



903 N. Black Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 582-3265

PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED MANAGEMENT TIPS

Perennial pepperweed, a member of the Mustard family, is a perennial forb with deep, spreading roots. The small flowers have four white petals. The leaves are bright green to gray green with a prominent whitish midvein. Perennial pepperweed reproduces both by seed and by creeping underground roots. It usually grows one to three feet tall, but can reach heights of up to six feet. Perennial pepperweed is commonly found along marsh areas, shores of rivers and streams and in sub-irrigated pastures. It can form dense stands that have the potential to outcompete native plants and can reduce the nesting frequency of waterfowl in or near wetlands. This plant also interferes with the regeneration of willow and cottonwood, which will reduce cover and food availability for certain animals.



Management and control efforts should focus on reducing seed production and depleting root reserves. Control efforts must be planned for many consecutive years on the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge from seeds or creeping roots.

Effective control measures for the management of perennial pepperweed include:

- 1. Mechanical (mowing):** Mowing at the flower bud stage, followed by herbicide treatment after regrowth, may improve the effectiveness of herbicide treatment.
- 2. Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control perennial pepperweed. **Do NOT use these herbicides in lawns, turf or ornamental settings – read the label.** *For the most effective control, apply herbicides in late spring/early summer when the plants are still actively growing, after they have fully emerged but prior to bud stage.*

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

*Escort XP:	1/5 – 1/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Telar XP:	1/5 – 1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Cimarron Plus:	1/4 – 1/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

Broadcast application rates in large sprayers are as follows:

*Escort XP:	1 - 2 oz herbicide per acre.
*Telar XP:	1 – 2.6 oz herbicide per acre.
*Cimarron Plus:	1.25 – 2 oz herbicide per acre.

NOTE: Adding 2,4-D to your tank with any of the above herbicides may improve performance. Add at the rate of 1 – 2 quarts per acre for large sprayers or 1 – 2 ounces per gallon of water for backpack sprayers.

NOTE: Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons.

*** denotes that a surfactant is required for the herbicide to be effective**

- 3. Cultural (revegetation):** Planting desirable plant species to compete with perennial pepperweed is highly recommended, especially after herbicide treatment.
- 4. Integrated management:** Management of perennial pepperweed is more effective when more than one strategy is used.