



CANADA FLEABANE

(Horseweed / Mare's-tail)

BOTANICAL NAME: *Conyza canadensis*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? Most seedlings of this plant sprout from late August through October, and form rosettes that overwinter. Some seeds will germinate in spring, from March through early May. Plants can grow from 1 to 5 feet tall. Many, inconspicuous flower heads appear on short branches toward the top of the plant. Each plant consists of one erect stalk that branches on the upper half of the plant. The dark green leaves and other parts of the plant, when crushed, have a faint but distinctive carrot-like odor. **COMMON NAMES:** Horseweed, mare's-tail, fleabane, bitterweed

WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW? A native of North American grasslands, horseweed is common in pastures, meadows, cultivated fields and along roadsides. It can be found on all soil types, including organic soils but it is most common on coarse textured soils.



WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? Flower stalks begin to grow in late spring and small white flowers with yellow centers begin blooming in mid-July.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD? As with all annuals, this plant reproduces only by seed. Seeds ripen from early August and continue into September, after which the plant dies.

The seeds of this plant have an attached pappus, or parachute, which carries the seed for long distances on the wind much like a dandelion seed. **CAUTION:** The leaves and flowers of horseweed contain oils that may cause skin and nasal irritations in humans and animals, especially horses.



NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Rosettes are easily controlled by either fall or spring tilling.
- Mowing infested areas when the plants are in the bud stage will prevent seed production.
- A fall cover crop can reduce seedling germination.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Herbicides should be applied before the plant flowers. This plant has shown resistance to some herbicides.

NOTE: This is not a noxious weed in the State of Idaho but because it is so wide spread throughout Kootenai County, citizens need to be informed of its aggressive nature.

Want more information or herbicide suggestions? Contact:

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control
10905 N. Ramsey Road
Hayden, ID 83835
208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145
kcnoxioussweeds@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.