

Broadleaved pepperweed

Lepidium latifolium

Description

Introduced to the United States possibly as a contaminant of sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris*) seed imported from Europe.

Habit

Non-native, perennial forb with 1 to many aboveground stems, 3-8 feet tall.

Leaves

Lanceolate, bright green to gray green in color and entire or toothed. Basal leaves stalked, up to 1 ft. long and 3 in. wide with serrate margins. Size decreases up the stem.

Stems

Multiple stemmed, stiffly erect masses 3 to 8 feet tall, base is semi-woody.

Flowers

Abundant, small, white in color, 4-petaled; borne in dense clusters near the stem tips.

Fruits and Seeds





Small, flattened pods, 1/10th in. long containing 2 seeds (1 per chamber). Drop irregularly throughout winter.

Habitat

Native to western Asia and southeastern Europe. Can be found in coastal wetlands, riverbanks, marshes, rangelands and roadsides.

Reproduction

Mainly by clonal propagation from brittle rhizome-like roots that can grow up to 6 ft.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Difficult to control. Mowing and disking are not recommended. Small patches can be controlled by hand removal if repeated often for several years. Foliar application of Telar (selective herbicide) or Roundup (nonselective glyphosate herbicide) have been effective. Also, several herbivorous insects feed on the plant (*Lygus* spp.) as well as a white rust (*Albugo* sp.) infects large numbers of flowers and limits seed production.

Credits

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