

PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED

BOTANICAL NAME: *Lepidium latifolium*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Perennial Pepperweed normally grows to between 1 and 3 feet, but may grow as tall at 6 feet. The plants have numerous woody stems, alternating waxy leaves and clusters of small white flowers. It produces small (1.6 mm) fruits, each containing two reddish seeds.



WHERE DOES IT GROW?

It invades a wide variety of soil types including flood plains, wetlands, irrigation structures as well as pastures and roadsides.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Perennial Pepperweed reproduces not only by seed, but also vegetatively through rhizomes and root fragments. In addition, it competes with other plants by acting as a "salt pump" transporting salt from the soil up through its roots and depositing it on the surface.

WHY IS IT A NOXIOUS WEED?

It forms dense infestations crowding out native plants, degrading wildlife nesting habitat, threatening natural areas and meadows.

HOW DO I CONTROL IT?

See the reverse side for information on mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical control options for Perennial Pepperweed. Also see our Chemical Treatment handout for more information on using herbicides.

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control
10905 N. Ramsey Road
Hayden, ID 83835
208-446-1290

For more information contact:

kcnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us or www.kcweeds.com

Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.

How to Control Perennial Pepperweed

Perennial Pepperweed is perennial that reproduces both by seed and by creeping roots. Control must be accomplished by attacking the root system as well as preventing seed.

Mechanical Mowing can reduce seed production but does not kill existing plants. Disking can increase the infestation by spreading root fragments. Burning does not kill the roots, so the plants resprout.

Cultural The best long term weed control is to get your desirable native plants thriving. Seed and fertilize to get your native grasses growing vigorously.

Biological There are currently no biocontrol agents available in the US for Perennial Pepperweed.

Chemical * See our *Chemical Treatment* handout for more information on using herbicides.

- **Metsulfuron Methyl** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Escort XP**. It is safe on most grasses and can be effective on Perennial Pepperweed if applied during the flower bud stage.
- **Chlorsulfuron** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Telar XP**. It is broadleaf selective and can be effective on Perennial Pepperweed if applied during the flower bud stage.
- **Imazapyr** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Arsenal** and **Habitat**. It is non-selective (will kill grass) and can be effective to spot treat Perennial Pepperweed during the flower bud stage.

Recommendations are based on University of Idaho Extension Bulletin 865 Idaho's Noxious Weeds 2011 Control Guidelines Noncrop and Rangeland Sites, the book Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States published by UC Davis Weed Research & Information Center, and herbicide labels.