

Perennial Pepperweed (Tall Whitetop) Fact Sheet

Lepidium latifolium

Brassicaceae Family



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Mary Ellen (Mel) Harte, Bugwood.org

Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** Flowers are small, white, and occur in dense clusters.
- ❷ **Seeds:** Although a prolific seed producer, propagation is primarily from an extensive semi-woody root system that can spread laterally several feet a year and grow to depths greater than 10 feet.
- ❸ **Leaves:** Green to grey green leaves that do not clasp the stem like whitetop leaves.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** Late spring to midsummer.
- ❺ **Life cycle:** A semi-woody perennial that normally grows 3-5 ft. but can be up to 8 ft. in height.

Impacts:

- Invades pastures, crops, riparian areas, stream corridors, and other areas that are seasonally wet or have a high water table.
- Established plants form dense stands that develop from an extensive root system capable of storing large amounts of energy. Plants are long lived and often dead stems are slow to decay and accumulate over time, forming dense thickets that prevent growth of desirable species.

Control:

- For small infestations, pulling plants (try to remove as much of the root as possible) is an effective way of controlling a few scattered plants.
- For larger infestations, control can be difficult. Control with herbicides can be effective but is greatly enhanced by establishing competitive vegetation. In areas with a dense buildup of thatch, mow or burn old shoots before applying herbicides.
- Herbicide application timing is crucial. Plants sprayed at flower bud stage are most susceptible. However, multiple applications are often necessary because plants often resprout after treatment. In addition, caution must be taken near sensitive crops and water. Read the label and consult with a weed expert prior to application.



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Salt Lake County Weed Control Program
www.slco.org/weeds/
385-468-4035
noxiousweeds@slco.org

*Please visit our website for references sourcing this information.