

Scentless Chamomile (*Matricaria perforata*)

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Erect to semi-erect, short-lived, annual, biennial, or occasionally perennial herb from 15 cm to over 1 meter tall. Plants can be very bushy. Introduced from northern Europe and western Asia.



Distribution

Found throughout the Southern Interior with limited distribution in the North Thompson.

Quick ID

White, daisy-like flowers.

Leaves & flowers odorless when crushed.

Leaves divided into narrow, thread-like segments.

Extensive fibrous taproot.

Interesting Facts:

Scentless chamomile is commonly sold in wildflower seed mixes.

“Look-Alike” Species

This similar looking flowers of non-native Oxeye daisy, can be confused with Scentless chamomile, but the leaves of Oxeye daisy are spoon shaped and have wavy, scalloped margins.



Manual Treatment: Hand pulling or digging before seed production is effective. Remove as much of the fibrous roots as possible. If flowers have already gone to seed, pick flower heads, bag and remove.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Flowers: A single, daisy-like, flower head develops on the end of each stem branch. Yellow centers composed of compact clusters of disk flowers; white “petals” are actually ray flowers. Flowers are odorless when crushed. Floral bracts are numerous and arranged in several overlapping rows.



Leaves and Stems: Flowering stems emerge from a basal rosette. The stems are smooth, often reddish-purple, and highly branched near the top, creating a bushy appearance. Basal leaves are similar in appearance to carrot leaves. Stem leaves are alternate, very finely divided, and have a feathery overall appearance.

Seeds: Rectangular, dark brown seeds; 2 mm long. A single plant can produce 10,000 - 400,000 seeds.

Roots: Extensive fibrous taproot.

Reproduction and Dispersal: Entirely by seed. Seeds typically fall close to parent plant or are carried short distances by wind. Can be moved longer distances by water.

Habitat Preference: Found in disturbed areas, fields, meadows, roadsides, forest openings and dry shorelines. Can germinate and persist under periodic flooding conditions. Tolerates a wide range of environmental conditions but does not compete well in vigorous, undisturbed native plant areas.

