Biodiversity Spring Market – March 23, 2026

Five years of early detection and management of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* in Wallonia

insights from a citizen-science-based programme

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Observatoire wallon des Ambroisies

Common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L.) is an invasive alien plant widely present in Europe, causing several economic (as a crop weed) and health-related problems (through its allergenic pollen). As it is increasingly observed in the Walloon Region, the Walloon Observatory of Ragweed (OWA) relies on citizen science platforms to assess the extent of its invasion and to attempt to curb its spread.



Communicating about the plant to obtain the most exhaustive inventory possible

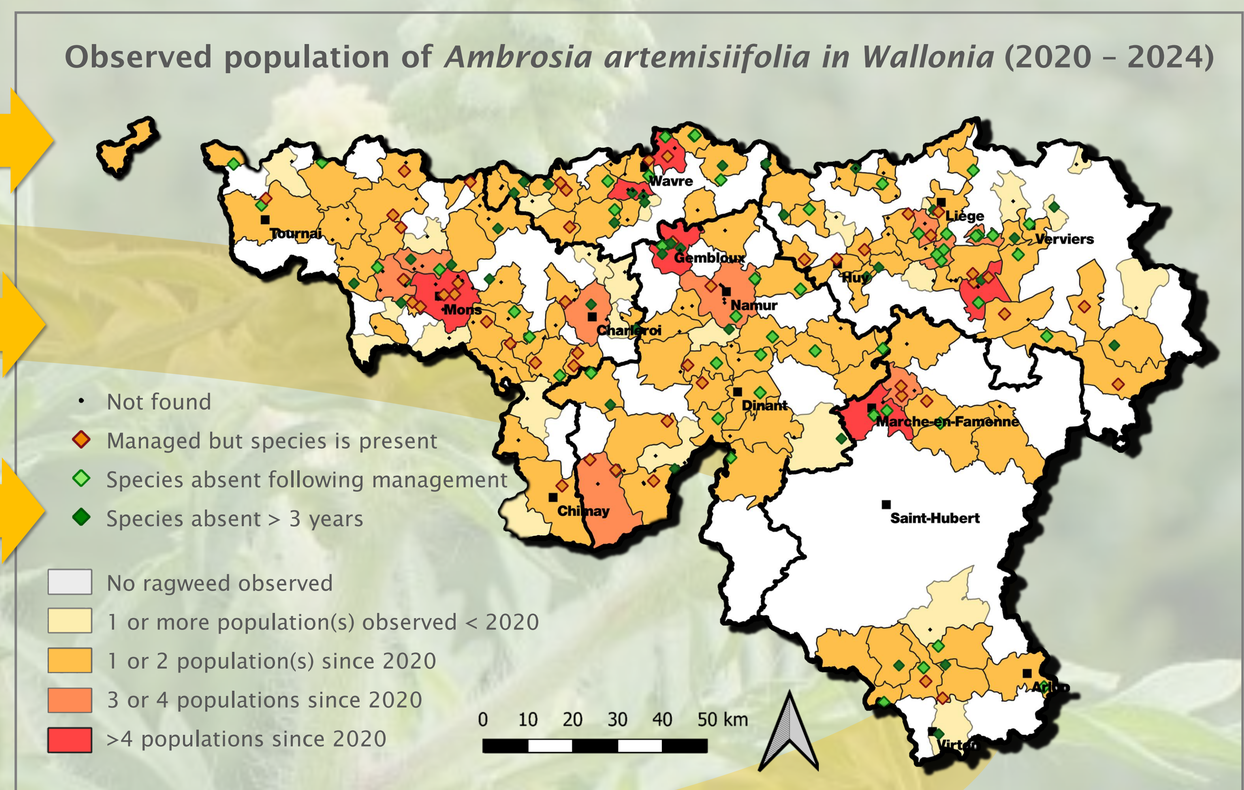


Compiling available information on the plant in Wallonia

Historical data

Direct reports to OWA

Citizen-Science platforms



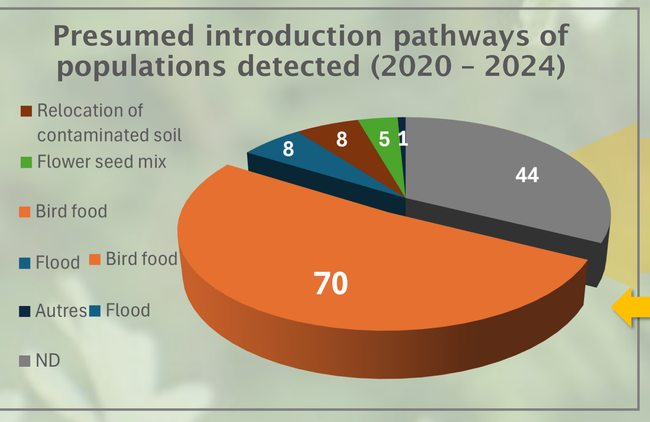
Introduction pathways

Spatial distribution

Population characterization

Understanding the distribution



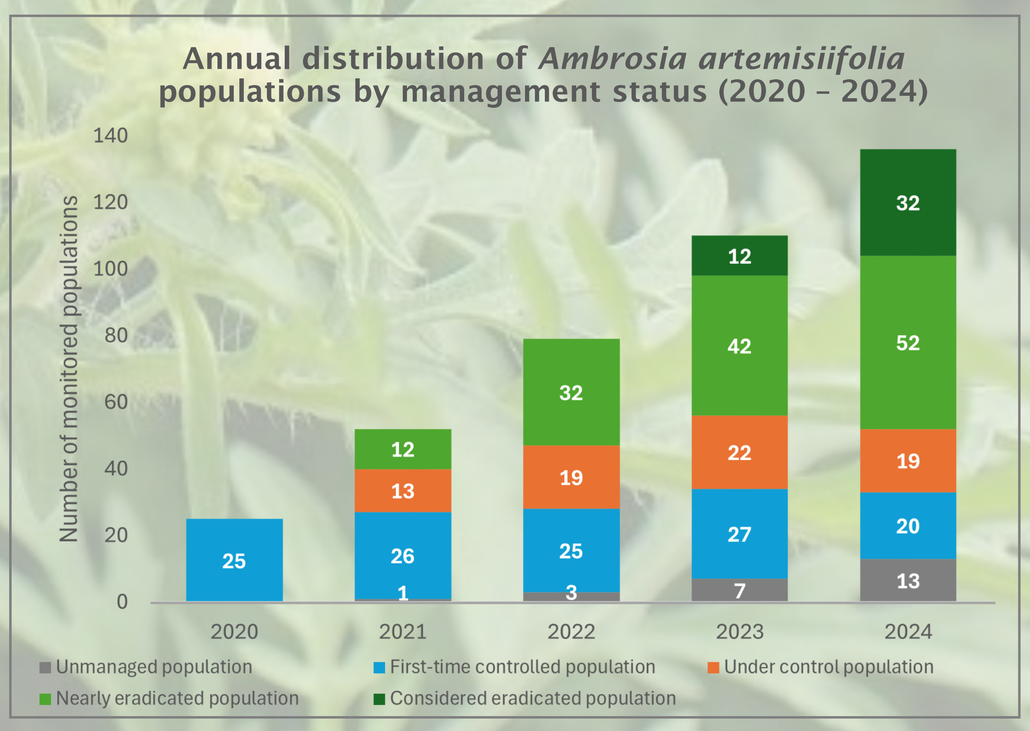


Monitoring and managing all observed populations

Each reported population is verified in the field, systematically managed by uprooting, and monitored annually by OWA, considering the long-term viability of the seed bank.

Over 5 years, OWA has enabled the detection of more than **142 populations**, **84 of which showed no remaining ragweed in summer 2024** thanks to management interventions. Each year, **25 to 30 new populations** are detected and added to the database, notably due to repeated introductions → OWA maintains a **dynamic balance** between emerging and eradicated populations.

Objective: manage all ragweed populations in the Region!



Come and meet us !





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