

## Perennial Pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*)

PP LEPI LAT

Erect, rhizomatous, perennial herb up to 2 metres tall. Grows in dense patches or clumps due to a creeping (rhizomatous) root system. Introduced from Eurasia.



### ***Distribution***

Very limited distribution in the Southern Interior.

Please report **all** occurrences.

### **Interesting Facts:**

Above ground parts are high in vitamin C. Seeds may be used like pepper. Roots can be grated and made into a sauce similar to horseradish.

### **Quick ID**

Waxy leaves with whitish mid-veins.

Grows in dense patches.

Dense white flower heads in rounded clusters near branch ends.

Seedpods attached by long stalks.

### **“Look-Alike” Species**

Common Pepperweed, *Lepidium densiflorum*, is a native annual that reproduces only by seed. Distinguishable from Perennial pepperweed by hairless pods, green flower petals, deeply lobed leaves, and a taproot rather than creeping roots.



**Manual Treatment:** Periodic mowing and spring burning have reduced Perennial Pepperweed density.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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**Flowers:** Fragrant, white flower heads form dense, rounded clusters near the ends of branches. Flowers have four petals arranged in a cross.

**Leaves and Stems:** Leaves are waxy and have smooth or toothed margins and distinctive whitish mid-veins. Stem leaves are alternately arranged and tapered. Each stem has multiple branches. Dead stems persist for several years.

**Seeds:** Tiny seedpods are slightly hairy. Seedpod stalks are longer than the seedpods.

**Roots:** Rhizomatous creeping root system. The buds on roots can develop into new shoots. Roots often reaching depths of 1.8 metres or more.

**Reproduction and Dispersal:** Primarily by rhizomes and root fragments, but also by seed. Roots can remain dormant for several years. Seeds are spread by wind, water, machinery, soil movement and as a contaminant in hay and crop seed.

**Habitat Preference:** Meadows, fields, roadsides, ditches, waterways, floodplains, seasonally wet areas, cultivated lands and rangelands. Thrives in moist habitats.

