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*Ambrosia*

*Compositae*

[*Asteraceae*]

*Ambrosia* was initially the food and then the drink of the gods in classical mythology and with nectar was said to impart eternal youth and beauty. How it came to be the name of the genus of ragweeds appears to leave authorities at some loss.

Ragweeds are believed to be responsible for producing 100 million tons of pollen annually in the United States – most of which is said to come from ragweed and giant ragweed.