

# 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 branch tips
- Rhizomes enlarge at soil surface, forming a woody crown and semi-woody stem base
- Each tiny, rounded fruit contains two reddish-brown seeds
- 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
- 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.



BC AGRI

### REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

[www.reportaweedbc.ca](http://www.reportaweedbc.ca)

1-888-WEEDSBC

Photo: Jamie Fenneman



**PRIMARY THREAT: Reduces crop yields and available forage.**

#### 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.

#### LOOK-ALIKES

Hoary cress (*Lepidium draba*, *L. appelianum*, *Hymenophysa pubescens*) and lens pepperweed (*Lepidium repense*)



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#### DISTRIBUTION IN BC

BC confirmed sites are limited to the regions of the East Kootenays, Thompson-Nicola, Cariboo and Bulkley-Nechako.



For more information: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/prohibited.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/prohibited.htm)