

V. Perennial Pepperweed ("Tall Whitetop") (*Lepidium latifolium*)

Key Characteristics:

Perennial Pepperweed is a member of the Mustard family and very similar to Hoary Cress in appearance and management. It is a deep-rooted perennial plant with an extensive, vigorous, creeping root system. Perennial Pepperweed stands 1-3 feet high (up to 5 feet in wet areas) with a heavy, sometimes woody, crown.

Leaves are waxy with a distinctive white midrib. **Lower leaves** are oblong with toothed margins; **upper leaves** are lack a petiole but do not clasp the stem. **Flowers** are very white and found in dense rounded clusters.

Perennial Pepperweed can be found in pastures, riparian areas, roadsides, and waste places. This weed has taken over thousands of acres in the San Luis Valley.

Locations:

This plant is found along Hwy 82 in Snowmass Canyon, with a few patches between Old Snowmass and Basalt. It is very difficult to control and should not be allowed to spread.

Biological control:

No known biological controls at this time.

Cultural control:

Re-seed disturbed sites with fast-growing native grasses. Maintain range and pasture in good condition. Promote healthy grass growth via proper irrigation and fertilization.

Mechanical control:

Repeated hand pulling and digging are good for limited infestations. Clean tillage equipment to avoid spreading roots. Do not overgraze.

Chemical control:

Contact Pitkin County Land Management Department for more specific information about herbicide products, application rates, and equipment calibration.



V. Perennial Pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) (continued)

Native Look-Alikes:



Field Pennycress
(*Thlaspi arvense*)

Field Pennycress is a non-native, non-noxious weed that often appears as a pioneer species in areas of recent ground disturbance. While non-native, Pennycress is not very aggressive and thus not a very pernicious threat to native vegetation. However, it is often confused with Hoary Cress, which looks similar at early growth stages.



The foliage of Field Pennycress is generally more coarsely toothed than Hoary Cress and lacks the latter's blueish-green hue. The fruit is a distinctive "penny" shaped silicle.



Photo by Robert Nagel

Yarrow
(*Acillea lanulosa*)

Distinguish Yarrow from Hoary Cress by its woolly, finely-divided leaves and hairy stems.