

## TUMBLE MUSTARD

(*Sisymbrium altissimum*)

**GROWTH HABIT:** A broadleaf winter or summer annual and sometimes biennial with a highly branched top. Reproduces by seed. Can reach a height of 5 feet.

**SEEDS:** Seeds are oblong, roughly  $\frac{1}{24}$  of an inch long, half as wide, and brownish yellow to dull orange.

**LEAVES:** At the base, rosette leaves are coarse and deeply divided, or lobed to compound (fully divided into separate leaflets), have stalks, and are about 6 inches long. Upper leaves are stalkless, smaller than the lower leaves, deeply cut to form threadlike divisions, and do not clasp the stem. Long unbranched hairs sparsely cover leaves.

**STEMS:** Branched, round, slender, usually soft-hairy, but occasionally smooth, often red-tinged.

**FLOWER:** Tiny, pale yellow (rarely white) flowers with four petals cluster on thick, spreading stalks.

**FRUIT:** The fruit, produced on a short stalk, is a one-ribbed, narrow pod about  $\frac{1}{24}$  of an inch wide and 2 to 4 inches long. Pods point somewhat upwards.

**OTHER:** Mature plants tend to break off at the base and tumble in the wind, which shakes loose and spreads seed.

