

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- Native to Southeastern Europe and Southwestern Asia
- Perennial herb
- Stiffly erect, multi-stemmed plant grows 0.5 to 2 m tall
- Leaves waxy and lance-shaped, with distinct white mid-veins
- Lower leaves (up to 30 cm long) are stalked and evenly toothed; stem leaves reduce up the plant, becoming short-stalked or stalkless, without clasping the stem
- White flowers are borne in dense, rounded clusters at stem tips
- Rhizomes enlarge at soil surface, forming a woody crown and semi-woody stem base
- Each tiny, rounded fruit contains two reddish-brown seeds

PRIMARY THREAT: Reduces crop yields, available forage and plant biodiversity.



BIOLOGY & SPREAD

- Reproduces mainly by brittle rhizomes, but also by seed
- Local dispersal is mainly by water currents and animal fur. Contaminated seed mixes, forage, soil and straw; ship and railway ballast; vehicles and equipment; and horticulture are the main pathways for long distance spread.

HABITAT

- Prefers moist soil in fresh water or tidal riparian areas from sea level to 3,300 m in elevation. Can also occur in semi-desert sage brush, grasslands, sand beaches, and along roadsides.



REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



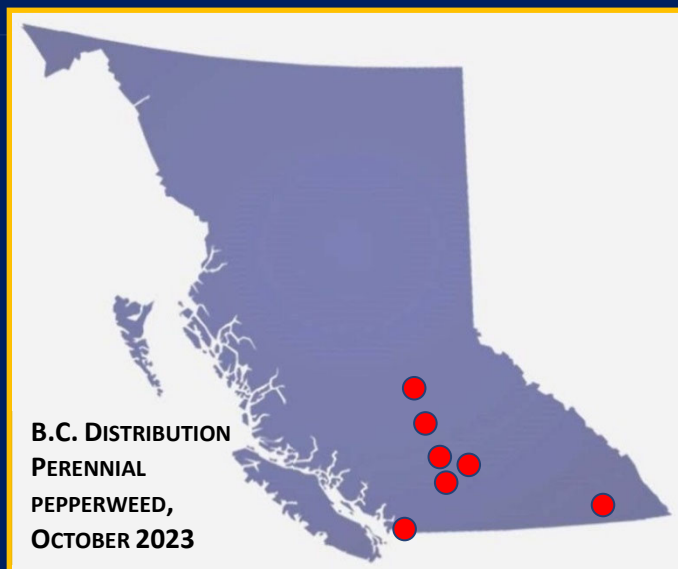
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For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>



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DISTRIBUTION & STATUS

- Management goal provincial eradication
- Limited occurrences in the East Kootenays, Thompson-Nicola, Cariboo, and Metro Vancouver.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Perennial pepperweed typically occurs within 30 m of a water source.
- Flowers and fruiting stalks used in dry flower arrangements may spread viable seeds.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Learn** to identify
- **REPORT** new sightings
- **Avoid** moving contaminated soil



LOOK-ALIKES

- Hoary cress (*Lepidium draba*, *L. appelianum*, *Hymenophyssa pubescens*)
- Lens pepperweed (*Lepidium repense*)
- Menzie's pepperweed (*Lepidium virginicum* var. *menziesii*)

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