

PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED

Lepidium latifolium

Brassicaceae, the mustard family

Category: Containment

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FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Perennial pepperweed is an invasive plant that has the ability to form monocultures, crowding out and displacing native species, reducing biodiversity.
- The plant can alter ecosystems by acting as a 'salt pump', extracting salt ions from deep in the soil and depositing them near the surface, causing a shift in plant composition.
- It is adaptable to many environmental factors, and can tolerate a wide range of soil condition.

Description

- Perennial herb that can grow to 6 feet tall.
- Long, creeping rhizomes can penetrate to a depth of 9 feet.
- Basal leaves are lance-shaped with long petioles and serrated margins. Stem leaves are alternate, green to gray-green, with slightly serrated margins.
- Numerous small, white, 4-petaled flowers form in dense clusters at branch tips.
- 2-chambered, flattened seed pods are ovate, slightly haired, and 1/16 inch in diameter. Each chamber produces 1 reddish brown, oval seed with shallow grooves and rough surface.

Introduction and Movement

- Perennial pepperweed is native to southern Europe and western Asia and was introduced as a seed contaminant.
- Inhabits riparian areas, meadows, flood plains, cropland, irrigation ditches, and roadsides.
- The plant reproduces vegetatively and by seed dispersal allowing it to easily spread via water currents and human/animal vectors.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Perennial pepperweed and eradicate infestations on your property.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOCK IT OFF!**

Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/115209>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED DISTRIBUTION MAP

