

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowers. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Shepherds Lookout, Murrumbidge River, ACT



Seed cases on stems. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer RCH Shepherd, Kosciuszko National Park



Flowering plants. Photographer Don Wood, Snowy Mountains Highway east of Nerrimabel

Common name

Great Mullein, Aarons Rod

Family

Scrophulariaceae

Where found

Woodland, pasture, roadsides, disturbed sites, crops, and stream banks, and stony river beds. Widespread. Rarely coastal.

Notes

Introduced biennial herb to 3 m high, greyish or whitish hairy with **stellate** hairs (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see). Leaf bases form **wings** down the single stem. Leaves form a **rosette** in the first year; and a leafy stem, with leaves **alternating** up the stem, crowned by the inflorescence, in the second year. Rosette leaves 8–50 cm long, 25–140 mm wide, margins **entire** or scalloped, base tapering into the stalk. Stem leaves to 40 cm long and 100 mm wide, stalkless and continuing down the stem, becoming smaller and narrower towards the top of the plant. Flowers yellow, 12–30 mm in diameter, with 5 **petals** fused at the base. Flowers densely arranged in a large elongated cluster 15–100 cm long at the top of the stem. The numerous yellow flowers are arranged in groups of 1-7 above small, leafy, **bracts**. Flowering: November–March.

Noxious weed Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=in&name=Verbascum~thapsus+subsp.~thapsus> (accessed 5 February, 2021)

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