

Control Methods

Mechanical - Cultivation (discing or plowing) does not kill perennial pepperweed but may be needed to help with revegetation of desirable plants after the pepperweed is controlled. If conditions are right (light soil, good moisture, few plants), pulling perennial pepperweed plants is somewhat effective if they are pulled frequently. Livestock, especially sheep and goats, can play a role in reducing perennial pepperweed in pastures where there is desirable vegetation. Careful animal management is needed to make this effective.

Biological - There are no known biological control agents for perennial pepperweed.

Chemical - Clorsulfuron gives the best control, but it is not registered for use in wet areas and in pastures. Glyphosate and 2,4-D Amine are registered for wet areas, but multiple treatments are needed for these herbicides to be successful. Glyphosate is more effective when it is applied in the fall after the perennial pepperweed has been mowed and the regrowth is sprayed. As always, read and follow herbicide label instructions carefully.



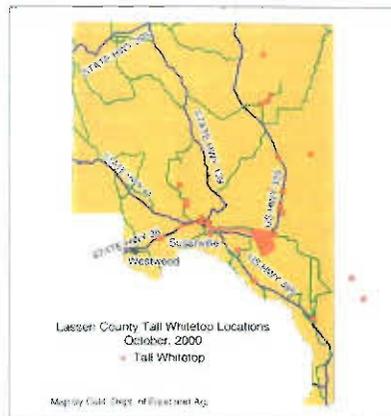
Watch out for this little seedling!

History

Perennial pepperweed is native to southern Europe and western Asia, but it is now widespread in many parts of the United States.

Distribution

Perennial pepperweed is widely distributed in California and across the United States. In north-eastern California, a large infestation occurs along the Susan River in the Honey Lake Valley.



For More Information:

- Bureau of Land Management's Eagle Lake Field Office at (530) 257-0456
<http://www.ca.blm.gov/eaglelake/noxweeds.html>
- University of California Cooperative Extension Office at (530) 251-8133
- Lassen County Department of Agriculture at (530) 251-8110

Funding, photos, and text provided by:

- ◆ Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District
- ◆ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- ◆ USDI Bureau of Land Management's Eagle Lake Field Office
- ◆ Lassen County Department of Agriculture
- ◆ California Department of Food and Agriculture



Editing, layout, and design by BLM National Science and Technology Center.

PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED

AKA: **Tall Whitetop** (*Lepidium latifolium*)

A Growing Menace!



Lassen County
Special Weed Action Team
www.cdfa.ca.gov/wma

2001

Why should I care about noxious weeds?

When noxious weeds spread, they impact the environment. They reduce the biodiversity of native plant communities and rapidly displace other plants that provide habitat for wildlife and food for people and livestock. Some weeds are poisonous to livestock.

Weeds also have an economic impact by reducing the land's productivity and by decreasing the quality and value of crop and livestock production. Some noxious weeds are so competitive that they crowd out all other desirable plants.

Weeds can increase maintenance costs and reduce the usefulness and value of recreation areas. Who wants to hike in yellow starthistle or Scotch thistle?



Perennial pepperweed can completely infest an area. It is particularly harmful to riparian (streamside) areas.

What can I do?

- ☞ Drive only on established roads and trails away from weed-infested areas.
- ☞ When using pack animals, carry only feed that is certified weed free.
- ☞ Beginning 96 hours before entering backcountry areas, feed pack animals only food that is certified weed free.
- ☞ Remove weed seeds from pack animals by brushing them thoroughly and cleaning their hooves before transporting.
- ☞ If you find a few weeds without flowers or seeds, pull them and leave them where found. If flowers or seeds are present, place the plants in a plastic bag or similar container and then dispose of them.
- ☞ Don't pick the flowers of these weed species and take them home. They are very competitive and can easily trigger a new infestation in your own backyard.
- ☞ If you find a weed-infested area, let the landowner or manager know so that they can take steps to control the weeds (or notify your local Department of Agriculture).
- ☞ Noxious weed seeds or plant parts may attach themselves to tires, shoelaces, camping equipment, construction equipment, garden tools, or any other surface that contacts an infested area. These seeds or plant parts can then travel hundreds of miles before falling to an uninfested area. To avoid starting a new infestation, please clean all surfaces before leaving any area.

What does perennial pepperweed look like and how does it grow?

HABITAT: Perennial pepperweed grows extremely well in seasonally wet areas such as ditches and stream sides, but it also invades dry road edges and hillsides.

GROWTH: Perennial pepperweed has deep and widely spreading roots, little pieces of which can start a new plant. The stems and leaves have a waxy coating, making it harder for herbicides to stick. The lance-shaped leaves are about 6 or more inches long and up to 2 inches wide, with the basal leaves being larger than the stem leaves.



FLOWERS: The white flowers are small, numerous, and fragrant. The seed pods are very small, rounded, and flattened.

HEIGHT: Perennial pepperweed stems grow up to 6 feet high, and plants often form a thick monoculture.

SEEDS: The seeds are tiny and produced in abundance. Perennial pepperweed is an extremely aggressive weed because it spreads both by producing seeds and growing from root pieces.