

# European Arrow Herb

## *Sagittaria scabra*



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### **Description**

The European Arrow Herb (*S. scabra*) is an annual herbaceous plant reaching ~6 in, with broad dark green leaves. It produces small, blue flowers with five petals, blooming from early spring to midsummer. The plant reproduces through seeds dispersed by insects.

### **Background**

The European Arrow Herb is native to the temperate regions of Europe, where it has been used historically in traditional medicine. It was introduced to North America in the 21st century as an ornamental plant due to its striking flowers and lush foliage.

In its native range, it is commonly found in forests and thickets. This herb prefers well-drained and fertile soils. It has a moderate tolerance for drought and flourishes in consistently moist conditions. The plant prefers partial to full shade and is often found in mid to late successional stages.

### **Ecological Impact**

The European Arrow Herb can be mildly to moderately toxic to livestock and may release allelopathic chemicals. In some cases, its broad leaves may inhibit tree seedling germination. The root system provides soil stabilization, and flowers are an early source of nectar.