 1977), widely distributed throughout the Mediterranean Basin (Beharav et al. 2008), extending to the Caucasus and parts of temperate Europe (Lebeda et al. 2004b). It was likely introduced to North America from Europe. As an adventive plant, it was reported in the northeastern part of the United States and Canada (Fera´kova´ 1977). In the first half of 20th Century, additional localities were reported around San Francisco Bay (Stebbins 1939) and from Colorado to Oregon (Cronquist 1955). In the recent Flora of North America is reported from most of the states of USA, except for some states in the West (Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah) and Midwest (North and South Dakota, Minnesota) (Strother 2006). During our expeditions, L. saligna var. saligna was recorded only one time at abandoned, small garden in Salinas (California), confirming the continued occurrence of this taxon in California (Hickman 1993; Stebbins 1939). It is evident that this species is very rare not only in California, but across the USA, in contrast to the Mediterranean Basin or Middle East (Beharav et al. 2008; Lebeda et al. 2001, 2004b)."
	USDA, Agricultural Research Service, National Plant Germplasm System. (2025). Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN-Taxonomy). National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland. https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxon/taxonomysearch. [Accessed 22 Jul 2025]	"Naturalized Australasia AUSTRALIA: Australia NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand Europe SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE: Montenegro Northern America EASTERN CANADA: Canada [Québec, Ontario] NORTHEASTERN U.S.A.: United States [Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia] NORTH-CENTRAL U.S.A.: United States [Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Illinois, Oklahoma, Wisconsin] NORTHWESTERN U.S.A.: United States [Oregon, Washington] SOUTHEASTERN U.S.A.: United States [Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia] SOUTH-CENTRAL U.S.A.: United States [New Mexico, Texas] SOUTHWESTERN U.S.A.: United States [Arizona, California, Nevada] NORTHERN MEXICO: Mexico [Sonora] Southern America SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA: Argentina, Uruguay"

301	Naturalized beyond native range	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Kwan, C. (2025). Consultant. Pers. Comm. 16 April	"I've been encountering a couple of le□uces during my weed surveys this year: Lactuca saligna and Lactuca serriola." [Reported on Oahu. Potentially naturalized or escaped from cultivation]
	Thompson, I. R. (2007). A taxonomic treatment of tribe Lactuceae (Asteraceae) in Australia. Muelleria 25: 59-100	"Native to Europe and western Asia. Occurs in far south-western Western Australia mostly around Perth but also further east, in south-eastern Australia from Gympie in far south-eastern Queensland SSW through eastern New South Wales to Victoria and from Victoria west to Kangaroo Island in south-eastern South Australia, and in Hobart in far south-eastern Tasmania. Grows in disturbed sites such as urban environments and agricultural land. Flowers spring-autumn."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	USDA, Agricultural Research Service, National Plant Germplasm System. (2025). Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN-Taxonomy). National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland. https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxon/taxonomysearch. [Accessed 22 Jul 2025]	"Naturalized Australasia AUSTRALIA: Australia NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand Europe SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE: Montenegro Northern America EASTERN CANADA: Canada [Québec, Ontario] NORTHEASTERN U.S.A.: United States [Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia] NORTH-CENTRAL U.S.A.: United States [Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Illinois, Oklahoma, Wisconsin] NORTHWESTERN U.S.A.: United States [Oregon, Washington] SOUTHEASTERN U.S.A.: United States [Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia] SOUTH-CENTRAL U.S.A.: United States [New Mexico, Texas] SOUTHWESTERN U.S.A.: United States [Arizona, California, Nevada] NORTHERN MEXICO: Mexico [Sonora] Southern America SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA: Argentina, Uruguay"

302	Garden/amenity/disturbance weed	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Sukhorukov, A. P. (2011). New invasive alien plant species in the forest-steppe and northern steppe subzones of European Russia: Secondary range patterns, ecology and causes of fragmentary distribution. Feddes Repertorium, 122(3-4), 287-304	"Ecology in the steppes and forest-steppes of European Russia: Salty substrates (solonets) and dump sites (incl. railway beds), and, rarely, river terraces. Common in many districts. Distribution in the study area (Map 4: only new invasive records are shown): Over the past two decades, L. saligna has invaded forest steppes and has become common in many places, especially along the railways."
	Lebeda, A., Doležalová, I., & Novotná, A. (2012). Wild and weedy Lactuca species, their distribution, ecogeography and ecobiology in USA and Canada. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, 59, 1805-1822	"Its most common habitats are waste and disturbed places, and borders of wooded areas, arable fields and river banks (Beharav et al., 2008; Fera´kova´ 1977; Hickman 1993; Lebeda et al. 2001, 2004b; McGregor et al. 1986). It can also be found quite often along railways and roadsides (Fera´kova´ 1977)."
	O'Kennon, R. J., Diggs, G. M., & Lipscomb, B. L. (1998). Lactuca saligna (Asteraceae), a lettuce new for Texas. SIDA, Contributions to Botany, 18(2), 615-619	"Lactuca saligna L., willow-leaf-lettuce, is a European native (Ferakova 1976) naturalized in a variety of localities in the United States. It is usually described as a weed inhabiting roadsides, disturbed places, and waste areas."
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	Lactuca saligna is commonly found in disturbed environments such as roadsides, waste areas, gardens, construction zones, and vacant lots. It thrives in open, sunny habitats with bare or disturbed soil, and is often recorded in urban and semi-urban environments where routine soil disturbance occurs. While it is generally a minor and non-aggressive weed, its regular presence in these habitats supports its classification as a disturbance and amenity weed.

303	Agricultural/forestry/horticultural weed	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lebeda, A., Křístková, E., Doležalová, I., Kitner, M., & Widrlechner, M. P. (2019). Wild lactuca species in north America. In North American Crop Wild Relatives, Volume 2: Important Species (pp. 131-194). Cham: Springer International Publishing	"Grows in disturbed sites such as urban environments and agricultural land."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Lebeda, A., Doležalová, I., & Novotná, A. (2012). Wild and weedy Lactuca species, their distribution, ecogeography and ecobiology in USA and Canada. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, 59, 1805-1822	"Its most common habitats are waste and disturbed places, and borders of wooded areas, arable fields and river banks (Beharav et al., 2008; Fera´kova´ 1977; Hickman 1993; Lebeda et al. 2001, 2004b; McGregor et al. 1986). It can also be found quite often along railways and roadsides (Fera´kova´ 1977)."
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	"Weed of: Cereals, Grapevines, Orchards & Plantations, Pastures"
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	While Lactuca saligna may occasionally act as a minor agricultural weed, there is no strong evidence that it causes significant negative impacts on agricultural crops. It is not listed as a noxious weed in the U.S. or many other countries.

304	Environmental weed	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	White, M., Cheal, D., Carr, G. W., Adair, R., Blood, K. and Meagher, D. (2018). Advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria. Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research Technical Report Series No. 287. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Heidelberg, Victoria	"Weed status in Victoria = Environmental weed; Impact on natural systems = Rarely significant"
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	Lactuca saligna is not currently a significant environmental weed but could act as a minor ruderal weed in disturbed areas. Its ecological impact remains negligible compared to invasive Lactuca species.

305	Congeneric weed	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lebeda, A., Doležalová, I., & Novotná, A. (2012). Wild and weedy Lactuca species, their distribution, ecogeography and ecobiology in USA and Canada. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, 59, 1805-1822	"During 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008, trips were undertaken in the United States and Canada by members of the Department of Botany, Palacky´ University in Olomouc (Czech Republic) to record distributions and sample the diversity of wild and weedy Lactuca species. In that period, 16 states in the USA (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming) and two provinces in Canada (Ontario, Quebec) were visited. Seven wild and weedy Lactuca species (L. serriola, L. saligna, L. virosa, L. canadensis, L. biennis, L. floridana, L. ludoviciana), an interspecific hybrid (L. canadensis 9 L. ludoviciana), and an undetermined Lactuca species were recorded, and 343 seed samples were collected from 200 locations."
	Zhenghao Xu & Le Chang. (2017). Identification and Control of Common Weeds: Volume 3. Zhejiang University Press, Hangzhou and Springer Nature Singapore	"Ecology Lactuca indica often occurs in many habitats and sometimes forms dense clumps or predominant populations in grasslands or ruderal community. Harmfulness A weed in uplands or gardens."
	Chadha, A., & Florentine, S. (2021). Biology, ecology, distribution and control of the invasive weed, Lactuca serriola L.(wild lettuce): a global review. Plants, 10(10), 2157	"In Southern New South Wales, this weed has increasingly become a problem in cereal and lucerne pastures, but is also of concern in fallows, gardens, orchards, roadsides and waste lands [7]. While L. serriola is commonly a weed in agricultural areas and habitat areas, it is also regarded as an environmental weed in Western Australia, Victoria and the Northern Territory."

401	Produces spines, thorns or burrs	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Lebeda, A., Křístková, E., Doležalová, I., Kitner, M., & Widrlechner, M. P. (2019). Wild lactuca species in north America. In North American Crop Wild Relatives, Volume 2: Important Species (pp. 131-194). Cham: Springer International Publishing	[Midribs usually prickly setose] "Willow-leaved lettuce or least lettuce is an annual 15–70(–100+) cm. Leaves on proximal 1/2-3/4+ of each stem; blades of undivided cauline leaves ± linear to filiform, margins entire or denticulate, midribs usually prickly setose. Heads in racemiform to spiciform arrays. Involucres 6–9(–13+) mm. Phyllaries usually erect in fruit. Florets 6–12(–20+); corollas yellow (sometimes abaxially bluish), usually deliquescent. Cypselae: bodies pale brown, ± flattened, elliptic to oblanceolate, 2.5-3.5 mm, beaks ± filiform, (2–)5–6 mm, faces 5-7-nerved; pappi white, 5-6 mm. Two varieties based on leaf shape are recognized: var. saligna with middle cauline leaves non-lobed and var. runcinata Gren. & Godr. with the middle cauline leaves pinnatifid to pinnatisect."

402	Allelopathic	
	Source(s)	Notes
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	Unknown. Related species possess allelopathic properties

403	Parasitic	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Thompson, I. R. (2007). A taxonomic treatment of tribe Lactuceae (Asteraceae) in Australia. Muelleria 25: 59-100	"Annuals or biennials to c. 1 m high, glabrous except for sparse bristles on abaxial midrib of leaves, not glaucous." [No evidence]

404	Unpalatable to grazing animals	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Crawford, H. S., Kucera, C. L., Ehrenreich, J. H. (1969). Oz ark Range and Wildlife Plants. Agriculture Handbook No. 356. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington, D. C.	"Two other species with yellow flowers are Lactuca saligna L., and L. canadensis L. (fig. 95) with softer spear-shaped or coarsely incised foliage, entire on the margin, not bristly, the first species with narrow unbranched flowered panicles, the latter more branching, with numerous flower heads. Importance Wild lettuce is grazed heavily by deer. In one study Lactuca canadensis made up 8 percent of the total volume of summer deer food in Missouri (2 9). Other studies showed that up to 70 percent of the herbage was utilized through late spring and summer by high deer populations (11, 15). Wild lettuce is fair forage for cattle and good for sheep and goats, being eaten mostly in spring and early summer."
	Nicol, J. (2007). Risk of pest plant recruitment as a result of the operation of Chowilla environmental regulator. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic Sciences), Adelaide, 51pp. SARDI Publication Number F2007/000253-1	"Young plants are grazed by domestic stock until prickles develop on the leaves and stems, after which it is ignored unless there is no other green feed available (Cunningham et al. 1981)."

405	Toxic to animals	
	Source(s)	Notes
	Crawford, H. S., Kucera, C. L., Ehrenreich, J. H. (1969). Oz ark Range and Wildlife Plants. Agriculture Handbook No. 356. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington, D. C.	"Wild lettuce is fair forage for cattle and good for sheep and goats, being eaten mostly in spring and early summer." [No evidence]
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	Possibly. Lactuca saligna has no confirmed toxicity reports but shares chemical traits with other wild lettuce species that may cause mild adverse effects if ingested in large amounts.

406	Host for recognized pests and pathogens	y

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	EPPO (2025) EPPO Global Database. https://gd.eppo.int. [Accessed 1 Aug 2025]	Candidatus Phytoplasma solani' (PHYPSO) Wild/Weed Crinivirus tomatichlorosis (TOCV00) Wild/Weed Cucurbit chlorotic yellows virus (CCYV00) Wild/Weed Orthotospovirus tomatomaculae (TSWV00) Host
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	Lactuca saligna is a documented host for multiple economically significant pests and pathogens, particularly those affecting cultivated lettuce.

407	Causes allergies or is otherwise toxic to humans	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	EarthOne. (2025). Lactuca saligna. https://earthone.io/plant/lactuca%20saligna. [Accessed 1 Aug 2025]	"Lactuca saligna is not known to be toxic to pets or humans. It is generally considered safe to grow in gardens and around homes."
	Quattrocchi, U. (2012). CRC World Dictionary of Medicinal and Poisonous Plants: Common Names, Scientific Names, Eponyms, Synonyms, and Etymology. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL	No evidence
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	There is no documented evidence that Lactuca saligna is toxic to humans or causes significant allergic reactions. However, like other wild Lactuca species, it produces a bitter latex that may cause mild skin irritation or contact dermatitis in sensitive individuals due to sesquiterpene lactones. It is not used for human consumption, and there are no records of poisoning or allergenic impact from casual exposure.

408	Creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lebeda, A., Doležalová, I., & Novotná, A. (2012). Wild and weedy Lactuca species, their distribution, ecogeography and ecobiology in USA and Canada. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, 59, 1805-1822	"Its most common habitats are waste and disturbed places, and borders of wooded areas, arable fields and river banks (Beharav et al., 2008; Ferakova 1977; Hickman 1993; Lebeda et al. 2001, 2004b; McGregor et al. 1986). It can also be found quite often along railways and roadsides (Ferakova 1977)."
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	Lactuca saligna is not considered a fire hazard due to its life history and habitat preferences. However, in regions where it invades degraded lands, its presence could marginally increase fine fuel loads, though this remains speculative without empirical data.

409	Is a shade tolerant plant at some stage of its life cycle	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	FloraVeg.EU. (2025). Database of European Vegetation, Habitats and Flora. www.floraveg.eu	" Light indicator value: 8.4 " [8 – light plant, only exceptionally occurring at less than 40% of diffuse radiation incident in an open area]
	Lebeda, A., Doležalová, I., & Novotná, A. (2012). Wild and weedy Lactuca species, their distribution, ecogeography and ecobiology in USA and Canada. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, 59, 1805-1822	"Its most common habitats are waste and disturbed places, and borders of wooded areas, arable fields and river banks (Beharav et al., 2008; Ferakova 1977; Hickman 1993; Lebeda et al. 2001, 2004b; McGregor et al. 1986). It can also be found quite often along railways and roadsides (Ferakova 1977)." [Open, high light environments]
	EarthOne. (2025). Lactuca saligna. https://earthone.io/plant/lactuca%20saligna. [Accessed 1 Aug 2025]	"Lactuca saligna prefers full sun and moderate temperatures."

Qsn #	Question	Answer
410	Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions (or limestone conditions if not a volcanic island)	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lebeda, A., Doležalová, I., & Novotná, A. (2012). Wild and weedy Lactuca species, their distribution, ecogeography and ecobiology in USA and Canada. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, 59, 1805-1822	"According to Ferakova (1977), L. saligna prefers warm, fertile, semi-arid and slightly salty soils."
	Beharav, A., Ben-DAvid, R., Doležalová, I., & Lebeda, A. (2008). Eco-geographical distribution of Lactuca saligna natural populations in Israel. Israel Journal of Plant Sciences, 56(3), 195-206	"L. saligna was recorded throughout Israel except for desert areas (e.g., Negev and Judean deserts) and extreme environmental/soil conditions (Dead Sea area). L. saligna was recorded at various altitudes (10 to 1277 m asl) and different habitats and soil types."
	EarthOne. (2025). Lactuca saligna. https://earthone.io/plant/lactuca%20saligna. [Accessed 1 Aug 2025]	"Lactuca saligna grows best in well-drained loam soil. It prefers soil that dries out almost completely between waterings. Good drainage is essential to prevent root rot."

411	Climbing or smothering growth habit	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Thompson, I. R. (2007). A taxonomic treatment of tribe Lactuceae (Asteraceae) in Australia. Muelleria 25: 59-100	"Annuals or biennials to c. 1 m high, glabrous except for sparse bristles on abaxial midrib of leaves, not glaucous."

412	Forms dense thickets	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Australian Biological Resources Study. (2015). Flora of Australia Volume 37, Asteraceae 1. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne	"A native of Europe and western Asia. Naturalised in SW W.A. mostly around Perth but also further E, in SE Australia from Gympie in SE Qld SSW through eastern N.S.W. to Vic. and S.A. as far W as Kangaroo Is., and in the Hobart area, SE Tas. Grows in disturbed sites such as urban environments and agricultural land." [No evidence]
	Lebeda, A., Doležalová, I., & Novotná, A. (2012). Wild and weedy Lactuca species, their distribution, ecogeography and ecobiology in USA and Canada. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, 59, 1805-1822	"Its most common habitats are waste and disturbed places, and borders of wooded areas, arable fields and river banks (Beharav et al., 2008; Ferakova 1977; Hickman 1993; Lebeda et al. 2001, 2004b; McGregor et al. 1986). It can also be found quite often along railways and roadsides (Ferakova 1977). From our recent survey in USA, we cannot draw any general conclusions about habitats and altitudinal range, because of its rarity."
	Nicol, J. (2007). Risk of pest plant recruitment as a result of the operation of Chowilla environmental regulator. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic Sciences), Adelaide, 51pp. SARDI Publication Number F2007/000253-1	[No evidence] "Lactuca saligna and Lactuca serriola (Wild Lettuce and Prickly Lettuce) These two species occupy similar niches and are weeds of moist and disturbed areas such as river and creek banks, areas subjected to flooding, roadsides and places of human habitation (Cunningham et al. 1981)."
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	Lactuca saligna does not form dense thickets. While it may occur in high densities under ideal conditions (e.g., disturbed soils with full sun), its narrow growth habit, limited branching, and annual life cycle prevent the formation of dense, persistent vegetation structures.

501	Aquatic	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Thompson, I. R. (2007). A taxonomic treatment of tribe Lactuceae (Asteraceae) in Australia. Muelleria 25: 59-100	[Terrestrial] "Grows in disturbed sites such as urban environments and agricultural land."

502	Grass	n

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Thompson, I. R. (2007). A taxonomic treatment of tribe Lactuceae (Asteraceae) in Australia. Muelleria 25: 59-100	Asteraceae)

503	Nitrogen fixing woody plant	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Thompson, I. R. (2007). A taxonomic treatment of tribe Lactuceae (Asteraceae) in Australia. Muelleria 25: 59-100	Asteraceae)

504	Geophyte (herbaceous with underground storage organs -- bulbs, corms, or tubers)	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lebeda, A., Křístková, E., Doležalová, I., Kitner, M., & Widrlechner, M. P. (2019). Wild lactuca species in north America. In North American Crop Wild Relatives, Volume 2: Important Species (pp. 131-194). Cham: Springer International Publishing	"5.2.1.2 Botanical Characterization of the Genus Lactuca L. A morphological characterization of the genus Lactuca with respect to North American species generally follows Strother's (2006b) description: Annual, biennial, or perennial, 15–450+ cm; taprooted."

601	Evidence of substantial reproductive failure in native habitat	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lebeda, A., Křístková, E., Doležalová, I., Kitner, M., & Widrlechner, M. P. (2019). Wild lactuca species in north America. In North American Crop Wild Relatives, Volume 2: Important Species (pp. 131-194). Cham: Springer International Publishing	"It is broadly distributed in the USA and in Eastern Canada. It flowers August–October, preferring warm, fertile, semiarid, slightly saline soils. The common habitats include waste places, woodland borders, riverbanks, and arable fields. L. saligna is a characteristic weedy species of both lowland and hilly areas (Europe to 1000 m in Italy, Cyprus to 1680 m; Turkey to 2400 m) (Lebeda et al. 2004b, 2016). In the recent Flora of North America, L. saligna was reported from most US states (Strother 2006b); however, Lebeda et al. (2012a) recorded L. saligna var. saligna only one time at abandoned, small garden in Salinas (California), confirming that this species is rather rare not only in California but across the USA. During recent decades, a few new records of L. saligna have been reported from various parts of the USA (Page County, Iowa; Texas) (Wilson 1992; O´Kennon et al. 1998)."

602	Produces viable seed	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	EarthOne. (2025). Lactuca saligna. https://earthone.io/plant/lactuca%20saligna. [Accessed 1 Aug 2025]	"Lactuca saligna can be propagated by seeds. Sow seeds in early spring or late summer. Ensure the soil is well-drained and keep it moist until germination occurs."
	DiTomaso, J. & Healy, E. A. (2007). Weeds of California and Other Western States. 2 Volumes. UCANR Publications, Oakland, CA	"Reproduce by seed. "Seeds disperse with wind, water, mud, soil movement, human activities including agricultural and landscape maintenance equipment, and possibly animals."

603	Hybridizes naturally	
	Source(s)	**Notes**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Weaver, S. E., & Downs, M. P. (2003). The biology of Canadian weeds. 122. Lactuca serriola L. Canadian Journal of Plant Science, 83(3), 619-628	"Interspecific hybridization within the genus Lactuca is rare (Feráková 1977). Although L. serriola, L. sativa, L. saligna and L. virosa are interfertile, cross- pollination seldom occurs under natural conditions. This is likely because of the high degree of autogamy within these species (Feráková 1977)."
	De Vries, I. M. (1990). Crossing experiments of lettuce cultivars and species (Lactuca sect. Lactuca, Compositae). Plant Systematics and Evolution, 171(1), 233-248	[Unknown. Artificial hybrids possible] "The floral mechanism of the species ensures a high degree of self-fertilization (LINDQUIST 1960b). Natural cross-fertilization is exceptional. Artificial crosses showed the following results. L. serriola crossed with L. sativa and its reciprocal produced fertile hybrids (e.g., LINDQUIST 1960 b; see also Table 4). The hybrids of L. virosa × L. serriola were sterile (LINDQUIST 1960 b). The hybrids of its reciprocal were of very limited fertility* (LINDQUIST 1960 b). L. saligna × L. virosa and the reciprocal crosses produced no hybrids (L~NDQU~ST 1960 b, THOMPSON & al. 1941). L. saligna crossed with L. sativa produced hybrids of very limited fertility (GLOBERSON & al. 1980) or of reduced fertility (L~NDQU~ST 1960b). L. saligna crossed with L. serriola produced sterile hybrids, or fertile hybrids when somatic chromosome doubling took place (LINDQUIST 1960 b). When L. saligna was used as the male parent in both cases no hybrids were produced (LINDQU~ST 1960 b, THOMPSON & al. 1941)."

604	Self-compatible or apomictic	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Lebeda, A., Křístková, E., Doležalová, I., Kitner, M., & Widrlechner, M. P. (2019). Wild lactuca species in north America. In North American Crop Wild Relatives, Volume 2: Important Species (pp. 131-194). Cham: Springer International Publishing	"Species of Lactuca are predominantly selfers (Lebeda et al. 2007a; Davey and Anthony 2011), which typically allocate more variation among populations than within them (Nybom et al. 2014). The majority of studies performed on various Lactuca species populations reflects the regional variation available for large-scale processes of gene flow and differentiation, rather than the amount of diversity that is available for individual populations to respond to local selective pressures."
	De Vries, I. M. (1990). Crossing experiments of lettuce cultivars and species (Lactuca sect. Lactuca, Compositae). Plant Systematics and Evolution, 171(1), 233-248	"The four Lactuca spp. are self-compatible. Lindquist (1960 b) reported that there is no evidence of incompatibility within any of the four studied species."

605	Requires specialist pollinators	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Wild Flower Web. (2025). Least Lettuce. Lactuca saligna. http://www.wildflowerweb.co.uk/plant/2448/least-lettuce. [Accessed 22 Jul 2025]	"Least Lettuce blooms in the late spring and summer, producing small yellow flowers that are arranged in loose clusters at the end of the stems. The flowers are hermaphroditic, meaning they have both male and female reproductive organs. They are also self-fertile, meaning that they do not require pollination from other plants to produce seeds."
	Lebeda, A., Křístková, E., Doležalová, I., Kitner, M., & Widrlechner, M. P. (2019). Wild lactuca species in north America. In North American Crop Wild Relatives, Volume 2: Important Species (pp. 131-194). Cham: Springer International Publishing	"Species of Lactuca are predominantly selfers (Lebeda et al. 2007a; Davey and Anthony 2011), which typically allocate more variation among populations than within them (Nybom et al. 2014). The majority of studies performed on various Lactuca species populations reflects the regional variation available for large-scale processes of gene flow and differentiation, rather than the amount of diversity that is available for individual populations to respond to local selective pressures."

606	Reproduction by vegetative fragmentation	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Thompson, I. R. (2007). A taxonomic treatment of tribe Lactuceae (Asteraceae) in Australia. Muelleria 25: 59-100	"Annuals or biennials to c. 1 m high, glabrous except for sparse bristles on abaxial midrib of leaves, not glaucous." [Lactuca saligna reproduces solely by seed and does not exhibit vegetative reproduction through fragmentation. It is an annual herb in the family Asteraceae, producing dry achenes with a pappus for wind dispersal. The species lacks stolons, rhizomes, tubers, or other specialized vegetative structures associated with asexual propagation. There is no documented evidence in the scientific literature that it reproduces by vegetative means.]
	DiTomaso, J. & Healy, E. A. (2007). Weeds of California and Other Western States. 2 Volumes. UCANR Publications, Oakland, CA	"Reproduce by seed."

607	Minimum generative time (years)	1
	Source(s)	Notes
	Thompson, I. R. (2007). A taxonomic treatment of tribe Lactuceae (Asteraceae) in Australia. Muelleria 25: 59-100	"Annuals or biennials to c. 1 m high, glabrous except for sparse bristles on abaxial midrib of leaves, not glaucous."

701	Propagules likely to be dispersed unintentionally (plants growing in heavily trafficked areas)	y
	Source(s)	Notes
	Lebeda, A., Doležalová, I., & Novotná, A. (2012). Wild and weedy Lactuca species, their distribution, ecogeography and ecobiology in USA and Canada. Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, 59, 1805-1822	"Its most common habitats are waste and disturbed places, and borders of wooded areas, arable fields and river banks (Beharav et al., 2008; Fera´kova´ 1977; Hickman 1993; Lebeda et al. 2001, 2004b; McGregor et al. 1986). It can also be found quite often along railways and roadsides (Fera´kova´ 1977)."
	DiTomaso, J. & Healy, E. A. (2007). Weeds of California and Other Western States. 2 Volumes. UCANR Publications, Oakland, CA	"Seeds disperse with wind, water, mud, soil movement, human activities including agricultural and landscape maintenance equipment, and possibly animals." [Description applied to multiple weedy Lactuca species, including L. saligna]

702	Propagules dispersed intentionally by people	n
	Source(s)	Notes
	Lebeda, A., Křístková, E., Doležalová, I., Kitner, M., & Widrlechner, M. P. (2019). Wild lactuca species in north America. In North American Crop Wild Relatives, Volume 2: Important Species (pp. 131-194). Cham: Springer International Publishing	"The common habitats include waste places, woodland borders, riverbanks, and arable fields. L. saligna is a characteristic weedy species of both lowland and hilly areas (Europe to 1000 m in Italy, Cyprus to 1680 m; Turkey to 2400 m) (Lebeda et al. 2004b, 2016). In the recent Flora of North America, L. saligna was reported from most US states (Strother 2006b); however, Lebeda et al. (2012a) recorded L. saligna var. saligna only one time at abandoned, small garden in Salinas (California), confirming that this species is rather rare not only in California but across the USA. During recent decades, a few new records of L. saligna have been reported from various parts of the USA (Page County, Iowa; Texas) (Wilson 1992; O´Kennon et al. 1998)."
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	There is no strong evidence that Lactuca saligna propagules are intentionally dispersed by people for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

703	Propagules likely to disperse as a produce contaminant	
	Source(s)	Notes

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Thompson, I. R. (2007). A taxonomic treatment of tribe Lactuceae (Asteraceae) in Australia. Muelleria 25: 59-100	"Grows in disturbed sites such as urban environments and agricultural land." [Possibly, although direct evidence is lacking. It grows as a weed in or near crop fields, and seeds could be incidentally harvested with mechanical equipment or mixed in with uncleaned seed lots.]
	Randall, R.P. (2017). A Global Compendium of Weeds. 3rd Edition. Perth, Western Australia. R.P. Randall	"Major Pathway/s: Contaminant, Crop, Herbal, Ornamental"
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	"While Lactuca saligna seeds could theoretically enter produce as contaminants, they are not a major documented risk compared to stickier or similarly sized weed seeds. The lack of reports in weed seed contamination studies suggests it is not a significant issue in commercial agriculture."

704	Propagules adapted to wind dispersal	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Thompson, I. R. (2007). A taxonomic treatment of tribe Lactuceae (Asteraceae) in Australia. Muelleria 25: 59-100	"Pappus persistent, 4–5 mm long, white; bristles extremely fine, ± smooth." [Lactuca saligna produces achenes (a type of dry, one-seeded fruit) that are equipped with a pappus—a tuft of fine hairs that aids in wind dispersal, similar to what is seen in dandelions (also in the Asteraceae family).]
	DiTomaso, J. & Healy, E. A. (2007). Weeds of California and Other Western States. 2 Volumes. UCANR Publications, Oakland, CA	"Seeds disperse with wind, water, mud, soil movement, human activities including agricultural and landscape maintenance equipment, and possibly animals." [Description applied to multiple weedy Lactuca species, including L. saligna]

705	Propagules water dispersed	y
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Nicol, J. (2007). Risk of pest plant recruitment as a result of the operation of Chowilla environmental regulator. South Australian Research and Development Institute (Aquatic Sciences), Adelaide, 51pp. SARDI Publication Number F2007/000253-1	"Lactuca saligna and Lactuca serriola (Wild Lettuce and Prickly Lettuce) These two species occupy similar niches and are weeds of moist and disturbed areas such as river and creek banks, areas subjected to flooding, roadsides and places of human habitation (Cunningham et al. 1981)." ... "In the Chowilla system they have been observed in low numbers downstream of the Boat Creek Bridge and along the banks of the River Murray (Zampatti et al. 2006b)."
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	actuca saligna is not specifically adapted for water dispersal (e.g., it lacks buoyant or water-resistant propagules); however, its seeds may be secondarily dispersed by water in floodplain and riparian environments. This species is known to colonize moist, disturbed habitats such as riverbanks, creek margins, and areas subject to periodic flooding. Observations of L. saligna along the banks of the River Murray and downstream of flood-affected areas (Nicol 2007) suggest that floodwaters can facilitate incidental short-distance dispersal of propagules. Therefore, water-mediated dispersal is considered plausible under certain environmental conditions, particularly in floodplain ecosystems.

Qsn #	Question	Answer
706	**Propagules bird dispersed**	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Thompson, I. R. (2007). A taxonomic treatment of tribe Lactuceae (Asteraceae) in Australia. Muelleria 25: 59-100	"Achenes homomorphic, strongly compressed, beaked. Pappus of bristles, persistent (in Australia); bristles minutely scabridulous, uniform within a pappus." [Lactuca saligna seeds are not adapted for dispersal by birds. The propagules are dry achenes with a pappus, adapted for wind dispersal. They lack features that would promote ingestion by frugivorous birds or external attachment for epizoochory. There is no documented evidence of bird-mediated dispersal in the scientific literature.]

707	**Propagules dispersed by other animals (externally)**	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	DiTomaso, J. & Healy, E. A. (2007). Weeds of California and Other Western States. 2 Volumes. UCANR Publications, Oakland, CA	"Reproduce by seed. "Seeds disperse with wind, water, mud, soil movement, human activities including agricultural and landscape maintenance equipment, and possibly animals." [Wind is the dominant and evolutionarily significant dispersal mode for Lactuca saligna. External animal dispersal is theoretically possible but likely rare and incidental]

708	**Propagules survive passage through the gut**	n
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	DiTomaso, J. & Healy, E. A. (2007). Weeds of California and Other Western States. 2 Volumes. UCANR Publications, Oakland, CA	"Reproduce by seed. "Seeds disperse with wind, water, mud, soil movement, human activities including agricultural and landscape maintenance equipment, and possibly animals." [Description applied to multiple weedy Lactuca species, including L. saligna]
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	Lactuca saligna is not endozoochorous. It lacks traits for animal-mediated ingestion and digestion-based dispersal. The likelihood of seeds surviving gut passage is low to negligible.

801	**Prolific seed production (>1000/m2)**	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	Lactuca saligna itself is not explicitly quantified for seed production in the provided sources. However, its close relative Lactuca serriola (prickly lettuce) is documented as having prolific seed production, exceeding >1000 seeds/m² under suitable conditions.

802	**Evidence that a persistent propagule bank is formed (>1 yr)**	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Weaver, S. E., & Downs, M. P. (2003). The biology of Canadian weeds. 122. Lactuca serriola L. Canadian Journal of Plant Science, 83(3), 619-628	"The wind-dispersed seeds have no primary dormancy and form only a short-term seed bank (1 to 3 yr)." [Related species has seeds which may persist beyond one year]
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	While no study has directly measured seed bank persistence in Lactuca saligna, available biological evidence and comparisons with closely related taxa support the possibility of seed viability exceeding one year in soil.

803	**Well controlled by herbicides**	

Qsn #	Question	Answer
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	Zhenghao Xu & Le Chang. (2017). Identification and Control of Common Weeds: Volume 3. Zhejiang University Press, Hangzhou and Springer Nature Singapore	"Chemical control can choose paraquat and glyphosate." [Related species, Lactuca serriola, is effectively controlled by some herbicides]
	Grain Central. (2020). Willow-leaved lettuce added to list of confirmed glyphosate-resistant broadleaf weeds. https://www.graincentral.com/cropping/willow-leaved-lettuce-added-to-list-of-confirmed-glyphosate-resistant-broadleaf-weeds/. [Accessed 1 Aug 2025]	"Two populations of the broadleaf weed, willow-leaved lettuce (Lactuca saligna) have been confirmed to be resistant to the key herbicide, glyphosate, in vegetable production in Western Australia." [Lactuca saligna exhibits variable susceptibility to herbicides, with emerging resistance reported in some populations]

804	**Tolerates, or benefits from, mutilation, cultivation, or fire**	**n**
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	DiTomaso, J. & Healy, E. A. (2007). Weeds of California and Other Western States. 2 Volumes. UCANR Publications, Oakland, CA	"Manual removal, cultivation, and mowing flower stems before seed matures can control these species."
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	L. saligna benefits from soil disturbance but shows no resilience to mutilation or fire. Its ecological niche is tied to open, disturbed habitats without reliance on extreme stressors.

805	**Effective natural enemies present locally (e.g. introduced biocontrol agents)**	
	Source(s)	**Notes**
	WRA Specialist. (2025). Personal Communication	Unknown

Summary of Risk Traits:

Lactuca saligna, commonly known as willowleaf lettuce, is an upright annual herb in the sunflower family (Asteraceae). Native to Europe and western Asia, it has naturalized in many temperate regions, including parts of North America and Australia. It typically grows in disturbed areas such as roadsides, fallow fields, and urban lots, where it thrives in full sun and a variety of soil types.

This species produces many wind-dispersed seeds equipped with a pappus, aiding its spread across open landscapes. While L. saligna does not form dense thickets or pose significant fire or toxicity risks, it may be a prolific seed producer and can become locally invasive in heavily disturbed habitats. It is not commonly cultivated and has limited ecological value in Hawaii.

At present, L. saligna has been documented on Oahu, but is not widespread in the Hawaiian Islands, and early detection and control in disturbed areas may prevent future spread.

High Risk / Undesirable Traits
Broad elevation range and climate suitability (environmental versatility)
Tolerates and can spread in regions with tropical climates
Naturalized outside native range (and reported from Oahu, Hawaiian Islands)
A disturbance adapted weed that may impact agriculture
Other Lactuca species are invasive
Host of Lactuca pests and pathogens
Tolerates many soil types (not limited by substrate)
Reproduces by seeds
Self-compatible (able to be self-pollinated and produce seeds)
Reaches maturity in one to two growing seasons
Seeds dispersed by wind, water, mud, soil movement, human activities including agricultural and landscape maintenance equipment, and possibly animals
May be capable of prolific seed production
May be resistant to certain herbicides

Low Risk Traits
Not reported to be a serious agricultural or environmental weed where naturalized
Unarmed (no spines, thorns, or burrs)
Palatable to animals
Thrives in high light environments (dense shade may inhibit spread)