

Botanical Name: Ambrosia pumila

Common Name: San Diego ambrosia, Ragweed

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Asteraceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a low, spreading silvery plant with fine textured foliage  
and inconspicuous yellow-green flowers in summer

Height to 6 in. Spread 18" to 2 ft. Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun

Soil prefers fast-draining soils

Hardiness some frost (zones 17-19, 21-24)

Morphology:

Leaves finely divided, pinnatifid leaves to 3" long, 1" across;  
leaves are silvery and somewhat hairy on upper and lower surfaces

Flowers tight cymes of aster-like flowers without petals; light yellow  
1/2" diameter, not considered ornamental

Fruit achenes

Propagation: stem cuttings

Usage: a low creeping perennial useful in rock gardens, in containers  
or between pavers in low-traffic areas; blends with other California native plants  
or Mediterranean plants

Landscape Care:

Watering drought tolerant when established; water once or twice a month  
during summer months; good drainage is essential for this plant

Fertilizing generally none required

Pruning head back after bloom

Pests/Diseases root rot in heavy soils

Other Ambrosia pumila is an endangered species in its native habitat

Origin: Riverside and San Diego Counties