



Deep Roots  
Greater Heights



Cluster (R. Mueller)



Flower head



Leaf

## Maple Ridge Noxious Weeds Program

### Scentless Chamomile

(*Matricaria perforate* or *Matricaria maritima*)

**Designation:** Provincially Noxious

#### History:

Scentless Chamomile was introduced to Canada in the 1930's from Europe. The plant is believed to have been transferred as an ornamental or contaminate of crop seed.

#### How to Identify:

**Size:** Mature plants are 5 – 100 cm tall.

**Flowers:** Single, white, daisy-like flowers with yellow centers at the ends of each branched stem. Flowers are 2 – 3 cm in diameter and odourless (scentless) when crushed. Flowers from June to October.

**Leaves:** Basal leaves disappear by flowering time. The stem leaves are alternate, usually smooth, and finely divided into short, thread-like segments. Leaves are odourless when crushed.

**Stem:** Stems are erect to semi-erect, smooth, and branched. Mature plant tends to be bushy when not subjected to competition.

**Location:** Grows from low- to mid-elevations in BC and is found on dry shorelines, roadsides, fence lines, disturbed areas, and perennial forage crops. Prefers areas with high soil moisture and is commonly found near ponds, streams, and other areas prone to seasonal flooding.

**Mistaken Identity:** Several introduced (non-native) plants have flowers and leaves similar to scentless chamomile. Leaves of wild chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), and pineapple weed (*Matricaria discoidea*) have a strong odour when crushed, while scentless chamomile leaves are almost odourless. Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) has similar flowers, but the leaves on scentless chamomile are much more finely dissected.

#### Danger / Impact

**Economic:** Can reduce crop and pasture yield and is unpalatable to livestock.

**Ecological:** Primary impacts are to aquatic systems where monocultures form near waterbodies or riparian areas, on sites with heavy soils and high soil moisture, or in areas that are subjected to periodic flooding.

#### Distribution in DMR:

Extensive but low density.

#### Information and photos:

[http://www.bcinvasives.ca/images/stories/documents/tips/Chamomile\\_TIPS.pdf](http://www.bcinvasives.ca/images/stories/documents/tips/Chamomile_TIPS.pdf)  
[http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/weedsbc/pdf/scentless\\_chamomile.pdf](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/weedsbc/pdf/scentless_chamomile.pdf)  
<http://iscmv.ca/target-species/species-profiles>

#### Management:

##### Prevention:

- Monitor for scentless chamomile on both disturbed and undisturbed sites.
- Look for seed mixtures that indicate where the seed material was collected, request only non-invasive species, and know the level of 'contamination' from your seed supplier.
- Ensure soil, gravel, and other fill material are not contaminated.
- Avoid unloading, parking, or storing equipment and vehicles in infested areas.
- Minimize soil disturbance during activities and re-vegetate exposed soil as soon as possible.
- Remove plants, plant parts, and seeds from personal gear, clothing, pets, vehicles, and equipment. Wash vehicles, including tires and undercarriage, and equipment at designated cleaning sites before leaving infested areas.
- Take special care when controlling scentless chamomile near streams or ditch lines to prevent the movement of plant parts downstream.
- Maintain or establish healthy plant communities that are resistant to invasion by invasive plants.

##### Mechanical Control:

Mowing can be used to reduce seed production and should be done early and often before flowers are formed. Each successive mowing should be lower than the previous one, as plants will form new flowers in the leaf axils below mowing height.

- Hand pulling small infestations before they go to seed can prevent new infestations from developing.

##### Chemical Control:

If applied correctly, herbicide applications are most effective early in the season before flowering, but can be done throughout the season as long as plants are green and actively growing.

**Disposal:** Bury or dispose of plant material in a landfill. Bag or tarp plants, plant parts, and seeds before transporting to a designated disposal site (e.g. landfill).

**Follow-up:** Monitor controlled infestations throughout growing season.

##### Restoration and Planting Alternatives:

Scentless chamomile does not compete well with vigorous plants.



Photo: L. Scott



Photo: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

#### Who Do you Call?

- 1) **REPORT PROHIBITED WEEDS** – Report-A-Weed: [www.reportaweedbc.ca](http://www.reportaweedbc.ca) 1-888-WEEDSBC
- 2) **DMR: 604-467-7363** – AND SEE: <http://www.mapleridge.ca/714/Invasive-Plant-Species>