

GIANT RAGWEED

Ambrosia trifida

FAMILY: Compositae
TRIBE: Ambrosieae
GENUS: Ambrosia
SPECIES: trifida
COMMON NAMES: Giant Ragweed
Tall Ragweed
Crownweed



POLLEN GRAINS: Spheroidal, 16.5 to 19.2 microns in diameter (smallest of the ragweeds) with short, blunt spines. Spines are more prominent than those of Short Ragweed. Germinal furrows—three.

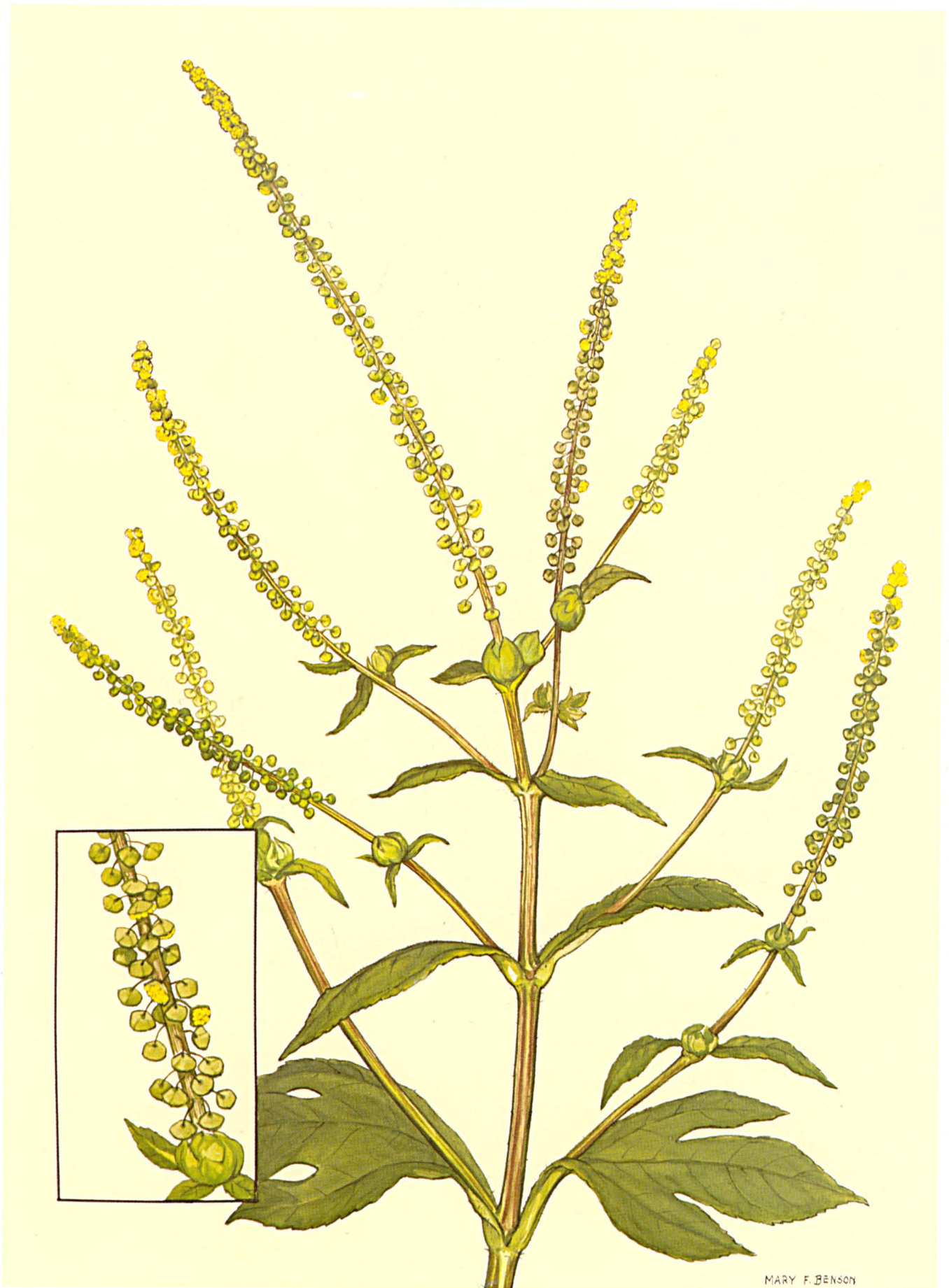
POLLINATING PERIOD: Early August to late September — varying with latitude. Generally a few days earlier than Short Ragweed.

DISTRIBUTION: Quebec to North Carolina, west to British Columbia and Colorado. The Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas are its western limits of dense distribution.

ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE: **Very important where occurring in any quantity.**

Giant Ragweed is a coarse, rank annual, sometimes 10 to 15 feet tall. The herbage is rough. Leaves are three to five cleft (sometimes entire) on long petioles. The numerous staminate heads are borne in long terminal spikes. The pistillate heads are borne in small clusters at the base of the staminate spikes. Giant Ragweed prefers moist regions. The seeds are somewhat aquatic and travel long distances by water. This explains its abundance along stream banks and flood plains.

Giant Ragweed probably produces the most copious amounts of pollen of any of our weeds.



Ambrosia trifida
(Giant Ragweed)