



# Perennial Pepperweed

A weed you should get to know.

## Perennial Pepperweed *Lepidium latifolium* L.

### Why should I get to know this weed?

Perennial pepperweed, also known as tall whitetop or perennial peppergrass, is widely distributed in the western and central U.S., degrading pastures and depositing woody debris that reduces nesting habitat and food sources for wildlife.

### How can I identify it?

Perennial pepperweed has multiple stems growing from a woody crown, grows 1 to 6 feet tall, and prefers wet sites but can establish in cropland, pastures, ditches and roadsides. Be sure to make a positive identification of perennial pepperweed, as it may be confused with native peppergrass species.



clusters of 6 to 8 tiny white flowers mainly at ends of stems; flowers have four petals each 1/16 inch long

leaves are alternate, lance-like, bright green to gray-green, sometimes toothed on margins; lower leaves are larger than upper leaves

### Where should I report my sightings?

- County offices
- Conservation organizations
- State Depts of Agriculture or Natural Resources
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service

**When weeds are detected early, they can be more easily removed or contained. Preventing weeds from spreading into new areas is beneficial to all of us!**



CENTER FOR  
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MANAGEMENT

Bozeman, Montana [www.weedcenter.org](http://www.weedcenter.org)

Above photo courtesy of J.M. DiTomaso, University of California-Davis  
Front photo courtesy of Amy Jerup, Teton County Weed & Pest District, WY